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FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

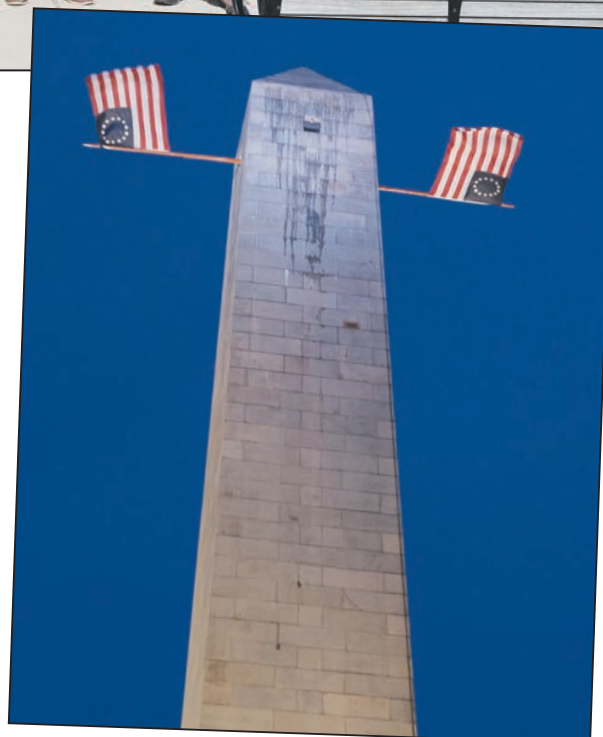
## PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Shown in front row are Dan Kovacevic, Annette Tecce, Liza Stersn (NPS), Lee Esieman, Eric Hanson, and Megan Nugnes (Hamco).

## FLAGS FLY AT THE MONUMENT!

On April 29 Boston National Historical Park rigged the holiday flags and flagpoles atop the Bunker Hill Monument for the first time in 32 years. Lee Esieman and Dan Kovacevic designed the 20 ft. poles and rigging system in 1993. This year the Hamco Flag company won the bid to do the installation. The 10 ft x 15ft flags are expected to fly through July 4th. The Park Service also provided effective special illumination for the flags and the Pyramidium.



## Flood resilience around the Navy Yard and Little Mystic Channel discussed at meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Last week, the Planning Department hosted a meeting to introduce the Charlestown Navy Yard/ Little Mystic Channel Flood Resilience Mitigation Planning, Feasibility & Design Study, which looks to combat coastal flooding and strengthen the neighborhood's resilience.

The Planning Department's website says that this initiative will build on findings from the 2022 Coastal Resilience Solutions for Charlestown and East Boston Phase II report and that the study will, "assess existing conditions and vulnerabilities, and identify ways to protect homes, waterfront properties, historic sites, public spaces, and critical infrastructure."

"This project is an important commitment that the mayor has made to enhancing climate resiliency, climate justice, and equitable adaptations. It's critical that we have your participation in shaping the resilient future of this part of the city in Charlestown," said Kairos Shen, the city's chief of planning.

Brian Swett, the city's chief climate officer, shared his excitement for the initiative's kickoff and emphasized the importance of this work.

"In Boston, coastal resilience is not purely a coastal concern. One-sixth of our land mass is filled tide-lands, so it impacts neighborhoods a fair distance from the coast and is absolutely vital to the long-term success, vitality, and life and safety in Boston," he said.

At the beginning of the presentation, Ksenia Acquaviva, a senior climate and coastal resilience project manager at the Planning Department, discussed general climate resilience in Boston.

First, she highlighted risks from previous storms, which illustrated flooded areas in the city, such as along the harborwalk in the Navy Yard in the winter of 2018.

"In Boston, we experience the

(FLOOD Pg. 3)

## PLAY BALL



Roland Baron delivers the pitch during the Charlestown Little League opening day celebration on May 3. See Pages 4 and 5 for more photos.





# EDITORIAL

## THE U.S. TODAY: FROM BRAIN GAIN TO BRAIN DRAIN

The founders of the greatest American companies (at least as measured by their stock-market caps) are Bill Gates of Microsoft, Jensen Huang of Nvidia, Elon Musk of Tesla and Space X, Mark Zuckerberg of Meta (Facebook), the late Steve Jobs of Apple, Sergey Brin of Alphabet (Google) and Jeff Bezos of Amazon.

All seven share one of two things in common: Six went to top U.S. universities (Harvard for Gates and Zuckerberg; Stanford for Huang and Brin; Princeton for Bezos; and Pennsylvania for Musk) and five either themselves are immigrants (Musk, Huang, and Brin) or they are first-generation immigrants (Jobs's father was a Syrian immigrant and Bezos's adoptive father was a Cuban immigrant).

This is nothing new. America always has relied upon its immigrants and its universities to lead the way for American supremacy. This was especially true during WWII when the U.S. developed the atomic bomb thanks to a team of scientists (most of whom were foreign-born and working at the University of Chicago) that was led by physicist Robert Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer would have made the above list for two reasons: He was both Harvard-educated and the son of a German immigrant.

According to the Nobel Prize website, since 1901, there have been 148 prize recipients who were foreign-born individuals who either had immigrated permanently to the United States or were at a U.S. institution of higher learning at the time they received the award. These 148 individuals account for 16 percent of all Nobel Laureates.

Yet it is precisely these two great pillars of America's historic economic and technological strength -- our world-renowned universities and our immigrants -- that are on the verge of being destroyed. By attacking the former, we are discouraging the latter from coming to America.

The smartest and hardest-working individuals from across the globe -- who always have viewed America as the foremost country in the world where they could develop their ideas at the world's greatest scientific research institutions -- are either leaving or not coming because the welcome mat has been pulled from our doorstep.

Nations in Europe and Asia, whose leaders are mystified by our sudden ignorance and xenophobia, are rushing to fill the vacuum by offering grants and opportunities to world-class scientists that previously had been monopolized by the United States.

We are entering the equivalent of the Dark Ages -- and for the first time ever in our history, the United States is now facing the prospect of a brain drain, as opposed to being the beneficiary of a brain gain.

## WILL WE HAVE FLU AND COVID VACCINES THIS FALL?

The actions reportedly being taken by Secretary of Health Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to impede the development of the flu and COVID vaccines for this coming year call into question whether these life-saving vaccines will be available for Americans this fall.

Annual flu and COVID shots are the best protection for all Americans from these two diseases, especially for senior citizens and those with compromised immune systems. Approximately 40,000 Americans die each year from the flu, of whom about 80% are over the age of 65. It is estimated that the annual vaccines prevent about seven million illnesses, three million doctor visits, 100,000 hospital stays, and 7,000 deaths. A substantial percentage of those who die from the flu are unvaccinated.

