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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025



FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



## RIBBON CUTTING AT THE FRANCES AND JOSEPH BOYCE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

On Saturday February 8, family and friends of Frances and Joseph Boyce gathered at the Harvest on Vine Food Pantry for the Dedication and Blessing of the Frances and Joseph Boyce Community Kitchen. The Boyce family generously donated the kitchen so that patrons of the food pantry can take free cooking lessons.

Shown (photo above) is Harvest on Vine Director Tom MacDonald with the Boyce family as they cut the dedication ribbon. Shown (photo right) are a member of the Boyce Family, Tom Henry representing Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Elaine Donovan, State Rep. Dan Ryan who presented a proclamation to the Boyce family, and Tom MacDonald.



## Coletta Zapata introduces legislation providing tax exemptions

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 determined 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



**City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata**

continues to displace our neighbors, force families out of their communities, and leave countless residents on the brink of home-

(EXEMPTIONS Pg. 2)

## Houseboat murder suspect to return to court March 6

Staff Report

Nora Nelson, 24, who has been charged with first-degree murder for the stabbing death of Joseph Donohue, 65, is scheduled to return to the Charlestown Division of the Boston Municipal Court (BMC) on March 6 at 10 a.m. for a pre-trial hearing.

Nelson, who was represented by prominent Boston attorney Ian Davis, was arraigned on the

murder charge on February 7 at which time she entered a plea of not guilty. She was ordered held without bail by Judge Steven Kim at the request of Suffolk County Asst. District Attorney Rita Muse.

Donohue’s body was found by Boston Police on his houseboat that was docked at Shipway Place in the Charlestown Marina, where he lived alone, during a well-being

(HOUSEBOAT Pg. 6)

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

Happy Valentine's Day!



# EDITORIAL

## TRAFFIC SPEED CAMERAS ARE A BAD IDEA -- RED LIGHTS ARE BETTER

As our regular readers know, when it comes to the issue of motor vehicle safety, we take a back seat (pun intended) to no one.

However, we believe that the budget put forward by Gov. Maura Healey that would allow local and state authorities to place traffic speed cameras on our roadways is misguided.

In a nutshell, the legislation provides that tickets for \$25 may be issued to persons operating 11 miles or more over the speed limit and \$100 to those driving more than 25 over the limit. A first offense within any two-year period would result in a warning. In addition, the tickets would not go on a person's driving record for insurance purposes. They would essentially be the same as a parking ticket.

Our objections are as follows:

First, state law requires that, absent exigent circumstances, a police officer must issue a citation for a moving infraction at the time and place of the violation. This ensures that the officer is giving the citation to the person who is committing the violation. However, the traffic cameras only will be capturing a license plate, which means that the ticket will be sent to the registered owner without regard to whether the owner was actually the operator of the vehicle. If your child (or spouse, friend, or somebody else) is speeding in your car, you're stuck with the ticket and the hassle of trying to prove your innocence.

Second, local authorities (who are limited to installing one camera per 5000 of population in their communities) presumably will be installing these cameras on their most heavily-traveled roadways. However, this invariably means that non-residents, who may not be familiar with the speed limit on those roads, will be the ones who will be subject to getting a ticket. This will be doubly true because the speed limits on almost every local road in this state are poorly-marked and often change (up or down) without warning. In some communities, there is a discreet sign at the entrance to the town that the speed limit in that community is 25 m.p.h. "unless posted otherwise." Given the scattershot nature of speed limit postings across the state's 351 cities and towns, issuing speeding tickets based on a camera will be inherently unfair and arbitrary.

Third, the cameras will not deter those drivers who are the real problem: Habitual traffic offenders who speed excessively on a routine basis. In fact, the cameras will give them a green light (again, pun intended) to speed. If the tickets under the new system will have no real consequences for either their license or their insurance premiums, these habitual offenders will be able to drive as they like with impunity. For the juvenile-minded members of the Fast and Furious crowd, the ticket will not even be a slap on the wrist.

And that brings us to our fourth problem with the new law: Relying on traffic cameras to enforce the traffic laws on the main roads in our state will make our roadways less safe. Traffic stops by police officers do not merely deter unsafe drivers, but they also remove from our roads persons who have suspended licenses, court warrants, vehicles that are unregistered and uninsured, and drivers who are under the influence -- 40 percent of speeding drivers in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or above. A camera will address none of those issues -- leaving criminals and those under the influence to operate on our roads without fear of the possible consequences.

More broadly, if communities take the cheap way out, so to speak, by replacing officers with cameras, the entire community will be a lot less safe. We realize that every city and town in the state will soon be facing major budget issues and that many cities also are having a hard time filling the ranks of their police departments, but there is no substitute for having police officers patrolling our streets. In our view, if these cameras begin to replace police officers, our communities will be far less safe.

Finally, there is no doubt that most of these speed camera tickets will be issued to otherwise law-abiding and safe drivers, including many seniors, who might happen to exceed by a few miles the statutory threshold for a few seconds. We are being only semi-facetious in suggesting that drivers who obsessively are watching their speedometers and looking for changes in speed limit signs will add immeasurably to the plague of distracted driving. Driving 11 miles over the speed limit on most of our roadways is not unsafe, but the new law would punish normal everyday driving behavior.

But we have a better suggestion: If our state officials want to introduce traffic cameras, we think they should do so at red light intersections. More than 1100 persons nationwide, of whom half were pedestrians and bicyclists, were killed (and more than 100,000 were injured) in 2022 by motor vehicle operators who ran red lights. Statistics show that red light cameras reduce serious accidents of the horrific "T-bone" variety by 25 percent (although there is some evidence that rear-end accidents may increase).

Large, clear signage at every red light intersection proclaiming that cameras are in use would be a huge deterrent to anyone who might be tempted to run a red light (i.e., every driver on the road).

In addition, by requiring that communities must conform the light signalizations on their local roads to nationally-accepted standards, this will make intersections safer for everybody.

So we urge our legislators, if they are inclined to introduce traffic cameras in Massachusetts, to allow these devices to be placed at red light intersections in order to achieve the goal of improving roadway safety with the least amount of intrusion upon everyday, law-abiding citizens.

- SAY IT WITH FLOWERS
- SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS
- SAY IT WITH CHOCOLATES
- JUST SAY IT!



© DAVE GRANLUND.COM  
POLITICAL CARTOONS, ETC.

### EXEMPTIONS (from pg. 1)

lessness. 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 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. Rising 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

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## Historic Houses of Charlestown

# Lost Charlestown: A Mansion and a Meetinghouse

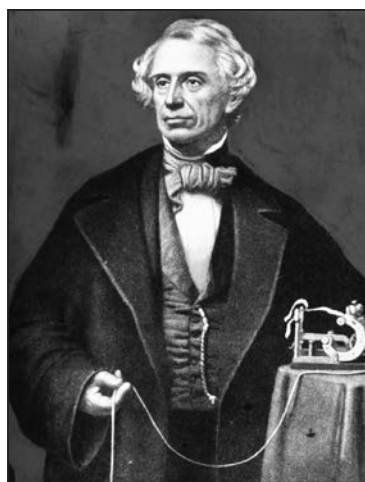
Charlestown has the distinction of having been the residence of numerous prominent citizens over its almost 400 year history, including Samuel Finley Breese Morse, inventor of the telegraph and born at the corner of Main Street and Hathon Place on April 27, 1791. Samuel's father Jedediah and his wife were temporarily living with Thomas Edes (1737-1792) and family, in the Edes' late Georgian style mansion which had been built in 1780. It was one of the first homes to be built during the reconstruction period that followed the burning of Charlestown after the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Edes home was a handsome three-story, five bay hipped-roof frame home that stood on the current site of the TCB Bank. It was built on land that belonged to David Wood (1710-1797), father of Thomas Edes' wife Mary Wood (1739-1818). Stylistically, the Edes home was remarkably like both the Hurd House and the Larkin House on Main Street.

Both the Edes family and the Wood family were early residents of Charlestown, arriving during the Great Migration of the 1600s. Like many early settlers, they returned during reconstruction. David Wood constructed his home at the other end of his land on the corner of Wood Street and Main Street. While the Edes home is no longer extant, the Wood home still stands. Built c.1790, it is a brick Federal-style residence that has been modified over the years, and

at one time had a store front facing Main Street.

In 1629 King Charles granted the Massachusetts Bay Company a charter to establish a colony and commence trade in New England. In 1630 John Winthrop, the first governor, settled in Charlestown with a group of English colonists, some of whom eventually relocated across the Charles River to what became Boston. In Charlestown, worship was held in the 'Great House' located in what is now City Square Park. The Great House served as both a meeting house and as a home for Governor Winthrop. In 1632 the remaining Charlestown colonists signed a covenant formalizing the establishment of the First Church. A separate meeting house was built in 1636 and in 1637 John Harvard was briefly pastor. After almost a century and a half of worship the third meeting house, constructed in 1715, was burned following the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

From 1777 until 1783, as the reconstruction of Charlestown began, an old British blockhouse accommodated worship, meeting and schooling. In 1783, a handsome frame meeting house was built on Town Hill on the site of the current Harvard Mall. Its steeple is said to have been designed by Charles Bulfinch. In 1789, Samuel's father, Jedediah Morse, a graduate of Yale College, became the second pastor of the new meeting house church. Jedediah, a Calvinist and supporter of the



Samuel Morse (1791-1872).