As for COVID-19, there were 76,446 deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 in 2023, the vast majority among the elderly, the oldest of whom are 97 times more likely to die from a COVID-19 infection than a person under the age of 20. In addition, the lingering effects of COVID-19, known as long COVID, impact tens of thousands more Americans.

The flu vaccine is forward-looking. Scientists examine the data of the various strains floating around the world and then make a guess as to which ones will be most-prevalent in the coming winter season, and a vaccine is developed to target those strains.

However, the COVID vaccine looks only at the present, with the vaccines aiming to target the most prevalent variants at the time the vaccines are being developed. COVID always is mutating, so it is impossible to know what variant will come next. However, even though the COVID vaccines are outdated to some extent by the time most people receive them, the vaccine still offers substantial protection against the disease.

However, whether these life-saving vaccines, which must go through an approval process before the FDA, will be ready in time for the fall flu and COVID season is an open question given the gamesmanship being displayed by RFK Jr., who reportedly is creating new barriers in the approval process.

These vaccines literally are a matter of life and death for America's ever-aging population, but it would seem that those in charge these days could care less -- and that we are all just one big experiment for their dangerous and off-the-wall "theories."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### CHARLESTOWN PEACE PARK FORMALLY BEGINS CONSTRUCTION IN MAY

To the Editor,

The Charlestown Coalition and the Friends of Charlestown Peace Park Nonprofit are pleased to announce that the park's construction will formally begin at the end of the month, with Haven Contracting completing the project in collaboration with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.

In March 2025, the Community Impact Fund Leadership team voted to award the final gap of \$446,000 through the Charlestown Community Impact Fund, allowing us to hit this monumental milestone. As we begin on this long-awaited community achievement, we kindly ask your pardon for

our future appearance and any temporary inconveniences this may cause to our Peace Park neighbors.

The Peace Park is rooted in growth, healing, and the importance of collective community. We look forward to celebrating with familiar and new members of our community during our grand opening, anticipated in the Fall of 2025.

Our sincere thanks to Representative Daniel Ryan, Senator Sal DiDomenico, City Councilor Gabriela Coletta-Zapata, the Charlestown Community Impact Fund leadership team, the City of Boston Community Preservation office, Mayor Wu's office of Neighborhood Services, the Charlestown Preservation Society, Mystic River Watershed Association, and Speak for the Trees Boston.

Charlestown Coalition

## DiDomenico supports \$55.5M state funding for food banks

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The state's four food banks (The Greater Boston Food Bank, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, The Merrimack Valley Food Bank, and The Worcester County Food Bank) gathered for a speaking program and advocacy day around the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP).

Established in 1995, MEFAP is an often-overlooked funding mechanism that fuels the state's hunger-relief efforts, enabling the state's food banks to distribute high-nutrition food to over 894 emergency food providers statewide. MEFAP is not only a hunger-relief tool but an economic stimulant, supporting local farms and agriculture.

The event celebrated 30 years of the program, and called for a \$55.5M line item in the FY26 state budget.

These funds are particularly important to

maintain the state's hunger-relief efforts, positioned as an effective "replacement mechanism" as \$3.3 million in USDA funding was cut from the state's food system, effectively canceling 122,000 cases of food slated for families in need. Meanwhile, threats to SNAP benefits loom alongside high grocery prices and inflation.

Sal DiDomenico's Remarks: But we all know, and as Mark mentioned and Representative Barbara mentioned, what's happening at the national level, there is an assault -- an assault on people in need. There's an assault on programs that benefit people in need, and food science programs and SNAP -- these have been on their radar since day one. And because of that, we have to prepare even more and give more at the state level to combat what is happening at the federal level. So, the \$55.5 million ask for MEFAP this year is in my mind very reasonable.



**CHARLESTOWN  
PATRIOT-BRIDGE**

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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FLOOD (from pg. 1)

effects of climate change on a daily basis. We're seeing rising sea levels and stronger storms, and they all pose a threat to our communities, open spaces, critical infrastructure, community infrastructure, buildings, and whatnot," said Acquaviva.

As for what the city is doing to address this, they are using concurrent coastal resilience strategies to respond to today's storms, this decade's storms, and storms beyond 2030.

Specifically, strategies to address today's storms include strengthening protocols and educating residents about emergency preparedness, among other things.

In addressing this decade's storms, the city wants to complete near-term improvement projects identified in initiatives like Climate Ready Boston, create more open space, and more.

Finally, regarding storms beyond 2030, the city is working on projects like delivering the Coastal Storm Risk Management Plan, which it is working on with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), among other items.

Acquaviva emphasized that coastal resilience work is a group effort between city, state, and federal agencies. Notably, the city is coordinating with the USACE on all its ongoing projects, including this one.

Eventually, the discussion shifted to Charlestown. Acquaviva said efforts are being guided by the work in phases I and II of the Coastal Resilience Solutions for Charlestown and East Boston report and Climate Ready Boston.

"[We're] really building on the studies done in Charlestown previously, and the most recent of those is the phase II study," said Kate Edwards, of Arcadis, which is part of the project's consultant team.

"This project is going to undertake a process that will refine those alternatives that were presented in that study, engaging residents and stakeholders along the way, evaluating those alternatives, [selecting] a preferred solution, and [moving] that solution to a more detailed design."

Edwards then dove into more details about this specific project. First, she looked to answer the question: why this project?

She indicated that Charlestown is at risk of two types of flooding and that climate change will worsen it. The first is coastal flooding, which is brought about by storms. The other type is stormwater flooding, from rainwater ponding in low-lying areas.

Moreover, Edwards indicated

that the neighborhood is susceptible to fringe flooding, impacting low-lying areas when harbor water levels rise above ground elevation.

However, she also noted that by 2050, this type of flooding could change to flood pathways during storms, which can impact inland areas.

Maps were also shown that illustrated potential 100-year floods—a flood with a 1% chance of happening in any given year—that could bring pathways under the Tobin Bridge by 2050 and pathways into the center of the neighborhood by 2070.

"The long-term risk of flooding is pretty great here in Charlestown, and if we don't take action, the places we depend on for everyday well-being like our homes, streets we use to get to work, the harborwalk where we exercise, where we get our food at the market could be damaged or disrupted by storms and flooding," said Edwards.

"So this project really aims to think about what we can do about that," she added, indicating that work must be done collectively among public and private property owners.

Later, Edwards discussed what the project is and what it entails. First, she highlighted the project area, encompassing the Navy Yard and the neighborhood along the Little Mystic Channel.

It should also be noted that the Boston National Historical Park is also being analyzed as part of a separate process.

The project goals laid out during the presentation are to assess flood risks in the Charlestown Navy Yard and the Little Mystic Channel, align with neighboring projects, evaluate opportunities and constraints in implementing flood protection designs, create flood protection tools for property owners, and identify and develop the design for a preferred long-term approach.

"As we are guided by these goals, our vision is to produce an outcome for Charlestown where communities and structures are protected from near-term and long-term flooding and the water-

front experience is enhanced and accessible," said Edwards.

Regarding the challenges in creating a design for the project, aspects such as having diverse property ownership and the need to work collectively were mentioned. Ensuring a design is in keeping with the neighborhood's character, accessible, and ADA compliant was also noted.

In speaking more about design, Edwards stressed the importance of analyzing design flood elevation and how that will be evaluated in determining a solution for the area.

Specifically, the 1% annual chance flood elevations for 2030, 2050, and 2070 exceed today's land elevation of about nine feet.

While the current goal is to address near-term flooding (around 2030), Edwards indicat-

ed that the final design would be adaptable to address future concerns.

Mirit Friedman of Arcadis then highlighted potential design options. One option, Option A, would create protections along the waterfront and the harborwalk, but it would need investment on private property.

The other option, Option B, would follow along public right-of-ways, such as 1st Avenue, and would not provide the same protection as the first option.

"Options A and B each have their sets of tradeoffs that we're going to explore with you and get your input on throughout this process," said Friedman, who indicated that the options are starting points and would be fleshed out more over the summer.

Some examples of what these

designs could look like on a neighborhood-wide level include Harborview with its elevated harborwalk, and on an individual building level, Spaulding Rehabilitation, through things like elevated mechanical systems and the ground floor.

Following the presentation, attendees were allowed to comment and ask questions. Additionally, polls were conducted throughout the meeting.

To view a recording of the meeting, which contains the discussion and polls, and to keep up with this process, which is projected to last about a year, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning-zoning/planning-initiatives/flood-resilience-mitigation-planning,-feasibility>.

NEWS BRIEFS

SPEAKER SERIES  
PLANS TWO TALKS  
MAY 15 AND 22

The "Speaker Series" continues with two talks in May, co-hosted by the Bunker Hill Monument Association and the Friends of the Charlestown Branch of the Boston Public Library. These upcoming talks will be held on Thursday May 15 and Thursday May 22, both at 6:00 pm, and are free and open to all. Held at the Charlestown Branch Library, 179 Main Street, Charlestown. For more information on the "Speakers Series": [bunkerhillmonumentassn.org](http://bunkerhillmonumentassn.org) (go to the events tab), [info@bunkerhillmonumentassn.org](mailto:info@bunkerhillmonumentassn.org);

also [friendsofcharlestownlib.org/events](http://friendsofcharlestownlib.org/events), [friendsofcharlestownlib@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcharlestownlib@gmail.com); Charlestown Branch Library's phone: 617-242-1248.

On Thursday May 15: Lady Editor: Discover The Woman Who Helped Shape America. Join Melanie Kirkpatrick, author of "Lady Editor: a biography of Sarah Josepha Hale and the Making of the Modern American Woman," who brings to life the bold, patriotic spirit of Mrs. Hale – an editor, writer, and trail-blazing feminist. From pioneering women's roles in media to organizing the legendary bake sale that helped to fund the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument, "Lady Editor" is a powerful story

of a woman who played a key role in defining our nation.

On Thursday May 22: An Uninterrupted Peal of Thunder.

Historian Alexander Cain shares the gripping deep dive into the Siege of Boston and the pivotal Battle of Bunker Hill. Cain explores the high-stakes decisions, the fiery destruction of Charlestown, and the fierce colonial resistance that stunned the British. From the heroic stand of Joseph Warren to the brutal three pronged assault, discover how this bloody clash – though a tactical loss – became the defining moment that reshaped the course of the American Revolution.

Real Estate Transfers

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Oleary, Molly L	Finnegan, Eleanor	433 Bunker Hill St #2	\$940,000
Giannini, Isabella	Forish, Jason T	56 Winthrop St	\$1,837,500
Lewis 3rd, Lawrence	Mansmann, Ryan T	73 Green St #1	\$1,540,000
Verghese, Thomas	Nichols, William S	8 Prospect St #1	\$1,135,000

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CHARLESTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE CELEBRATES OPENING DAY

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, the Charlestown Little League celebrated its opening day. The festivities kicked off at the Harvard Kent playground, where players and their families gathered for the league's annual parade. It was the sort of warm Spring day where one forgets, and then learns anew, that there is a thing called sunscreen. Lining up behind the brilliant red glow of Engine 50, players held large banners with the names of league sponsors, swapping even larger tales about homeruns yet to be hit and championships yet to be won. That parade is a longstanding tradition of the Charlestown Little League. It was led and directed by the generous support of the Boston Police Department and Boston Fire Department. The parade has traditionally run along Bunker Hill St. to Ryan Playground. This year, due to renovations underway at the Ryan playground fields, the route was modified to head up and around the monument and on to Barry Field, where the opening ceremony was held beside the spectacular backdrop of the Tobin bridge.

Thanks to the hard work of the Parks Department, performed in the early morning hours, that field gleamed. The freshly dragged dirt emanated in fresh waves of concentric circles from the mound, leading to bright chalk lines and just-out-of-the-package bases. Over 100 players, family members and league supporters lined up along the edge of the infield.

(LITTLE LEAGUE Pg. 6)



Volunteers from Christ Church of Charlestown provide slush for the players (and siblings!).



Oliver Schramm enjoys an ice cream treat provided by the BPD.



COURTESY PHOTOS  
CLL Alumni umpires Tommy and Nathan.



Jack Schievink president of Charlestown girls softball.



Tony Price, Elaine Donovan and Dan Ryan deliver first pitches.



Christine Vraibel and officers from BPD District A1 assist the parade.



The Dodgers lead the parade down Monument St.

Play Ball!

Wishing all of the players, coaches, families & friends of Charlestown Little League a wonderful 2025 season!

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CHARLESTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE CELEBRATES OPENING DAY

COURTESY PHOTOS



Roland Baron delivers a warm-up pitch between innings.



League President Steve Van Dyke addresses the crowd at the opening day ceremony.



Rays Assistant Coach Timothy Charest delivers a pitch.



Mariners pitcher William Coen warms up.



Pirates head coach Mike Shunta directs his players as they run the bases.



Annika Chalasani sings the national anthem.



Giants and Pirates congratulate each other on a well played game.



Players families and supporters assemble on Bunker Hill St for the start of the parade.



PLAY  
BALL!