Federalist Party, was an ordained minister who served as pastor of the First Church of Charlestown for 30 years beginning in 1791, the same year Samuel was born. The parsonage had not yet been completed so the Morses were staying with the Edes family, who were friends and parishioners at First Church. Timothy Sawyer relates in his book *Old Charlestown* that Samuel was born in the second-floor parlor. Jedediah was additionally a noted cartographer and geographer, publishing the first geography textbook in America. His textbooks dominated the field during his lifetime.

Meeting houses of the colonial period were simple buildings, many clapboarded, and bore no resemblance to the ornately embellished cathedrals and sanctuaries of centuries past with their cruciform floorplans. The design was



First Church Meeting House | 1783.

intentionally minimal, without naves, transepts, altars or stained glass. Meeting houses throughout New England are similar, beautiful in their simplicity, and like the First Church meeting house, they served as both worship and public meeting spaces for the community. In 1803, First Church incorporated as The First Parish Church. The First Parish Meeting House was enlarged in 1804, adding footage to both sides. Sadly, it was torn down and replaced with a brick church built on the same site on Town Hill in 1834. In 1912, the First Parish merged with the Winthrop Church on Green Street. The brick church on Town Hill remained until it was torn down in 1934, 100 years after it was built.

In addition to the church, there was a parsonage, a small chapel, and a large garden that extended towards City Square to Robbins Tavern at the corner of Harvard

Street. In 1816, the tavern was sold to the town so that the first Charlestown Town Hall could be built. In 1835-6, the adjacent parsonage land and garden were developed by the Parish Land Company. Known as Harvard Row, it comprises 7-23 Harvard Street. These nine three-story, three-bay brick Federal/Greek Revival townhouses stand today on the eastern side of Harvard Street.

Samuel Morse (1791-1872) was the first child of Pastor Jedediah Morse (1761-1826) and his wife Elizabeth Ann Finley Breese (1766-1828). Samuel attended Phillips Academy in Andover as well as Yale College, graduating in 1810. He studied religious philosophy, math, and science. He had a keen interest in painting and after completing his schooling, he

(HISTORIC Pg. 7)



Edes Mansion in 1898.



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## THE BGCB ANNUAL DINNER WAS A TREMENDOUSLY HAPPY OCCASION

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Held at the Omni Hotel Boston Seaport on Thursday, January 30, the Annual Dinner celebration finale was a performance by the Boys and Girls Club of Boston (BGCB) Clubhouse Band, with a young soloist from the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club of Chelsea. The young fellow with great stage presence and a voice and dance moves to match singing Pharrell Williams' Happy song had the more than 900 attendees leaping

out of their seats to sing along and groove with the young performer.

This final act was an apt ending to a festive and compelling evening of both kudos for its current successes and new challenges for the Boys & Girls Club for our city and its neighborhoods. The evening's theme of Transforming Tomorrow showcased the Club's more recent focus on expanding services for their teen members. As one Board member explained members join as kids and stay, so we need to

provide opportunities for them across their stay with us. Dinner Co-chairs Thomas N. O'Brien and Kendalle Burlin O'Connell, along with Board Chair Melissa Weiner Janfazza, underscored the need for both internships from local companies and contributions for those internships. The high energy format of the program was a late night talk show type set up, think Johnny Carson or David Letter-

man style interviews, nicely delivered by co-hosts, Rick Aggeler, Executive Director of Teen Strategy for the overall Club, and Tea, a long-standing now high school member of the Josh Kraft Mattapan Teen Center.

The program participants, including Jailah, a member of the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club, shared the impact the teen programs have had on their lives.

What this year's Annual Dinner truly highlighted is that, while the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston have been delivering fun and games for many years, they have added another element of teen services: tutoring, after school help, job readiness programs and internships to its older members, providing a full spectrum for youth development in the Boston area.

### Lyric Stage Boston presents ART

Lyric Stage is proud to bring Boston-area favorites Remo Airal-di\*, Michael Kaye\*, and John Kuntz\* together in Yasmina Reza's exploration of the complexities and fragility of male friendships in the critically acclaimed play ART.

Serge has purchased a modern painting for an outrageous sum. Marc hates it. Yvan is stuck in the middle. When superficial ideals and values that they once joked about appear to be at the core of Serge's intentions, comradery is quickly replaced by a sense of betrayal. This sophisticated comedy of manners forces three best friends to examine just how well they really know each other. With sleek repartee and mounting friction, their evening together intensifies to the point of no return where loneliness could be the cost of their inability to save their friendship instead of their egos.

Director Courtney O'Connor° says. "Art of all kinds—good and bad—allows us to explore and sometimes explode what is deep within us. In this ART, a single piece of art allows (or perhaps even forces?) to a boil the negative issues in the friendship between Marc, Serge, and Yvan. How many relationships in our own lives are simmering, just passively waiting for the "art" that will incite our own boiling? Who will we be at that moment? And who will we be after?"

Performances begin Friday, February 21 and run through Sunday, March 16.

Featuring Remo Airal-di\*, Michael Kaye\*, and John Kuntz\*.

Scenic Design by Shelley Barish\*\*, Costume Design by Chelsea Kerl\*\*, Lighting Design by Elmer Martinez, and Sound Design by Adam Howarth.

Remo Airal-di\* (Yvan) – Lyric Stage: Urinetown: The Musical, Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot, Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, Little Shop of Horrors, The Little Foxes, My Fair Lady, and Sweeney Todd. Over sixty productions at the American Repertory Theater, including Night of the Iguana, Oliver Twist (also at Theatre for a New Audience and Berkeley Repertory Theatre), and Island of Slaves (IRNE Award for Outstanding Actor). Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: Much Ado About Nothing, The Tempest, Cymbeline, Richard III, Love's Labour's Lost, Twelfth Night. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Shakespeare in Love. Boston Playwrights' Theater: Exposed. Central Square Theater: Frankenstein and The Hound of the Baskervilles. New Repertory Theatre: The King of Second Avenue. Productions at Hartford Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, Cirque du Soleil, American Conservatory Theater, Actors' Theatre of Louisville. Acting teacher at Harvard University.

Founded in 1974 and in residence at 140 Clarendon Street since 1991, Lyric Stage Company is Boston's longest-serving resident theater company. Its mission is to produce and present live theater in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston.

Lyric Stage and Beacon Communities, LLC, the owners of 140 Clarendon Street, have agreed that the building will be Lyric Stage's "forever" home, ensuring that the theater will remain a vital and essential part of the cultural fabric of the city.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston CEO and President, Robert Lewis Jr., greeting guests.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BOSTON

Quincy Miller, President and Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Bank, Eneida Román, President & CEO of Amplify Latinx, Rose Staram, founder and CEO of RoseMark Production, and Herby Duverné, Principal and CEO of Taino Consulting Group pose for a photo at Annual Dinner.



# THE BGCB ANNUAL DINNER WAS A TREMENDOUSLY HAPPY OCCASION



A member of the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club performing "Happy" by Pharell Williams.



Music Program Managers and Club Members from across Boys & Girls Club of Boston pose for a group photo after their performance.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BOSTON

Ashley Freeman, Music Program Manager at the [Club Name], performs on stage at Annual Dinner.



Chair of the Board of Directors, Melissa Weiner Janfaza, gives her opening remarks.

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The Artists' Group of Charlestown Spring 2025 Exhibition  
Exhibition Dates: March 28 - April 13, 2025

**Submissions: Through March 13, 2025 at Midnight**  
To Submit: [ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com](http://ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com)

**StoveFactory Gallery**  
523 Medford Street, Charlestown  
Detail of "Pond Reflections" © Maureen Mallowes

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# Wu announces annual tax prep services available for residents

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Tax Help Coalition (BTHC), Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), and other community partners announced that eligible Boston residents are now able to take advantage of the City's free tax preparation service. An annual program, residents earning \$70,000 or less annually can file safely while maximizing their refunds and credits through the assistance from the City of Boston at one of over 30 neighborhood tax sites across Boston. The Tax Help Coalition assists residents with free tax preparation, financial education and economic stability opportunities. The tax filing assistance service is available remotely and in person, and interpretation is available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, French, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese. This announcement was made last week by the Chief of Worker Empowerment Cabinet Trinh Nguyen, Chief of Community Engagement Briana Millor, ABCD President and CEO, Sharon Scott-Chandler, Esq., and

Boston Tax Help Coalition Assistant Deputy Director Brian Robinson at a kick-off event at ABCD's Downtown headquarters.

"Boston residents can save hundreds of dollars per household through the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These free, multilingual tax assistance services are available at over 30 neighborhood locations and serve as a critical resource that supports thousands of Boston residents every year in maximizing their refunds safely. I encourage every eligible Boston resident to participate and take advantage of this valuable resource."

Part of the Worker Empowerment Cabinet, the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation service gives Boston's low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents a financial boost by eliminating predatory, for-profit, tax preparation fees and helping them to keep more of their earned income. Since its founding in 2001, BTHC has served nearly 227,000 households with free tax preparation and returned over \$400 million in tax credits and refunds directly to resi-

dents. BTHC clients have an average income of \$30,000 and this service can provide a substantial financial boost.

"The free tax preparation service is a critical wealth-building tool that returns millions in refunds and credits to Boston's workers and working families," said Chief of Worker Empowerment Trinh Nguyen. "This financial cushion can go a long way for Boston's households. We're incredibly grateful to our community partners and the hundreds of IRS-certified volunteers who make this important work possible."

"Every dollar is significant for each individual and family living in our city," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "We encourage residents earning \$70,000 or less to take advantage of the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation and filing services to help alleviate their financial burden. We are grateful to our community partners for helping Boston residents access free tax preparation and financial services."

Additionally, the BTHC IRS-certified volunteer tax prepar-

ers assess filers' eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a credit for low-and middle-income workers. This year marks the 50th anniversary of EITC and its significant role in supporting working families by reducing poverty. In 2024, EITC averaged \$2,743 for residents. Despite this, according to the Internal Revenue Service, an estimated one in five EITC-eligible workers fail to claim this valuable credit each year.

In 2024, more than 330 BTHC volunteers prepared tax returns for over 12,000 taxpayers, generating \$22.7 million in tax refunds, including \$7.3 million in EITC credits. The Boston Tax Help Coalition relies on and values the partnership of its member organizations to continue to promote the economic independence of working individuals and families.

"ABCD is proud to be a co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, and we are pleased to host the 2025 Boston Tax Help Coalition kick-off event with our partners," said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler. "EITC is a tax deduction that returns money to hardworking families and communities. It is one of America's most effective anti-poverty initiatives. As critical members of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, our IRS-certified tax preparers ensure that residents receive every tax relief measure possible which allows them to build up a much-needed savings or reduce debt on current expenses."

The Boston Tax Help Coalition prioritizes providing reasonable

accommodations to taxpayers with disabilities at all tax sites. Moreover, the BTHC will continue its partnership with DEAF, Inc. to provide dedicated service days to visually and hearing-impaired residents every Sunday, February 3 - April 13, 2025, at the Charlesview Community Center, 123 Antwerp Street Ext., Brighton, MA 02135. More information can be found at [boston.gov/disability-tax-help](http://boston.gov/disability-tax-help).

Going beyond tax preparation, the Boston Tax Help Coalition connects residents to free, comprehensive financial and asset-building services to improve their economic well-being. Four tax sites, DotHouse Health, Codman Square Health Center, Urban Edge, and the Center for Working Families, will offer clients a free Financial Check-Up (FCU), a credit advising session with a trained Financial Guide to assist them in understanding their current financial situation, including a review of their credit report and FICO score, personalized one-year plan to help improve their credit, and relevant service referrals. According to research conducted at BTHC tax sites by Dr. Scott Nelson, formerly of MIT, taxpayers who participated in the FCU improved their FICO scores by an average of 15.5 points in less than one year. The BTHC provided credit advising and financial education to 1,200 tax clients in 2024.

More information on the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax services, including the 2025 tax sites, can be found at [boston.gov/tax-help](http://boston.gov/tax-help).

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

### Project File No. 119537

Two Public Informational Meetings will be held by MassDOT to discuss the Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project in Somerville and Charlestown.

**WHERE:** Schraff's City Center, Café (1st Floor)  
529 Main St. Charlestown, MA 02129

**WHEN:** Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** Somerville Public Library, Central Branch,  
79 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the meetings is to provide the public an overview of upcoming revisions to traffic alignments, bike paths and bus lanes at Lombardi Street, as well as an update on plans for Phase 2 construction and the Orange Line shutdown in May 2025. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. The same information will be presented at both meetings.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:** This project consists of replacing the two deteriorated bridge superstructures of the Maffa Way and Mystic Avenue bridges over the MBTA Orange Line and Commuter Rail lines in Boston and Somerville. The project will improve public safety, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit accommodations by addressing substandard bridge conditions. The project will be integrated with adjacent projects, such as Assembly Square, Rutherford Avenue, and the One Mystic development. Visit [www.mass.gov/MaffaMystic](http://www.mass.gov/MaffaMystic) for more information.

The locations are accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted at [www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events).

**JONATHAN GULL**  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

**IVER CARRIE E. LAVALLEE**  
CHIEF ENGINEER

## HOUSEBOAT (from pg. 1)

check that had been requested by Donohue's family members (who had not heard from him for two days) on Sunday, February 2.

Nelson was on board the houseboat when police arrived. After the officers asked Nelson some preliminary questions to which she provided answers that the officers believed to be evasive, they conducted a brief search of the houseboat. They discovered Donohue's body behind a door "wrapped in a white and blue covering secured with duct tape and affixed with weights."

When the police eventually determined Nelson's identity, they arrested her on outstanding warrants stemming from charges pertaining to previous and unrelated incidents in 2023. Nelson was formally arraigned on those charges in the BMC's Central Division by Judge Steven Kay, who ordered her held on \$7500 cash bail. Kay also ordered that if Nelson managed to post her bail, she would be subject to GPS monitoring.

Pursuant to a subsequent investigation by Boston Police, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden approved the issuance of an arrest warrant on the murder charge for Nelson, who still was being held in custody on her other matters.

"I'm grateful to the investigators who have been working on this case since the moment police arrived at the scene on Sunday, and I extend my deepest condolences to Joseph Donohue's family and friends. We will be with them every step of the way as we move to secure justice in this terrible crime," Hayden said in a statement released by his office.

It is expected that the case will follow the usual procedure for felony cases in the district court whereby the district attorney will present evidence to a grand jury seeking an indictment. If Nelson is indicted, the case then will be transferred to the Suffolk County Superior Court for trial.



**HISTORIC** (from pg. 3)

went to Europe in 1811 to study at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. He returned to the United States in 1815 and continued painting, receiving commissions in New England, New York and Charleston, South Carolina for the next decade. In 1825 he returned to New Haven where he had attended Yale. He traveled to Europe again in 1829 to further his studies. While having several critical successes as a painter, his career was generally disappointing to him. His political views, which included being anti-Catholic and anti-immigration as well as pro-slavery, possibly had a negative effect on his patronage and career. While proficient, he did not make a major impact on nineteenth century painting. He stopped painting in 1837 and dedicated the rest of his life to perfecting the electromagnetic telegraph for which he became famous.

The story of this invention is fascinating. While returning from his European studies in 1832 on the ship Sully, he engaged in conversation with fellow passenger Charles Thomas Jackson of Boston, who was experimenting with electromagnetism. Morse became interested and after studying Jackson's work, Morse conceptualized the electromagnetic telegraph. This was a stroke of innovative genius.

He continued painting for the next several years to make a living, but he had become totally immersed in perfecting his invention. Others in England were working on a similar invention, but the shortcoming of their tele-

graph, as well as Morse's concept of using 'relays' to extend the length of the telegraph 'wire' eventually led to Morse's success. In 1837 he filed for a patent in Washington DC. In 1838, he publicly demonstrated the telegraph in Morristown NJ, along with two associates, Professor Leonard Gale and physicist Alfred Vail. The code used to transmit messages, now universally known as Morse Code, was developed by Morse and later improved upon by Vail.

Initially, the telegraph was limited to a two-mile range. After obtaining Congressional support in the amount of \$30,000, a 38-mile wire was laid between Washington DC and Baltimore. That line officially opened in 1844. In 1845 the Magnetic Telegraph Company was formed, and by 1850, 12,000 miles of wire had been laid. By 1866 Western Union, formed in 1851, had laid 100,000 miles of wire in the United States. Not surprisingly, the burgeoning use of the telephone beginning in the 1870s contributed to the decline of telegraphy, although it continued to be used far into the 20th century. By the 1970s, the telegraph had become obsolete, but it was unquestionably the forerunner of modern digital communication. For additional images, go to [NancyKueny.com](http://NancyKueny.com) | [Blog](http://Blog)

Sources: *Digital Commonwealth*, *MACRIS*, *National Gallery*, *Old Charlestown* by Timothy Sawyer, *Wikipedia*, *Wolcott Cutler Collection BPL*, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *A Century of Town Life* by James Hunnewell, *EH.net*, *Ancestry.com*.



The house on 87 Mount Vernon Street.

## COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS TO OFFER FREE OPEN HOUSES THIS SPRING

The Colonial Society of Massachusetts on 87 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, is opening its historic headquarters to the public on the first Sunday of the month from now through May of 2025.

Located at 87 Mount Vernon Street, on historic Beacon Hill, the house was designed by noted Boston architect Charles Bulfinch and built in 1806. The first residents were Stephen Higginson, Jr., and his wife, Louisa Storrow Higginson. Subsequently, five generations of the Sawyer-Lee-Paine family, including Charles Jackson Paine and Julia Bryant Paine, occupied the house from 1816 to 1954. The house became the headquarters of

the Colonial Society of Massachusetts in 1955.

The house is furnished with donations from notable Boston families, including the descendants of William Ellery Channing, Francis Parkman, Jr., and William Crowninshield Endicott. The collection includes fine examples of classical Boston furniture, made in the workshops of Isaac Vose and John Doggett, among others. Visit to learn more about the early nineteenth-century history of Boston and view elegant furniture and artworks of the period.

Visitors are invited to explore the house on a self-guided tour. Dates are: March 2, April 6, and

May 4, from 1-3pm. Admission is free and open to all.

For more information, visit: [coloniaisociety.org](http://coloniaisociety.org)

About the Colonial Society of Massachusetts

Founded in 1892, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts is a non-profit educational foundation that promotes the study of Massachusetts history from its earliest settlement to c.1830. We publish documents and other resources related to the early history of Massachusetts, broadly defined, taking in local, regional, transatlantic, and other perspectives.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MCAC ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE

The Massachusetts Port Authority Community Advisory Committee (MCAC), a legislatively created oversight committee which serves as the voice of the thirty-five communities impacted by Massachusetts Port Authority operations, is pleased to announce that our new website is live. The site can be found at [www.massportcac.org](http://www.massportcac.org).

The website contains all the minutes from our committee and sub-committee (Aviation Operations, Environment & Health, Finance) meetings as well as resources for community members to learn about aviation and maritime impacts. Links can also be found to report noise complaints and understand runway usage at

Logan Airport.

For more information on MCAC projects, please contact Executive Director Aaron Toffler at [atoffler@massportcac.org](mailto:atoffler@massportcac.org).

### USS CONSTITUTION OPEN FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY, TO FIRE 21-GUN SALUTE

USS Constitution will be open for public visitation from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Visitors will have the opportunity to witness a 21-gun salute aboard USS Constitution at approximately 12 p.m. to commemorate the holiday.

President George Washington, whose birthday the holiday cele-

brates, named the ship after the document that defines our nation.

Guided tours will be available every half hour, with the final tour of the day beginning at 3:30 p.m. Active-duty Sailors, knowledgeable about the ship's 227-year history, will lead guests across its three main decks.

USS Constitution is normally open for free public visitation Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All guests 18 and older must present a valid state- or federally-issued photo ID or passport to board the ship.

As the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State, USS Constitution played a vital role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, safeguarding American sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

### GET A FREE "LIBERTY TREE" TO CELEBRATE THE 250TH!

The Bunker Hill Monument Association is commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17th, 2025 as well as the 202nd Anniversary of the Bunker Hill Monument.

To commemorate these historic events the Monument Association is seeking private property owners who will partner with BHMA to plant a 250th Anniversary Commemorative "Liberty Tree", as a living tribute to our history and the founding of our country.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Massachusetts Audubon Society who graciously granted BHMA funds to make this important enhancement to Charlestown's tree canopy for these historic remembrances.

Funding was provided by the Boston Tree Alliance through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Boston Tree Alliance program advances goals defined in the City of Boston's Urban Forest Plan and Heat Plan. The funds from the Alliance are for tree planting and care related to the Liberty Tree project.

We are working with a professional arborist who will evaluate the site, and provide a tree selected to thrive in the particular location. A variety tree species are available for a diverse canopy and to adapt to micro conditions.

If you or anyone you know wants to participate in the BHMA 250th Liberty Tree program, please contact us for any questions. Email [foley.bill154@gmail.com](mailto:foley.bill154@gmail.com) or [dianevalle@gmail.com](mailto:dianevalle@gmail.com) for additional information. Be part of this historic season, and enjoy a new tree!



# CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS SENIOR NIGHT FOR THE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

PATRICK OCONNOR PHOTOS

Senior night took place on Tuesday, February 4 prior to the home game with East Boston. Seniors Juan Carranza, Christian Laplante and Francis Nelson were cheered by their teammates amid words of praise from head coach Hugh Coleman and then posed for photos with their families. The boys then went on to beat East Boston 67-56. As we go to press this week, the team is 10-5 with four games remaining: Thursday, February 13 vs. Andover; a quarterfinal round game with Latin Academy on Friday February 14 in the city league; Saturday, February 15 vs. Worcester North at Emmanuel College and Sunday, February 16 vs. Central Catholic at Emmanuel College. The BPS city league play-offs and championship games are planned for February 19-20 at Madison Park. The Townies hope to repeat as city league champions and make another run for the Division 3 state title. Last year's team won the city league championship and captured the Division 3 state title in March and ended at a remarkable 23-2.



The Charlestown Boys Basketball team gather around its three seniors, Seniors Juan Carranza, Christian Laplante and Francis Nelson before the February 4 game.



Senior Christian Laplante.



Senior Francis Nelson.

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Senior Juan Carranza.



The three seniors, Francis Nelson, Christian Laplante and Juan Carranza, cheer on their team during the game.

## DiDomenico attends DOC reentry simulation

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico recently joined a Department of Corrections (DOC) simulated training, hosted by Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, to experience the journey navigated by individuals returning to their community after being released from

incarceration. During the 2-hour interactive training, attendees assumed the role of a returning citizen and simulated the first 30 days post-release.

“I want to thank the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Secretary Reidy for hosting my colleagues and me to learn what life looks like for individuals after they

are released from prison,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. “There are many obstacles that people face when returning to their communities after prison and these are the kinds of events that help inform how we as a state can better support them to ensure everyone has a chance to get ahead and reduce recidivism.”



Senator Sal DiDomenico (third from left) with State House colleagues at the reentry simulation event.

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City of Boston  
Planning  
Department

## Virtual Public Meeting

**FEB 26**  
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

### CHAIN FORGE (BUILDING 105)

**Register:**  
[bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting3](https://bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting3)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 161 341 3899

**REGISTER:**

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Chain Forge (Building 105) RFP Visioning Session #3: Please join the City of Boston Planning Department for a virtual community meeting on February 26th, 2025, at 6:00pm EST regarding Chain Forge (Building 105) in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the design guidelines for the RFP.

To participate, please register in advance at: [bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting3](https://bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting3). Meeting ID: 161 341 3899.

To learn more about Chain Forge, please visit [bit.ly/ChainForge](https://bit.ly/ChainForge). For assistance for non-English speaking or hearing-impaired residents, inquire by 2/19/2025. Please direct all comments and inquiries to Scott Greenhalgh at [Scott.Greenhalgh@boston.gov](mailto:Scott.Greenhalgh@boston.gov) or 617-918-6240.

**MAIL:**  
**Scott Greenhalgh**  
Planning Department  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
617.918.6240  
[scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov](mailto:scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov)

Close of Public Comment Period:  
**3/12/2025**

Website:  
**[bit.ly/ChainForge](https://bit.ly/ChainForge)**

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



# Wu announces City Hall Plaza to host free fan festival

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu, the National Hockey League (NHL®), and the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) announced Boston City Hall Plaza will host a free fan festival celebrating the upcoming 4 Nations Face-Off, an international tournament to be played between NHL players from the United States, Canada, Finland, and Sweden held in Boston and Montreal. The 4 Nations Face-Off™ Fan Village™, a three-day, non-ticketed fan festival open to the public will take place Saturday, February 15 through Monday, February 17 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on each day. The NHL, NHLPA, and their 4 Nations Face-Off partners will treat hockey fans to fun interactions, including autograph sessions featuring NHL alumni, family-friendly hockey interactives, giveaways, food, and music. The three-day fan festival builds off Mayor Wu's work to make Boston City Hall Plaza and Downtown Boston a welcoming, safe, and vibrant destination for families all year long.

"We're excited to welcome Bruins fans and hockey players from around the world for a free, three-day event on City Hall Plaza," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Plaza's location in the heart of our city and proximity to TD Garden

make it the perfect place to gather in community even in the winter months and to celebrate one of Boston's favorite pastimes. The 4 Nations Face-Off Fan Village will feature hockey-themed activities for all ages."

The three-day event on the Plaza builds up to the 4 Nations Face-Off, being held in Boston and Montreal. TD Garden will host three of the tournament games (on February 17 and February 20). A 4 Nations Face-Off game ticket is not required for entry to the 4 Nations Face-Off Fan Village on City Hall Plaza.