Breed's Hill Capital

SWING FOR THE FENCES!  
HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

State Representative  
DAN RYAN





NEMPAC PRESENTS

## Annie Jr.



*The cast of Annie Jr. on stage at Charlestown High School.*

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) presented its annual spring Musical Theatre Troupe production this past weekend with Annie Jr. at Charlestown High School. Featuring nearly 50 student performers and dozens of volunteers behind-the-scenes, Annie Jr. is NEMPAC's best-selling musical to date! Based on the popular comic strip and adapted from the Tony Award-winning Best Musical, with a beloved book and score by Tony Award winners, Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin, Annie Jr. featured some of NEMPAC's best young singer/

actors performing favorites such as "Tomorrow", "It's the Hard Knock Life", and "Easy Street".

NEMPAC inaugurated the Musical Theatre Troupe with its first production of Annie in 2012, and the growth of this program over the last decade has been monumental. Our cast size has doubled, the creative and production teams have grown, and we are now performing in the Charlestown High School auditorium.

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charmed everyone's hearts, and the student ensemble wowed audiences with their singing, acting,

dancing, and comedic timing.

Annie Jr. featured stage direction by NEMPAC Educational Programs Director, Allie Carufel, and music direction by Jaime Kathleen Castellanos. A big thank you to the cast, creative team, parents, volunteers, audiences, and our sponsors Hood Park and Charlestown Mothers Association for making Annie Jr. such a success!

To learn about all of NEMPAC's Musical Theatre programming please go to <https://nempacboston.org/educational-programs/>.

## Special May events honoring Charlestown's Revolutionary Spirit

As the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill approaches, the Bunker Hill Monument Association (BHMA) is proud to unveil a series of special events throughout May and June 2025 that celebrate Charlestown's enduring history, honor local leaders, and inspire future generations.

May Highlights include:

### Liberty Tree Planting in Honor of Kevin Burke

BHMA, in collaboration with the Gardens for Charlestown, will commemorate the 250th anniversary with the planting of 13 Liberty Trees across Charlestown. Each tree will be hosted by local homeowners, symbolizing the thirteen original colonies. The project will be dedicated to the memory of Kevin Burke, beloved BHMA Board Member and founder of the Gardens for Charlestown, whose legacy of civic beauty and community spirit continues to bloom.

### Launch of Bunker Hill Time Machine Graphic Novel

BHMA proudly introduces Bunker Hill Time Machine, an engaging graphic novel designed for school-age children and adults. Through vivid storytelling and dynamic illustrations, readers will journey through the history of the Bunker Hill Monument and discover the heroes and events that shaped the nation.

### Patriot Pathway and Dedication Ceremony on the William Felton "Bill" Russell Bridge

Plaques honoring the unsung heroes of the Revolution will be

placed in planters of eight trees along the newly renamed Bill Russell Bridge. It will serve as a living memorial, bridging Boston's revolutionary past with its vibrant present. This is in collaboration between the BHMA, the Paul Revere Chapter of the DAR, and the South Boston Citizens Association. By honoring the citizen-soldiers involved in pivotal events like the Midnight Ride, The Battle of Bunker Hill and the Siege of Boston. Each planter will feature a QR code linking to historical information, creating an interactive educational experience along Boston's Freedom Trail.

### Speaker Series at Charlestown Public Library

Join BHMA for two compelling evenings of historical insight at the Charlestown Public Library:

- May 15 – Melanie Kirkpatrick presents her latest biography on Sarah Josepha Hale, illuminating Hale's influential role in shaping the modern American woman and her pivotal impact on American culture.

- May 22 – Alexander Caine, historian and storyteller, shares untold stories and firsthand accounts from the Battle of Bunker Hill, offering fresh perspectives on this legendary moment in American history.

"These programs not only honor the spirit of 1775, but also celebrate the people, past and present, who make Charlestown a unique and proud community," said Annette Tecce, President of the Bunker Hill Monument Association.

## LITTLE LEAGUE (from pg. 4)

Charlestown Little League president Steven Van Dyke thanked the assembled group for standing by the league during a time of transition that has seen its players playing games in the neighboring communities of Everett and East Boston. He said that it is because of the amazing support of the league's families that these away games still feel like home games.

Joined by their head coach, Ryan Preszler, the kindergartners and first graders on the Giants then enthusiastically announced the "Big Three" of Charlestown Little League: "Have fun", "Try hard", and "Be a good sport!"

Next, in recognition of the tremendous support that Bunker Hill Community College has provided to the Charlestown Little league, the crowd cheered for Anthony Price, the college's athletic director, who was in attendance. The league recognized the college for not only providing a home for its

tee ball and rookie ball (coach-pitch) programs on its softball field, but also for paying for the renovation of that field and ensuring that it would be completed before opening day.

Several other league supporters were also recognized, including the Red Sox Foundation, Tim McKenna and the Charlestown Sports Collaborative, and Jack Schievink of Charlestown Girls Softball. The league also thanked its many sponsors, including Boston Building Maintenance, Century 21, the CMA, Cooperative Bank, Sprinkler Local #550, Christ Church Charlestown, Rhino Capital LLC, Data Point Capital, Schrafft's, the Knights of Columbus, Breeds Hill Capital, the Fallon Company, J Calnan and Associates, Engine 50, McCarthy's, the Boys and Girls Club, Casella and Monument Fitness.

League Vice president Chris Tucker was also recognized for

the extraordinary contributions he made to planning for the season, including the organization and distribution of all of the uniforms and equipment for all of the league's 299 players. Also, members of the CLL Board, Sean Nehill, Brian Hess, Scott Perry, Sarah and Jim Gibbons, Ed Brooks, Andrew Brett, Dean Carucci, Josh Bresler, John Edwards, Mike Shunta and Joe Hernandez, were recognized for putting in months of hard work to make the season happen.

Then, in a stand-out moment of the ceremony, Annika C. Chalasani, a Charlestown resident, and 5th grade student at the Eliot School, gave a moving rendition of the National Anthem. Representative Dan Ryan then took the pitcher's mound, along with Elaine Donovan, Charlestown Liaison for City Councilor Gabriella Colletta, and Anthony Price. Together they threw out ceremonial first pitches.

With the support from Christ Church Charlestown, the event featured a Ritchie's slush cart for the players and siblings, and a sound system for opening remarks, as well as music and announcements for the game. The event was expertly photographed by JD and Noah Mangrum of Christ Church Charlestown, and by Charlestown's Calan Cahill Photography [<https://calancahill.myportfolio.com/home>]. Michael Lozier of Northeast School pictures was also present at both Barry Field, and later at BHCC's field, to take team photos and individual photos of the players."