"We are excited to host the NHL and NHLPA for the 4 Nations Face-Off at TD Garden, which will showcase the most elite NHL players from the respective nations," said Glen Thornborough, president of TD Garden and COO Boston Bruins. "Bringing international events like this to Boston is important, and we thank the City of Boston and Mayor Wu for their support in hosting the Fan Village, which will give fans an unforgettable experience all weekend."

"We've been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to see the best in the world compete against one another once again. These events will be sure to encapsulate the energy, excitement and passion our Boston community has for

hockey," said Joe DeRoeve, Head Coach for Charlestown Youth Hockey. "USA vs Canada/Finland/Sweden are the ultimate rivalries where our kids get to see their idols wear their countries' uniforms on the ice. This is beyond inspiring - this is what hockey kid's dreams are made of. Thank you Mayor Wu, the NHL, and the NHLPA."

"Hockey is more than just a game — it teaches our young players in Allston and Brighton teamwork, resilience, hard work and a love for the sport that lasts a lifetime. We are grateful to Mayor Wu, the NHL, and the NHLPA for bringing the 4 Nations Face-Off to the City, bringing together our youth players, their families and all hockey fans to cheer on and celebrate the skill, passion and dedication of these world-class athletes in the sport they love," said Helena Padellaro, President of Allston/Brighton Youth Hockey.

At the 4 Nations Face-Off Fan Village in Boston, fans will be able to watch a broadcast of the February 15 Finland vs. Sweden game at 1:00 p.m., and the February 17 Canada vs. Finland game at 1:00 p.m. Interactive hockey-themed experiences by more than a dozen 4 Nations Face-Off partners will be available during all operating hours. Fans will be able to take photos with the Stanley Cup®

(during all operating hours) and visit the Hockey Hall of Fame Exhibit to see the 4 Nations Face-Off trophy (on February 16 and 17).

For the most up-to-date schedule of events, appearances, and fan reminders, attendees should visit [nhl.com/fanvillage](http://nhl.com/fanvillage).

"There is no better city to host the NHL 4 Nations Face-off than Boston and no better location for the Fan Village than City Hall Plaza, the epicenter of downtown," said Eamon Shelton, Commissioner of Property Management. "We are excited to watch not only the Plaza but the surrounding businesses come alive as residents and visitors come together for this international event. Activation of the Plaza, especially during the winter months, plays a pivotal role in creating the dynamic and welcoming community that we strive for as a City."

"We are very excited to convert City Hall Plaza into a new age center for all during the 4 Nations Face-Off. We know Bostonians consider sports an inseparable part of their identity, and this is an excellent chance for us to bring the community together," said John Borders IV, Director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment. "This event is a one of a kind experience where fans of all ages and levels get to enjoy interactive games,

world class music, events featuring NHL alumni, and so much more. We welcome everyone from novice fans to die-hard supporters to City Hall Plaza for what will be a memorable experience. This event is an exhibition of Boston's love for hockey and our commitment toward hosting grand international sporting events both now and in the future."

City Hall previously partnered with the NHL to host the NHL Winter Classic Plaza™, a well attended fan festival held in the days ahead of the 2023 Discover NHL Winter Classic® at Fenway Park. This winter, Mayor Wu has made it a priority to keep City Hall Plaza an inviting space for public events during the winter months, announcing interactive public art displays as part of the WINTER-ACTIVE initiative by the Downtown Boston Alliance (DBA).

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## Healey-Driscoll Administration announces DCR's free family programming for school vacation week

As part of the agency's commitment to providing safe and fun recreational opportunities for young people across the state, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced its lineup of February school vacation week programming. This year, the agency is offering families 79 free, engaging and educational programs at 20 state parks and watersheds ranging from guided hikes to animal tracking, craft making, and maple sugaring. Programs will run from Saturday, February 15, through Sunday, February 23, with the goal of inspiring kids to get outdoors and experience the beauty of the Massachusetts State Parks system.

"School may be closed for the week, but we're continuing the learning in outdoor classrooms. Our February school break programming is a great way for us to teach kids about the natural world around them and help inspire the next generation of environmental stewards," said DCR Commis-

sioner Brian Arrigo. "We hope this slate of fun and educational programming brings some new and curious minds to our properties next week. Our team of park interpreters looks forward to meeting and welcoming students across the state."

To celebrate school vacation week, DCR is waiving parking fees at parks offering programming. In addition to offering programming DCR is extending public skating hours during the week at its agency-managed

rinks from 10 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. daily. DCR will also continue to offer its regular programming, including self-guided hikes, and visitor centers will be open for people to enjoy exhibits. For details about staff-led programs and self-guide activities, visit DCR's website.

Additionally, DCR is offering adaptive programming during February vacation week.

DCR encourages participants to tweet, post, and tag photos on

social media using @MassDCR. DCR is promoting this year's February break programming with engaging videos and fun graphics on its social media channels, including X (Twitter), Instagram and Threads. For a full list of all programming offered during school vacation week visit DCR's website.

Highlights from next week's February break programming include:

Boston Region

Dream Street StoryWalk® at Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St., Boston

Saturday, February 15 - Tuesday, February 25, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Visit Dream Street, where everyone is special, and children believe their dreams will come true! This magical story celebrates the Roxbury neighborhood where the author and her cousin, award-winning illustrator Ekua Holmes, grew up.

The StoryWalk® Project was

created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

Ice Skating Party at Steriti Rink, 561 Commercial St., Boston

Friday, February 21, 12 - 4 p.m.

Join DCR and Boston Harbor Now as part of the Highland Street Foundation's Winter Camp for a day of ice skating at the Steriti Memorial Skating Rink in Boston's North End neighborhood. Choose from sessions lasting 45 minutes each, starting at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Rental skates will be provided for free! Skate and dance along with music by DJ WhySham, enjoy

Regina Pizzeria, Munchkin Donut Holes, and drinks when not on the rink. Don't forget to bring a

water bottle!

Pre-registration is \*highly\* encouraged for groups of 10 or more or if you have a time constraint, but there will be capacity for walk-ups during all skating sessions. Ice

Skating Party at Steriti Memorial Rink! at Highland Street Winter Camp Tickets, Fri, Feb 21, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. | Eventbrite

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Brian Arrigo, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the wellbeing of all. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).



# Johnson named Chair of the Board for Old North Illuminated

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

As a Black woman who grew up in the Episcopal church, it's important for Angela Johnson to see Black and Indigenous congregants' contributions included in Old North Church's story. As the new Chair of the Board of Directors for Old North Illuminated, which operates and preserves Old North Church Historic Site, the Dedham resident will help to uncover the hidden history of, preserve, and protect the national landmark.

Raised in the American South, the daughter of an Episcopal priest who died when she was 10 years old, Johnson first remembers visiting Old North Church Historic Site the summer after her freshman year of high school while joining her mother, a delegate for the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, at a Union of Black Episcopalians conference in Boston. The church, the conference, and the Commonwealth left an impression on her as she would go on to pursue her post-secondary education at Wellesley College and build a decades-long career in nonprofit management and fundraising.

"As the new Board Chair of Old North Illuminated, I'm most excited about preserving and sharing the rich, multifaceted his-



Angela Johnson.

tory of Old North Church," says Johnson. "While many people focus on the story of Paul Revere's ride, the church itself has been a cornerstone of our history for over 300 years. It's not just about the lanterns and the revolution – it's about remembering the full story, including the roles played by early church members and the diverse histories of all who were part of it, including free and enslaved Black congregants and others who contributed over the years. As someone who wasn't initially a history buff, I've come to deeply appreciate the significance of this place. Old North is a unique church with a rich past that speaks to everyone,

and I'm committed to ensuring its stories are preserved and shared for generations to come."

Johnson brings more than 30 years of experience in communications, project management, teaching, and development to the Old North Illuminated Board of Directors. As Senior Director of Philanthropy at Year Up United, she focuses on building relationships with donors, mainly Massachusetts-based, to support the organization's national mission. She works closely with stakeholders to encourage volunteering, giving, and other forms of support. A passionate volunteer, Johnson has been active on the boards of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), The Lenny Zakim Fund, Sisters in Development in Massachusetts, and Minds Matter Boston. She also contributed to an Advisory Committee for Massachusetts State Treasurer Steve Grossman for four years and was a nine-year volunteer mentor for Big Sister of Greater Boston, where she was honored as a Community-Based Big Sister of the Year.

"I'm thrilled that the Board of Old North Illuminated has selected Angela to serve as our next Board Chair," says Nikki Stewart, Old North Illuminated Executive Director. "Her expertise in fostering partnerships and

building support for both national and community-based non-profits will be invaluable as we begin this important anniversary year and look to our future. She is a powerhouse public speaker, a dynamic fundraiser, an adept event planner, and a warm and encouraging leader."

As a member of the Old North Illuminated Board of Directors, Johnson will help with general oversight of the strategic direction and financial health of the organization and serve on committees that provide guidance in areas such as education, marketing and development, preservation, finance, and investment, all of which enable the organization to execute on its mission and live its values. Board members serve for up to three terms of three years each and act as goodwill ambassadors who actively advocate on behalf of the nonprofit.