As players rushed for that cart, the Dodgers and Mariners began to warm up for their opening day game.

That game was a closely contested pitching duel. Over the course of four innings, Mariners starter William Coen, and Dodgers starter Roland Barron,

combined for an astounding 21 strikeouts. Relief pitchers Finn Wood and Austin Merritt each struck out the other side in the 5th inning to close out the game with a hard-fought 0-0 tie – the type of tie where both sides win.

At that same time, over a hundred tee ball players enthusiastically participated in their first practices at Bunker Hill Community College. Later at that same field, the Rookie Ball (coach pitch) teams took the field for their first games. Megaphone in hand, league president Steve Van Dyke announced the players' names and numbers as they walked up to the plate for their at bats. Over the course of several innings, the coaches of the Pirates, Giants, Angels and Rays struck out no one and allowed so many runs that their ERA's may never recover. The games all ended in a tie – the type of tie where all teams win.



FRATERNITY | LOYALTY | CHARITY



ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST 11  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
AT  
MEMORIAL HALL



2010 before restoration



2025

OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION  
RESTORATION OF MEMORIAL HALL  
Saturday May 17, 2025 11am - 3pm  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 11:30am  
*guided tours & light refreshments and food*

*Congratulations to the Abraham Lincoln Post & Memorial Hall*

From the Bunker Hill Monument Association

Commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill

June 17, 1775 – June 17, 2025

<https://bunkerhillmonumentassn.org/>

*Remember. Commemorate. Engage.*



Join the Bunker Hill  
Monument Association



## *A Living Legacy: Abraham Lincoln Post 11, G.A.R.*



*circa 1820*



*Members of the ABL Post Circa 1890*

Under the leadership of President Joseph Zuffante, and board members Stanley Leonard, Lawrence Stevens, Walter Southern, and David Hennessey, the Abraham Lincoln Post 11 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) proudly occupies one of Charlestown's most treasured historic landmarks—the Samuel Dexter House, built circa 1791. Samuel Dexter, a distinguished Harvard graduate and esteemed lawyer, served as both Secretary of War and Secretary of the Treasury under President John Adams, adding to the home's profound historical significance.

In 1888, this remarkable property found new life when it was purchased by Abraham Lincoln Post 11, an organization founded in 1867 to support Union veterans of the Civil War. Prior to settling in the Dexter House, the Post met in various halls across Charlestown. Once acquired, members lovingly transformed the building into their permanent home, undertaking major renovations that included raising the roof, converting the living quarters into a grand dance hall, and adding the elegant mansard roof that remains today.

As part of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post 11 has long upheld the G.A.R. motto: Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity—principles that continue to guide its mission and community involvement.

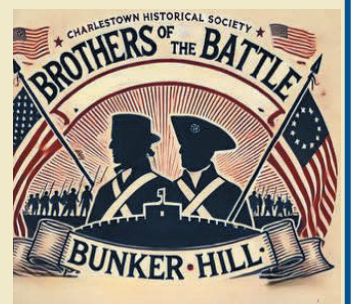
Today, the Abraham Lincoln Post 11 stands not only as one of the last remaining G.A.R. halls in Massachusetts but also as a living monument to patriotism, community, and remembrance. Through ongoing stewardship and preservation, Post 11 honors the legacy of those who served in the Union Army and keeps their spirit alive for future generations.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST ON THEIR HISTORIC RESTORATION OF MEMORIAL HALL!**

**A  
CALL  
To  
ARMS!**

The Charlestown Historical Society is launching  
**Brothers of the Battle,**

a living history program honoring the unknown men who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. We're looking for men to march in the Bunker Hill Day Parade and proudly portray these brave patriots. Join us in bringing their stories to life and becoming part of this once-in-a-lifetime event. To get involved, contact [JulieHall@charlestownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:JulieHall@charlestownhistoricalsociety.org).







*beginning of the restoration in 2016 – Board Member Stanley Leonard, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Amanda Zettle of the Charlestown Preservation Society, President of the ABL Post 11 Joseph Zuffante, Board Member David Hennessey, Ellen Kitzis of the Charlestown Preservation Society.*



*Shingles have been removed and the original clapboard is exposed.*

The restoration of Memorial Hall has been a true labor of love, aiming to return the building to its 1888 appearance. The greatest challenge was funding. The Teamsters Local 25 and Local 122 were the first to respond to our call for help. With the Charlestown Preservation Society under the leadership of Ellen Kitzis and David Hennessey, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) entity was created to apply for grants. Another important piece of the puzzle was funding assistance from the Commonwealth. Thank You to State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Representative Dan Ryan and City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

The Henderson Foundation provided the first major grant, which was used to repair the severely damaged north side of the building.

The Charlestown Preservation Society has continued to provide support through the efforts of Amanda Zettel and Judy McDonough with additional support provided by Kira Dunn who helped secure a substantial grant from the *City of Boston Community Preservation Act*. With that funding and the support of the late Bill Lamb, the team partnered with the North Bennet Street School, where, under the direction of Michael Burrey, students and teachers replaced damaged window frames, sashes, fascia, and soffits. They also removed old shingles and repaired or replaced the original clapboard.

A highlight of the project was the complete restoration of the building's cupola—described as the "jewel on the crown"—to its former glory. In addition, a grant from the Brown Fund allowed the replacement of the chain-link fence with a historically appropriate wrought iron fence, modeled after the original from 1791. Paint samples taken from the old clapboards of 1888 were used to perfectly match the original appearance of the exterior.

**Congratulations!**  
To our neighbors, the Abraham  
Lincoln Post G.A.R. #11 on the  
re-opening of their home at  
Memorial Hall



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OF CHARLESTOWN**

See you this Summer  
'Up The Club!'



15 Green St - 617-242-1775





*outside demolition to install new walkway and steps*



*The beautiful new steps, windows & walkway*



*Michael Burrey of North Bennett Street School begins restoration of the Cupola*



*The "Crown Jewel" restored*

In 1934, the Charter was amended to establish the Memorial Hall Corporation, and the building was deeded to the Veterans of Charlestown in perpetuity. Its mission was—and remains—to serve both Charlestown’s Veterans and the broader community. Today, we proudly continue to live by the founding motto of our organization: Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity. Through our Veterans Outreach Program, we assist local Veterans in navigating the benefits they have earned and help connect them with essential services. We are currently completing our downstairs Club Room, a welcoming space where Veterans from all branches can gather in camaraderie.

Each year, we host a Veterans Dinner and award scholarships to Veterans and their children and grandchildren, furthering our commitment to supporting those who have served.

Our historic building also serves the wider Charlestown community by hosting a variety of tenants who offer valuable programs. Upstairs, **Mini Movers** provides dance classes for all ages, fostering creativity and movement. Downstairs, **Little Grooves** brings music and singing to toddlers and young children, enriching their early development. **Jackie Callahan** offers morning fitness and boot camp classes, promoting health and wellness in the neighborhood.

Standing for over 234 years, our building is one of the oldest in Charlestown. With the recent completion of major restoration work, we are proud to preserve its legacy. We are confident it will continue to stand strong and serve our Veterans and neighbors for generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS!  
ON BRINGING BACK AN  
IMPORTANT LANDMARK OF THE  
CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY!

  
State Representative  
**Dan Ryan**





# School parent Rachel Buckley garners support for new Harvard-Kent playground

By Cary Shuman

Harvard-Kent School parent Rachel Buckley appeared before the Charlestown Neighborhood Council Tuesday, seeking support for a plan for major renovations to the playground at the 350-student elementary school.

In the end, the CNC unanimously approved Buckley's request, and a letter of support from the CNC will be drafted and sent to Boston school officials and other relevant agencies.

Buckley distributed an artistically designed, full-color flier to CNC members, outlining the Harvard-Kent playground committee's goals and objectives, with Goal 1 being, "to provide a play space with diverse play styles and separate age-appropriate areas so that all kids have a place to play, socialize, and rest."

Buckley told the Council that her six-year-old twins attend the

Harvard-Kent School.

"I love the school very much," said Buckley. "I've been a resident in Charlestown since 2021. I love Boston. It's my new home. And we have been really excited about the opportunity of being able to try to improve our outdoor spaces at Harvard-Kent."

"We haven't actually had an improvement to the Harvard-Kent outdoor space since 2011," continued Buckley. "There are quite a lot of improvements that could be made, all the way from very basic – there are some pieces that are broken – all the way to quite massive structural elements that we could fix."

Harvard Kent Principal Ben Russell and Ms. Buckley spoke with the Patriot-Bridge following the CNC's discussion of the new playground project.

"If you've been down to the school, you can see that there's a lot of room for improvement,"

said Russell. "With the right architecture and the right plan, there's significant amount of space to do some amazing things for our kids."

Both Russell and Buckley expressed concern about a ramp that leads directly out on to Bunker Hill Street, creating an unsafe situation for students.

Buckley, the committee chair, said the playground committee consists of ten people, including parents, teachers, a liaison to the school, and Principal Russell, who has impressed the school community with his exceptional leadership and dedication in his first year at the helm.

"The committee meets quite regularly," noted Buckley. "We also have a lot of community-related engagements. We've done some events where we've advertised what we're trying to do, communicating both to the school and the community at-large."

Buckley said the committee is trying to secure funding for the project by applying for a Community Preservation Act grant through the City of Boston. Buckley believes that with "the right swell of support" from the Charlestown community, its efforts will ultimately be successful.

"I think our school parents are pretty amazing," said Russell. "We're fortunate to be here in Charlestown with a number of families who are as committed as our families are to making sure that every child in Charlestown has what they need to be successful. We're blessed to have folks like Rachel involved at our school."

Russell showed his dedication to the cause, staying until the conclusion of the two-and-a-half-hour meeting when the CNC cast its unanimous vote during the new business portion of the session. Russell seemed pleased with the



Harvard Kent Elementary School Principal Ben Russell and school parent Rachel Buckley are pictured at the CNC meeting Tuesday. Ms. Buckley is leading an effort for major renovations to the school playground.

CNC's immediate action on the matter, congenially interacting with members after the meeting.



Boston Police Officers Robert DiRienzo (second from left) and Frank Ciampa (far right) provided a public safety update at the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) meeting that included a notification that the BPD has job openings for part-time school traffic supervisors (crossing guards) in Charlestown. Shown welcoming the officers to the May 6 meeting are Council members, from left, Elaine Donovan, CNC Chair Tom Cunha, and Crystal Galvin.

## Battle Of Bunker Hill Parade Donations 2025

The Halligan Club	\$5000
Everett Marcotte	50
Junebug	100
Place and Gather	100
Charlestown Liquors	400
John Powers, Civil Clerk Of Courts	500
Charlestown Old School Boys	1000
Diversified Automotive	500

Donations may be made to:  
Bunker Hill Parade Committee,  
P.O. Box 290741, Charlestown, MA 02129  
We appreciate all of your support!

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# Blue Cross Blue Shield notice of events

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

In celebration of National Bike Month and National Mental Health Awareness Month, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (“Blue Cross”), the title sponsor of Greater Boston’s municipally owned bike-sharing system, Bluebikes, will offer its largest-ever free credit - \$50.

Individuals can redeem the free \$50 credit by entering code BLUECROSSMABIKE in the “Rewards” section of the Bluebikes App. The credit is available while supplies last and can be used for both pedal and ebike trips across Bluebikes’ 500 stations in 13 municipalities, including Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett,

Malden, Medford, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown. Once redeemed, the credit will be added to the rider’s Bluebikes account and will remain valid through December 31, 2025.

Regular physical activity like biking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic conditions—including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers—and support improved sleep and reduced anxiety, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The initiative is fully funded by Blue Cross, reinforcing the health plan’s commitment to expanding access to the health and wellness benefits of biking while advancing its broader goal of building healthier, more connected communities through

sustainable transportation.

“We’re proud to offer our largest-ever Bluebikes credit during National Bike Month—and Mental Health Awareness Month—to help even more people discover the joy and benefits of cycling,” said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. “Biking supports both physical and mental health, reduces carbon emissions, and strengthens community connections. We’re continually inspired by the personal stories we hear from riders, and we hope this initiative empowers even more people to experience the power of a simple ride.”

Bluebikes is municipally owned by 13 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts and jointly managed by the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett, Somerville, and the Town of Brookline. The system is operated by Lyft and has been supported by Blue Cross as the title sponsor since May 2018. Riders can find more than 5,300 bikes and 500 stations across the 13 municipalities, and since the system’s inception, Bluebikes users have taken more than 25 million rides and logged over 56 million miles. The system also offers an income-eligible program to ensure affordable transportation options are available to all. This initiative builds on Blue Cross’ longstanding commitment to access.

For more information on Bluebikes, please visit <http://bluebikes.com/>.