This year, Old North Illuminated celebrates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, marking Paul Revere's legendary midnight ride and the iconic "two if by sea" lantern signal in Old North Church's steeple. For information about upcoming celebrations, visit: [www.oldnorth.com/250th](http://www.oldnorth.com/250th).

About Old North Illuminated / Old North Church Historic Site

Established in 1991 as the Old North Foundation, Old North Illuminated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site operations and interpretative, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church in the City of Boston, Old North Illuminated welcomes approximately 500,000 visitors annually while overseeing the preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. Old North Illuminated serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. ONI works collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S. National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other partners to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church's history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. In 2023, Old North Church Historic Site was designated as a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), joining a global network of historic sites, museums, and memory initiatives that connect past struggles to today's movements for human rights.

## Wu and BPHC release report on improving health equity

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last week released a new report, *Live Long and Well*, outlining the City's commitment to close Boston's long-standing life expectancy gap by race and by neighborhood, primarily due to social, economic, environmental, and structural factors. Mayor Wu and BPHC are also calling on community partners to submit proposals for funding to improve health and life expectancy in Boston. In the report, the City and BPHC detail their commitments to addressing key drivers of premature mortality, including cardiometabolic disease, and ensure Bostonians can live well at every age. The report outlines a vision to reduce early death in Boston, particularly among Black individuals who have the lowest life expectancy citywide. With \$10 million in funding from Atrius Health Equity Foundation, the City aims to work with community-based organizations to build wealth and economic security in communities with the greatest health disparities.

Live Long and Well – first

announced in July 2024 – emphasizes the importance of multi-sector partnerships and working with impacted communities to close life expectancy gaps and help residents live long, healthy lives. The first multi-sector partnership between the City of Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Community Health Collaborative, and Atrius Health Equity Foundation was announced this summer with a \$10 million investment to improve health outcomes.

In January, Atrius Health Equity Foundation released its first Call for Proposal for a funding opportunity of up to \$5 million for community-led coalitions to work together to enhance economic mobility and inclusion as well as financial security in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. Up to three selected proposals will be awarded up to \$2.5 million each. The RFP closes on March 12, and awardees are expected to be announced in June 2025. Atrius Health Equity Foundation plans to release a second round of funding in 2028.

"This initiative is about more than just longevity; it's about partnering with community-based

organizations across Boston neighborhoods to ensure that all our residents have the resources, opportunities, and support to thrive at every stage of life," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the Atrius Health Equity Foundation, the Boston Community Health Collaborative, and all our community partners, hospitals, health centers, and local businesses, who are working together to help our residents live longer, healthier lives."

"Though our city is healthier than many in the US, we continue to note significant differences in life expectancy and early death by race and between neighborhoods. The disparities are stark and are evident throughout our city," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "This is a longstanding issue that we have been working to address. We are committed to continuing to build new partnerships and making new investments in the communities that need it most to ensure that everyone in Boston has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life."

"We're excited to be making large-scale investments that respond to the health priorities

identified by Boston residents. We're thrilled to be partnering with the City of Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Boston Community Health Collaborative in undertaking this important work. We also thank the community members and leaders who contributed their expertise to develop this program. Investing in the health and longevity of everyone in Boston will create a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant city," said Dr. Ann Hwang, President of the Atrius Health Equity Foundation.

The Boston Public Health Commission recently convened a meeting with community stakeholders to announce the funding opportunity and gain support for the *Live Long and Well* agenda. Attendees unanimously expressed support for the city's efforts to invest in communities and close gaps in life expectancy.

According to BPHC analysis, there are glaring disparities in life expectancy across the city. In 2012, the Health Commission released data that showed a 33-year difference in life expectancy between neighborhoods in Roxbury and Back Bay, despite

the neighborhoods being 2.3 miles apart. In 2023, BPHC prioritized updating this data and found the gap between neighborhoods in Roxbury and Back Bay is now 23 years, showing that while the data is still stark and concerning, progress has been made. BPHC's findings also show that there are communities across Boston, including Mattapan, Dorchester, East Boston, and Jamaica Plain, where life expectancy is significantly lower than average.

The *Live Long and Well* report details the significant and ongoing investments made by the City and local partners to address these disparities and improve health. It also highlights the City and Health Commission's strategies to improve a person's physical and mental well-being throughout their life.

The City and BPHC are continuing to look for more partners to join this work. Those who would like to learn more about the *Live Long and Well* population health equity agenda and the Foundation's Call For Proposals can visit [boston.gov/live-long](http://boston.gov/live-long).



# Critical and significant drought conditions declared in several regions

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Following nearly six months of below-normal precipitation, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared the Central and Northeast regions have been raised to a Level – 3 Critical Drought. The Southeast, Cape and Islands regions have been elevated to a Level – 2 Significant Drought. The Connecticut River Valley and Western regions still have their previous statuses: Level 2 – Significant and Level – 1 Mild Drought.

As outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, a Level 3 – Critical Drought, Level – 2 Significant Drought, and a Level – 1 Mild Drought require detailed monitoring of drought conditions. These levels also require ongoing coordination among state and federal agencies to implement water use restrictions. Additionally, engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health, is essential. This includes providing technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities.

“Even with winter weather, several regions in our state are facing below-average precipitation,” said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “To avoid overtaxing our water systems, we must prioritize indoor water conservation. It’s essential that everyone follows state guidance and local water restrictions to ensure our drinking water stays available for everyone.”

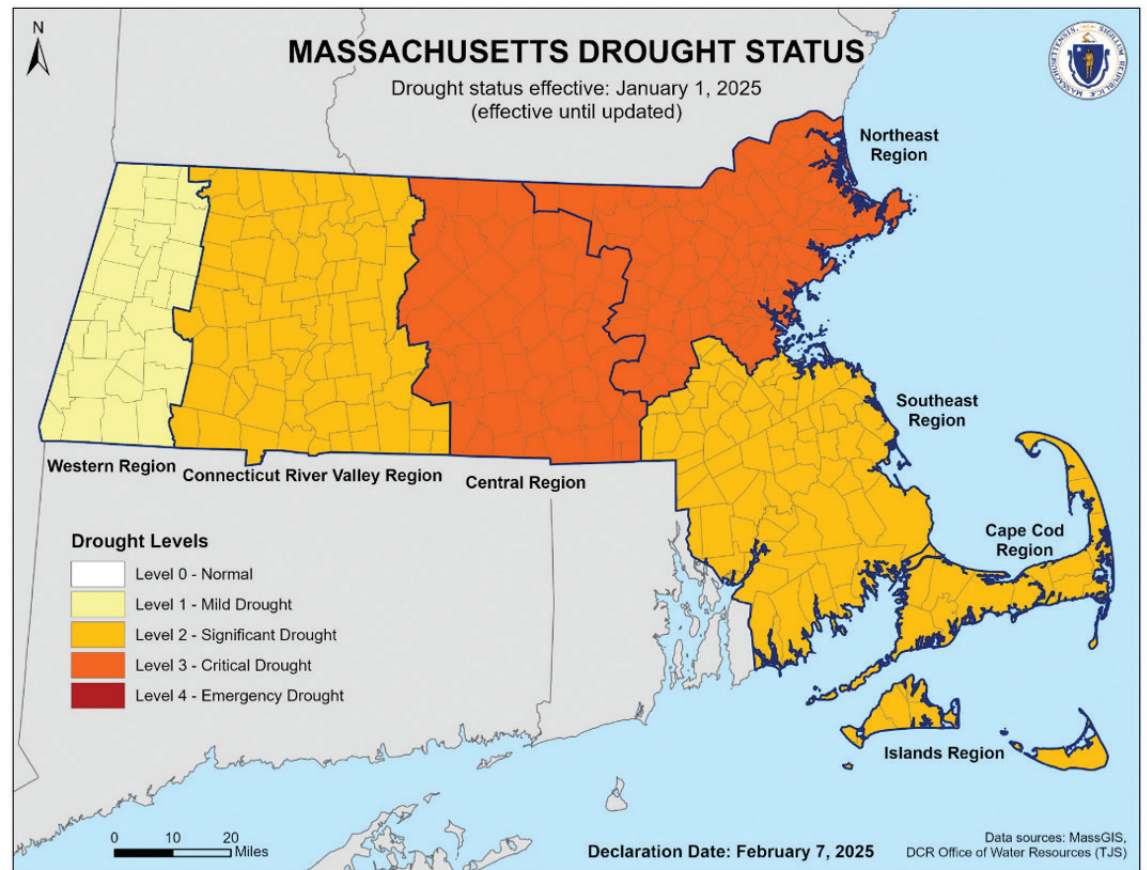
Over the past month, most of the state received between 1-2.5 inches of rain and snow, which is

1-13 inches below normal. Overall, most of the state has been in an 8-13 inch deficit since August. The Cape and Islands region is experiencing a 3.8-6 inch deficit in precipitation. Despite the recent rain and snowfall, streamflow and groundwater have worsened in nearly all regions, and recharge that typically occurs at this time of the year to reservoirs and groundwater lagging. Residents can report dry environmental conditions they are experiencing and submit photos to support state drought monitoring efforts here.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to provide technical assistance to communities on managing their water systems, including assistance on the use of emergency connections and water supplies.

It is important to note that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not experiencing drought conditions, as defined within its individual plan. However, private well users and other sources of water within the same river basins are impacted by drought conditions. All sources of water, regardless of their location or type of withdrawal, ultimately draw from the same river basin. It is important for all users to do their part to conserve water.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 3 – Critical Drought, Level 2 – Significant Drought, and Level 1 – Mild Drought region, including those utilizing a private well. Residents



and businesses are also asked to check with their local water system in case more stringent watering restrictions are in place.

### For Regions in Level 3 – Critical Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Follow state water conservation actions and any local water use restrictions;
- Monitor total household water use shown on your water bill for sudden increases, which often indicate leaks. Use the MA Home Water Use Calculator tool to eval-

uate household water use;

- Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately. Check for leaks in homes and businesses regularly by:

Checking water meters for constant dial movement

Using dye tabs to check for toilet leaks

Conducting regular inspections of all pipes and fixtures, including those located in utility rooms, crawlspaces, and other hidden areas

- Use dishwashers rather than handwashing dishes. Run the dishwasher only on a full load;
- Aggressively reduce indoor water use by:

Reducing shower length and consider using a shower timer

Running washing machines only on a full load

Not letting water run while brushing and shaving

Replacing old fixtures and appliances with water-efficient ones. Make sure toilets, faucets, and showerheads are WaterSense labeled

- Stop all non-essential water use; and,
- Be extra cautious with outdoor fires, grills, and flammable materials.

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Provide timely information on the drought and on water conservation tips to local residents and businesses taking advantage of the state’s library of outreach materials;
- Enforce water use restrictions with increasingly stringent penalties;
- Strongly discourage or pro-

hibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; and,

- Establish or enhance water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state’s library of outreach materials;
- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates;
- Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,
- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan.

For Regions in Level 2 – Significant Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use and be particularly mindful of indoor water use;
- Follow local water use restrictions;
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use;
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportu-

Region	Drought Level Declaration	Previous Month
Western	Level 1 – Mild Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought
Connecticut River Valley	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 2 – Significant Drought
Central	Level 3 – Critical Drought	Level 2 – Significant Drought
Northeast	Level 3 – Critical Drought	Level 2 – Significant Drought
Southeast	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought
Cape Cod	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought
Islands	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought



# North Shore Philharmonic Winter Concert Features music of Ravel, Barber, Rachmaninoff

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff's demanding Symphony No. 3 and Maurice Ravel's delightful "Mother Goose Suite" highlight the program when Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in its Winter Concert Sunday, February 23 at Swampscott High School auditorium.

Concert time is 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased in advance at [www.nspo.org](http://www.nspo.org) for \$30, \$25 for seniors and students. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

Also on the concert program is the First Essay for Orchestra by American composer Samuel Barber.

Rachmaninoff, renowned for his works for piano, wrote three symphonies, with some 40 years separating the first and third. Critics claimed that the Third was too much a "modern" piece and it was not well-received by audiences. Over the years, however, Rachmaninoff's Third Symphony has earned its place in the symphonic Repertoire for its orchestral color.



Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra "Winter" concert Sunday, February 23 at Swampscott High School.



The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra performs its "Winter" Concert Sunday, February 23 at Swampscott High School.

Ravel, well-known his affection for children and animals, originally wrote a piano suite for four hands based on the famous Mother Goose stories in 1908 and four years later wrote the Orchestration. The imaginative, medodic music evokes the wonderment of the characters "Pavane for Sleeping Beauty", Tom Thumb, the

Laideronette—Empress of the Pagodas, "Beauty and the Beast", and, finally, a celebration of nature in The Enchanted Garden.

Barber wrote the Essay for Orchestra in 1937—it was later retitled "First Essay for Orchestra"—apparently at the invitation to the celebrated Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini, who conducted the first performance with the NBC Symphony Orchestra in a program that included Bar-

ber's now-famous "Adagio for Strings." The Essay form of musical composition develops a complex and thoughtful work from a single thesis.

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra is playing its 76th season. Staffed largely by volunteer players, the NSPO is committed to providing affordable access

to quality classical music. The Orchestra strives to develop, train, and provide opportunities for young musicians, while providing a large range of programs covering the full range of symphonic and pops repertoire for a diverse public. For full concert information, visit [www.nspo.org](http://www.nspo.org) or contact [info@nspo.org](mailto:info@nspo.org).

## Dog licensing reminder

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Animal Care and Control Division reminds city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31, 2025. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year. This process can be completed online, by mail, or in-person at our upcoming licensing clinics.

"Dog licenses are not just required by law, they help ensure that we can quickly return your pup to you should they get lost," said Alexis Trzcinski, Director of Animal Care and Control. "Please do your part to keep your pup safe and tagged."

Boston's most popular dog names of 2024 have been revealed as part of this year's licensing reminder. The top male dog name was once again Charlie, with 83 registered pups, and the leading female dog name was Luna, with 102 registrations with this name. At the tail end of the pack, the 25th most popular name for male dogs was Otis, with 24, and for female dogs it was Piper, with 38 registered.

The data also highlights Boston's favorite dog breeds. The Labrador Retriever continued to reign as the city's most popular breed, with 1,671 registered, fol-

lowed by the Golden Retriever (749) and the Chihuahua (421). Other top breeds included the German Shepherd (371) and Miniature Poodle (351).

All dogs over six months old must be licensed annually. Owners are required to provide a copy of their dog's current rabies certificate and proof of spaying or neutering (if applicable). Licensing fees are \$15 for a neutered or spayed pet and \$30 for an unaltered pet, with fees waived for service animals and residents aged 70 or older. Unlicensed pets are subject to a \$50 fine.

For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link to license your dog online, visit Animal Care and Control's how-to article.

The City of Boston will also host a series of low cost dog licensing and pet vaccine clinics from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays from March 4 to June 3 at seven BCYF community centers. For details, fees, and locations please visit [boston.gov/animals](http://boston.gov/animals) or call (617) 635-1800.

Follow Animal Care and Control on social media for updates and adorable adoptable pets: Instagram [@bostonanimalcontrol](https://www.instagram.com/bostonanimalcontrol), X [@animalboston](https://twitter.com/animalboston) and Facebook [@bostonanimal](https://www.facebook.com/bostonanimal).

**On behalf of the Stillman Family and the Board of Charlestown Youth Hockey, Frankie's Friends would like to extend a sincere thank you for the incredible support shown at our event. We are so proud to keep Frankie's memory alive by helping children in our community. We could not have done it without the following generous donors and sponsors:**



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**DROUGHT** (from pg. 12)

nities.

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Limit or prohibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing.

- Establish water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials;

- Provide timely information to local residents and businesses;

- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates; and,

- Check emergency inter-con-

nections for water supply; and,

- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 1 – Mild Drought region.

**For Region in Level 1 – Mild Drought**

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use; and,

- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.

Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and

communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials;

- Provide timely drought and water conservation information to local residents and businesses;

- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,

- Develop a local drought management plan (learn more here).

State agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess conditions across the state, coordinate any needed dissemination of information

to the public, and help federal, state, and local agencies prepare additional responses that may be needed in the future. The Drought Management Task Force will meet again on Thursday, March 6, at 10:00AM. For further information on water conservation and what residents can do, visit the EEA's drought and water conservation pages.

# 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.
Starbucks.....	Thompson Sq.
Cambridge Savings.....	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.
Building 110 .....	110 First Ave.
MGH Institute.....	26 First Ave.
7/11 Store .....	1 First Ave.
Sorelle Café.....	100 City Sq.

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## Fire safety tips to keep your Valentine's Day safe

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

This Valentine's Day, make sure your romantic gestures stay memorable for the right reasons. When lighting candles and cooking a special meal, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) says to closely monitor food cooking on the stove or in the oven, and to use candles with caution.

"If you're celebrating Valentine's Day at home this year, your plans likely include a special meal and candles," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "Our goal is to help ensure that everyone enjoys the holiday with fire safety

in mind."

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries year-round. Unattended cooking is a factor in over one-quarter (29 percent) of reported home cooking fires and half of the associated deaths.

Simple cooking safety tips include the following:

- Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Have a "kid and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove.
- Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn

off the burner.

- Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Candles are also a leading cause of home fires and must be used with caution and supervision. NFPA data shows that half of all candle fires started when a flammable object – such as furniture, bedding, curtains, home décor, or clothing – was too close to a lit candle. In 21 percent of home candle fires, the candle was either left unattended, discarded, or otherwise misused. More than one-third of candle fires (36 percent) started in the bedroom.