## SPEAKER SERIES

In partnership with Bunker Hill Monument Association and Friends of the Charlestown Branch Library



**May 15th Thursday 6:00pm**  
**Discover the Woman Who Helped Shape America**  
Join biographer Melanie Kirkpatrick, author of “Lady Editor” *Sarah Josepha Hale and the Making of the Modern American Woman*, as she brings to life the bold, patriotic spirit of Mrs. Hale—editor, writer, and trailblazing feminist. From pioneering women’s roles in media to organizing the legendary bake sale that funded the Bunker Hill Monument, Kirkpatrick tells the powerful story of a woman who helped define a nation.  
*Book signing follows.*




**May 22nd Thursday 6:00pm**  
**An Uninterrupted Peal of Thunder**  
Join historian Alexander Cain for a gripping deep dive into the Siege of Boston and the pivotal Battle of Bunker Hill. Explore the high-stakes decisions, the fiery destruction of Charlestown, and the fierce colonial resistance that stunned the British. From the heroic stand of Joseph Warren to the brutal, three-pronged assault, discover how this bloody clash—though a tactical loss—became a defining moment that reshaped the course of the Revolution.



**Charlestown Branch Library**  
**179 Main Street**  
Events are free and open to the public.






**Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC)**  
980 Harrison Avenue  
Boston, MA 02119

Boston Water and Sewer Commission will be conducting flushing of water mains in Alford Street on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, starting at 10:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m.

The flushing boundaries on Alford Street is approximately 0.4 miles.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses.



The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. The discoloration of the water will be temporary and is not harmful. If the condition persists, please contact BWSC's 24 Hour Service at (617) 989-7000.

BWSC appreciates your patience as we work to improve the quality of drinking water that we provide to the residents and businesses of Boston.


If you have any questions, contact BWSC's Night Operations Manager at (617) 989-7000 or visit our website @ [www.bwsc.org](http://www.bwsc.org).

## Mammograms Save Lives.

All women over 40 should have a mammogram once a year. Breast cancer found early offers the best chance to be cured. Free or low cost mammograms are available.

For more information and answers to any of your cancer questions, contact us any time, day or night.

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)  
**1.800.ACS.2345**





## CHARLESTOWN HONORS ITS CIVIL WAR HEROES

The Abraham Lincoln Post 11, G.A.R., and the James Conway American Legion Post 26 held their annual ceremony on Sunday honoring Charlestown's Civil War dead. Over 170 men from Charlestown lost their lives during the conflict, and this solemn tradition pays tribute to their sacrifice and service.

Joe Zuffante, President Abraham Lincoln Post 11, G.A.R. and Dan Noonan, Commander James Conway Post 26, American Legion extend their sincere thanks to Kevin Tucker of the Sons of Union Veterans and Dexter Bishop, Chaplain of Post 11, for their important contributions in making the event a success.



Joe Zuffante, president of the Abraham Lincoln Post 11, G.A.R. and Dexter Bishop, Chaplain of Post 11 with Sgt. Kevin Tucker and the sons of the Union veterans colorguard.



Sgt. Kevin Tucker and the sons of the Union veterans colorguard.

COURTESY PHOTOS



## Spring Fling

Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard

**Thursday, May 29, 2025**  
**6-8PM**

Friends of The Charlestown Navy Yard invite you to celebrate community leaders, meet elected officials and enjoy getting to know your neighbors.

### 2025 HONOREES

**ANCHOR AWARD    COMMANDANT AWARD**  
**WHALEN/BRIDGE AWARD**

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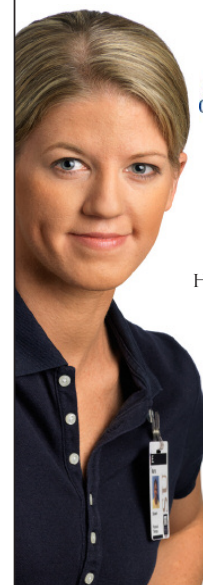
[www.friendscny.org](http://www.friendscny.org)

### A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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[aaos.org/75years](http://aaos.org/75years)

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[orthoinfo.org](http://orthoinfo.org)

## Friends of Ryan "Duce" Morrissey

### Scholarship Awards Presentation Night

Please join us for dinner & entertainment as we announce this year's scholarship winners

**Friday, May 30, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Knights of Columbus Hall – Charlestown

\$25 per person; \$250 reserved table of 10

Please email or visit our website for ticket information:

[www.ryanmorriseyscholarship.com](http://www.ryanmorriseyscholarship.com)

email: [ryanmorriseyscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ryanmorriseyscholarship@gmail.com)



# Call for applications: Writer-in-Residence at Boston Public Library

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Associates of the Boston Public Library is posting a call for applications for the 2025–26 Writer-in-Residence program. Now in its twenty-first year, the year-long residency provides an emerging writer with the financial support, editorial assistance, and office space in the Boston Public Library to complete one literary work for children or young adults. The program stipend has been increased from \$50,000 (formerly \$23,000) to \$70,000 thanks to the generosity of an anonymous investor dedicated to writers having a living wage.

In addition to the stipend, the winner will receive additional funds for editorial assistance or coaching, and an office in the Boston Public Library’s Central Branch from October 2025 to September 2026. Projects eligible for this program include fic-

tion, non-fiction, a script, poetry works, or graphic novels intended for children or young adults. The program guidelines and application form are available at <https://associatesoftheboston-publiclibrary.submittable.com/submit>. Submissions are due by June 6, 2025, at 11:59 PM. The winner will be selected via a blind judging process. To learn more about the program visit [www.writer-in-residence.org](http://www.writer-in-residence.org).

The Associates’ Writer-in-Residence program has made a profound difference in the lives of emerging authors, helping to launch the careers of a number of acclaimed children’s and young adult writers. To date, alumni have published or have forthcoming more than eighty books.

“Not only did I apply to the Writer-in-Residence program with the opening pages of this novel, it was because of this prestigious residency that I garnered the attention

of my literary agent, completed a draft of the novel, and sold it as part of a two-book deal! I feel so grateful for the support I received from the Associates of the Boston Public Library,” said 2023–24 recipient Rhonda DeChambeau, whose novel, written during her residency, is set to be published on June 10, 2025.

The Associates is an independent non-profit that raises funds to preserve, digitize, and promote the Boston Public Library’s Special Collections and its historic, literary, and artistic treasures. Since its inception in 1972, the Associates has been the driving force and sponsor behind many programs, including the Pierce Performance Series, the Hundred-Year Book Debate, and Literary Lights. For more information, please visit [www.AssociatesBPL.org](http://www.AssociatesBPL.org) or connect with us on Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

## Charlestown Patriot-Bridge Pick-Up 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.
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.
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.

### LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH  
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SU25P0956EA  
Estate of:  
Thomas Joseph

McNicholas, Jr.  
Date of Death:  
04/03/2025  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal  
Probate of Will with  
Appointment of Personal  
Representative has been  
filed by William J. McNicholas of Charlestown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: William J. McNicholas of Charlestown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate

to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/05/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 01, 2025  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.  
Register of Probate  
05/09/25  
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# Wu announces applications open for 2025-2026 Spark Boston Council

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that applications for the 2025-2026 SPARK Boston Council are now open. SPARK Boston is a volunteer leadership and civic engagement council for Boston residents ages 20 to 35. This council is responsible for leading the City's initiatives aimed at engaging Boston's young adults. Applications are due by June 30, 2025.

"The SPARK Boston Council is vital to our ability to understand the needs of Boston's young adult community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am excited to announce that applications for the 2025-2026 council are now open and I encourage our emerging civic leaders to apply to see the impact of their voices heard in the community."

Under the direction of the SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough, the 2025-2026 Council will create programming and advise Boston's leaders to help the city grow as an inviting, connected, culturally rich, and sustainable home for everyone. Throughout the SPARK Boston Council term, participants hear from key members of the Mayor's administration, leaders within City Hall, and community organizations about topics like climate resilience, education, housing, nightlife, and civic innovation.

"After what has been a fun and exciting year of programming to engage Boston's 20-35 year old residents, it only creates further momentum to recruit a collaborative and motivated SPARK Council for our 2025-2026 cohort," said SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough. "SPARK Boston creates space for young civic leaders to become better engaged at the local level and feel able to advocate for what they hope to see out of our city. SPARK Boston is also an opportunity to build a network and foster connections with young civic leaders across Boston."

Past council members have come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds including public service, media, higher education, and scientific research. The SPARK Council meets on the first Monday of each month. Council members are encouraged to attend one community meeting and one SPARK event or subcommittee meeting a month. Applicants must live in Boston, and be willing to commit 15 hours monthly to the SPARK Boston program. SPARK Boston and its previous iteration ONEin3 have now been serving young adults and the City of Boston for over 18 years.

"Every year, our SPARK Boston Council gets stronger thanks to the amazing involvement of community leaders in Boston. Whether it's volunteering at our annual Civic Summit or discussing ways to improve personal credit, SPARK is all about making our neighborhoods better places to live," said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. "This year, we want council members from every corner of our city to join us! If you're a young adult looking to make a positive impact in your community, we'd love for you to apply to be a part of the 2025-2026 SPARK Boston Council!"

The 2025-2026 SPARK Council will be continuing their work through the end of their term in August, and have already taken part in several opportunities including attending Mayor Wu's State of the City, volunteering during the Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing's Civic Summit, and organizing thousands of toys for Toys for Tots. The 2024-2025 council has continued legacy and signature programming such as: Neighborhood Socials, which are events designed to bring City staff and local leaders into spaces young people already patronize; cultural mixers; and Chief Chats, fireside discussions with cabinet

leadership.

"SPARK Boston has encouraged me to embrace new experiences. As a council member, I have participated in various engagements, from assisting Bostonians with mailing their voter registration forms to collaborating with the community to host a panel discussion on period poverty and menstrual innovation," said Sayyida Jean-Charles, current SPARK Boston Council Member. "If you are looking to get more involved in Boston, it doesn't matter whether you are new to the city or were born and raised here, because as a council member, you will become more civically engaged, expand your network, and most importantly, connect with community members, advocates, and leaders. All you have to do is submit your application!"

"Membership on the SPARK Council is a phenomenal experience for Boston's young citizens who want to better connect with and help support the City and the neighborhoods they love. In my own experience, SPARK provided me with an in-depth look at how the City is running smoothly day-to-day, month-to-month, and year-to-year, and highlighted the multitude of opportunities for civic engagement with every facet of City governance," said John Ferraro, current SPARK Boston Council Member. "Because of my time on SPARK, I've been able to develop a better sense of how to identify key quality-of-life issues in my neighborhood, build coalitions to address them, and encourage others to do the same. What I'll treasure most of all, however, are the instantaneous friendships made with other members of the SPARK Council; it was an absolute privilege to be able to a part of a community of people who have so much love for the City of Boston and are dedicated with every fiber of their being to ensuring that Boston lives up to its mission as a City for everyone."

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That's for sure! Can be assured

Every day we all miss her.

We wish we could all hug and kiss her.

The pain of losing her is forever engraved in our hearts

And will continue as long as we are apart.

Mom, while you're in heaven, we need you to know

It took every fiber of our being to watch you go

We love you – Lou Lou – more than words could say

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# Massachusetts officials on hand at the launch of eviction record sealing law

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On Monday, May 5, State Senator Lydia Edwards was joined by Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, State Senate President Karen Spilka, housing justice advocates and legal experts for a press conference to mark the historic first day Massachusetts tenants can begin the process of sealing past eviction records under a new law passed last year and signed by Governor Maura Healey.

The law, which goes into effect this month, allows renters to petition the court to seal eviction records after a designated waiting period—ranging from as little as one year for certain no-fault cases to four years for nonpayment evictions. Senator Edwards, a longtime advocate for housing stability and former senate chair of the Joint Committee on Housing, championed the measure alongside colleagues, grassroots organizations, and housing justice advocates.

“As someone who has both organized alongside tenants and fought for housing justice in the State House, I know how life-changing this moment is. Eviction record sealing isn’t just a policy—it’s about restoring dignity, opening doors, and recognizing that one tough chapter shouldn’t define a person’s future. I’m proud that Massachusetts is making

housing more equitable and allowing residents in the State to have a second chance,” said Senator Lydia Edwards

In addition to the press conference held at the State House, State Senators from across Massachusetts marked the occasion by assisting constituents in their own districts with officially filing petitions under the new eviction sealing law.

These efforts reflect a unified commitment across the Commonwealth to advancing housing justice and providing residents with a meaningful second chance.

Commenting on the bill Attorney General Andrea Campbell said, “An eviction record, even one that has been dismissed or was brought in retaliation for a tenant exercising their rights, can have devastating impacts especially on Black women and other women of color. I’m pleased to see Massachusetts take this historic step to create a pathway to seal eviction records which will open the door to stable housing for so many and allow our residents opportunities to build wealth. I am extremely grateful to Senator Lydia Edwards and Representative Mike Moran for their leadership and unwavering advocacy on this issue, and to the leadership of Senate President Spilka and Speaker Mariano for their commitment in ensuring this proposed legislation became law.”



Attendees were City of Boston Chief of Housing, Sheila Dillon, Lt. Gov. Driscoll, AG Andrea Campbell, Senate President Karen Spilka, Deputy Secretary from EOHLC Jennifer Maddox, Greg Vasil - CEO of Greater Boston Real Estate Board, and MLRI attorneys as Sen. Edwards (center) holds a sample form that tenants need to submit online to request their eviction sealing sealed.

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