Consider using batter-operated flameless candles, which proved a

similar look and feel to real candles while eliminating the risk of fire.

If you do plan to use real candles, NFPA recommends the following:

- Don't use lit candles in bedrooms, bathrooms, and sleeping areas.
- Use stable candle holders and place candles where they can't be easily knocked over.
- Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn.
- Keep hair and loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down --- put it out before it gets too close to the holder or con-

tainer.

- Store matches and lighters up high, out of children's reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

- Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.

For more information about cooking and candle safety, visit our cooking safety and candle safety pages.

In addition, NFPA encourages the public to make sure they have working smoke alarms and develop and practice a home escape plan.

## Valentine's Days tips for finding love, romance or just a dinner date

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Whether you're in a committed relationship, swiping to find that special someone or taking a break from dating, as Valentine's Day approaches it's obvious that love is in the air. Experts from the University of New Hampshire share some advice to pinpoint your partner's passion, design dating that fits you—no matter your age—and how to navigate today's technology to better make that love connection.

### Skip the Grand Gestures

"Valentine's Day can feel like a big test of how romantic we are and how much we love our partners," said Tyler Jamison, associate professor of human development and family studies. "Trying to figure out the right balance of things to do and say can rob any joy Valentine's Day may bring."

Jamison, a family and relationship expert focusing on how people learn the skills they need to build and maintain strong relationships, said one of the keys to a happy partnership is asking your partner for what you need and want. Take the guessing out of the mix and use Valentine's Day as motivation to practice communicating more openly. For example, take the pressure off by letting them know what would make the day special—a dozen tulips, eating pizza in sweatpants or even skipping the holiday altogether. Valentine's Day can be a minefield of expectations but if you focus on what is important to you as a couple, it can be an opportunity to develop healthier, more authentic

relationships and share a little love that might get lost in everyday life.

It's also an opportunity to show that you have the pulse of your partner's favorite things. Rather than gifting chocolate and flowers, think of something that your partner loves, like watching a favorite movie (even if you don't like it) or gifting them the next book in a series they can't put down. The best gifts are not necessarily the most elaborate or expensive, but ones that show you understand and appreciate your partner.

"Six or seven years ago, I told my husband that the best gift he could ever give me was writing down how he felt about me," said Jamison. "Now, for Valentine's Day and sometimes our anniversary, he will gift me with a typed list of things he likes about me or reasons he will never get tired of me. They are funny and sweet and I never would have gotten them without asking."

### Looking for Love...

#### Later in Life

Dating, especially for older adults, can be daunting and exhausting. But if you're single and ready to mingle, Lauren Harris, assistant professor of human development and family studies has some advice.

"It's important to remember that you are never too old to find love," said Harris. "Dating can be a great way to meet new people and find someone you just like spending time with—whether you are seeking a friend for an occasional dinner or a spouse to share the next chapter of life—and you

can design the dating and relationship experience that fits you best."

Ready for romance? Time to get out there.

Harris, who researches how gender and age shape older adults' dating experiences, said meeting new people will increase your chances of finding someone special. Here are her tips:

- Determine what you're looking for. What is important to you—attraction, sense of humor, lifestyle, spending time with family.

- Are you looking for companionship or marriage? Many older adults, particularly women, are just seeking a companion—someone they can spend time with, travel, see a movie and share a dinner—while others are hoping to find a life partner.

- Join a new group, volunteer or take a class—it can help find people with like interests.

- Tell your friends and family you are ready to start dating.

- Consider online dating—people over 50 are the fastest growing group of online daters.

#### Tik Tok NO!

Swiping your phone to find a date may be exciting and effective, but technology can impact relationships for the better and the worse. Marissa Mosley, assistant professor of human development and family studies, said when building a healthy relationship it's important to realize that there is a time and place for technology.

"Looking for love online, and communicating via email and text once you connect, can open up

dating possibilities and help get to know someone, but once you're on that date, it's time to put the phone down," said Mosley who is also a marriage and family therapist. "A sweet text or emoji can be fun flirting when courting but if you're out to dinner, or living together, it's important to communicate—in person—to each other to build a healthy relationship."

Mosley's research explores the role of phubbing—paying more attention to a cell phone than a partner—and how that can affect both partners. While it can help increase emotional connections it can also drive a wedge between

partners if one is feeling neglected.

Mosley's advice to make the most of this Valentine's Day:

- Go phub-free—turn off cell phones as you enjoy a romantic dinner for just two.

- Arrange a movie night to watch a favorite flick—make popcorn, cuddle on the couch and share the experience—no phones or tablets allowed.

- If your partner spends too much time online or on their phone because they experience the fear of missing out (FOMO), it's important to communicate how that makes you feel.

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

## Cabbage is having a moment

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Once upon a time, not that long ago, cabbage did not appear in grocery stores until mid-March for St. Patrick's Day. That's changed, and over the past few winters, the only time cabbage has been out of stock is when it has sold out.

Recently, Penny had cabbage on our shopping list, and the only one she found was huge. She asked the produce clerk if he had something smaller in the back

room. He returned empty-handed and asked if she wanted him to cut the large one. He returned with two wrapped halves and assured her someone would buy the other half before their next shipment arrived. He also commented on how much cabbage they were selling these days.

## More Varieties

Not only do we have cabbage year-round, but we also have more

varieties of cabbage to choose from. According to the website Spruce Eats, there are at least 400 types of cabbage. The most popular cabbages in this area are green, napa, Savoy, and red. Some of us also add a supply of fermented cabbage like kimchi and sauerkraut to our pantries.

We usually have green cabbage in our crisper. Whole heads stored in a plastic bag will last for weeks. Before using, just remove any wilted or bruised outer leaves. You don't have to use the whole head at once. Penny puts one of the larger outer leaves over the cut edge, holds it in place with an elastic band, and trims off a slice before using the remainder.

Red cabbage adds color to raw or pickled dishes like coleslaw. When cooked, it will turn blue. To avoid this color change, add an acidic ingredient like vinegar or citrus juice to the cooking liquid.

Savoy cabbage is wrinkly, sweet, and grows as a less compact head. It is terrific to use as a wrap for stuffing and baking.

Napa cabbage is much lighter and perfect for eating raw. It is also the traditional choice for cabbage kimchi. We have also seen some Conehead Cabbage from local farms. We also enjoy the lighter, sweeter flavor of the Taiwanese cabbage we buy in Chinatown.



Winter farmer's markets and CSAs have encouraged the use of hearty, local winter food like cabbage.

## LEGAL NOTICE

## LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, Section 5-304 Docket No. SU25P0282GD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street  
Boston MA, 02114

In the matter of: Joshua Cherestal of: Charlestown, MA  
RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Joshua Cherestal is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without

Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 03/03/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written

appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 10, 2025  
Stephanie Everett, Register of Probate

02/14/25

CT

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Includes photo.No word Limit.

Please send to

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## Children's Winter Festival returns to Boston Common

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department present the annual Children's Winter Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground on Wednesday, February 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The free festival is open to all and offers music, dancing, giveaways, winter activities, treats, and crafts. Featured attractions include large inflatable installations such as the all-star challenge, fun house maze, and candy cane obstacle course. Children and their caregivers can also enjoy rides on the trackless train, the alpine slide, snow throw, and more.

"My family and I enjoyed visiting the annual Winter Festival last year, and I encourage Boston resi-

dents to take advantage of this fun way to keep kids engaged and connected with their peers over February school break," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the Parks Department and our local business partners for keeping this beloved winter tradition on the Common going."

LEGO® Discovery Center Boston will be in attendance with seasonal builds and activities with LEGO experts. Enjoy farm fresh milk from New England Dairy's Mobile Dairy Bar. Try your musical skills at Boston Music Group's instrument 'petting zoo.' Visit boston.gov/winterfest for more information about this family-friendly school vacation week event.

The event is hosted in partnership with title sponsor Highland Street Foundation and our

months.

Winter farmer's markets and CSAs have encouraged using hearty, local winter foods like cabbage. This may be why cooks who support local, sustainable food publish more recipes online that use this ingredient.

In this area, we have some great places to shop for local cabbage in winter: the Boston Public Market, Brighton Winter Farmers Market, Somerville Winter Farmers Market, and Dorchester Winter Farmers Market. For a destination market in a lovely setting, we recommend the Wayland Winter Farmers Market at Russels' Garden Center.

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

contributing sponsors H.P. Hood LLC and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. The Boston Globe is the media sponsor. Additional support is provided by LEGO® Discovery Center Boston, New England Dairy, Laboratories of Cognitive Neuroscience (LCN) at Boston Children's Hospital, and UMass Boston Early Minds Lab.

The Boston Common Parade Ground is located at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets. Call (617) 635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, Bluesky, and Instagram.