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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025



FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Bunker Hill Associates and Friends of The Training Field presented the Annual Charlestown Christmas Stroll. The historic Training Field park in Winthrop Square was transformed into a Winter Wonderland as complimentary Pony rides, food, activities, and more greeted families throughout Charlestown who came to celebrate the holiday season together.

See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.



Top, The Training Field saw some snowfall for its Christmas Stroll.

Middle, Angelo makes friends with the denizens of the Animal Affair Traveling Petting Zoo.

Bottom, Lily Brophy rides Rory courtesy of J&J Pony Rentals.

# Coletta Zapata holds hearing regarding utility-related hazards

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) recently held a hearing to examine the maintenance and safety protocols of overhead electrical equipment to keep communities safe from utility-related hazards. The hearing brought together City officials, utility companies, and residents to discuss ongoing concerns, current practices, and opportunities to strengthen emergency notifications and ensure multi-agency response systems function effectively. Councilor Coletta Zapata sponsored the hearing to review utility companies' maintenance protocols,

inspection schedules, and emergency response plans, and to evaluate long-term infrastructure solutions that better protect residents especially in high-density neighborhoods. The hearing was called in response to the July 29 incident on Bartlett Street in Charlestown, where overhead electrical wires caught fire, igniting parked vehicles and causing a power outage for dozens of residents.

"This hearing is a step towards trying to understand how to move forward in an effective way where we have broad buy-in from all stakeholders of the community

(Hazards Pg. 3)

# Massachusetts Houses passes higher education bond bill

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts House of Representatives recently passed the BRIGHT Act, authorizing approximately \$3.65 billion in capital investment to modernize Massachusetts' public colleges and universities and support the state's academic, research, workforce and climate goals. Originally filed by Governor Healey, the bill is financed by 10-year special obligation bonds that are backed by Fair Share surtax revenue. These funds will be used to address deferred maintenance, modernization projects, and decarbonization across higher education institutions.

"The BRIGHT Act will ensure that students across the state learn and train in modern, high-quality

campus facilities, while strengthening Massachusetts' competitiveness in research and innovation," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "Building on the Commonwealth's increases in student financial aid, and on our commitment to making higher education more accessible and affordable, especially for low-income students, Massachusetts is undertaking a generational reinvestment in educating our residents and strengthening our higher education system. I would like to thank Representatives Michlewitz, Rogers and Finn for their work on this bill, my colleagues for supporting it, and Governor Healey for her commitment to this

(EDUCATION BILL, Pg. 10)

For the latest news in Charlestown that you need to know, check Charlestownbridge.com

# EDITORIAL

# THE MAHA MOMS ARE RIGHT ABOUT TOXIC WASTE

As our regular readers know, we have been highly-critical of the so-called Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the least qualified and least knowledgeable person ever to lead the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), whose policies regarding vaccines and scientific research threaten the health of millions of Americans.

However, last week some prominent MAHA activists sent a petition to President Donald Trump urging him to fire Lee Zeldin, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, over a series of recent decisions by Zeldin that will pave the way for the use of proven harmful chemicals that ultimately will contaminate our air, our water, and our food.

"Rather than supporting your initiative to 'Make America Healthy Again', which millions of Republicans and independents alike embraced, Administrator Zeldin has prioritized the interests of chemical corporations over the well-being of American families and children," the petition reads.

Also supporting the petition is the group Moms Clean Air Force (MCAF), which seeks to protect children from the effects of air pollution and climate change.

"With every proposed deregulation, he (Zeldin) is allowing families and children to be exposed to more soot, more mercury, more methane, more toxic chemicals, more tailpipe pollution, and more climate pollution," said MCAF founder and director Dominique Browning. "Lee Zeldin must go."

And what have we heard from RFK Jr., the man who says he wants to make America healthy again and who himself was an environmental lawyer, had to say about Zeldin's kow-towing to the chemical industry?

Crickets -- and that says all we need to know about RFK's supposed commitment to Americans' health.

#### **HAPPY HANUKKAH**

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Sunday evening, December 14, and will culminate on Monday, December 22.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season.

# Bills filed to help the future financing of arts and culture programs

By Arielle Appleby

Massachusetts, a state known for its historical significance, educational institutions, the Red Sox and coastal cuisine, also relies heavily on the economic fortune of its arts, tourism and cultural institutions.

"Public art is a means that connects our communities, elevates the lived experiences of those people in the communities, and helps make our spaces feel more welcoming and belonging," said Emily Ruddock, executive director of the nonprofit MASSCreative, during an Oct. 21 hearing at the Massachusetts State House.

The Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development at the Massachusetts State House heard testimony on various pieces of legislation related to the future financing of arts and culture programs.

Two bills, the Creative Space Act and the PLACE Act, focus on a key element of supporting creative spaces and creators in Massachusetts. These acts were developed in 2022 by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council in collaboration with MASSCreative.

The PLACE Act aims to establish a program for local art and community engagement over five years to support public art in Massachusetts, which is projected to generate \$2.5 million dollars. The Creative Space Act aspires to preserve and promote spaces in cities and towns for the creative economy

"Sometimes we are two or three months into the year. Sometimes we're one month into the year. Sometimes we're seven months into the year before we know what our funding is going to be or receive a penny of it," said Stacey David, executive director of the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau, in an interview.

David said the unreliable funding creates scheduling issues for advertising programs during busy seasons and important events.

Paul Niedzwiecki, CEO of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, believes setting Oct. 1 as a fixed annual distribution date provides a solution: "The timely release of these funds ensured that every dollar works harder, supporting small businesses, preserving jobs, and strengthening the communities that define the Massachusetts brand."

But advocates say the funding issues are only part of it. They're also fighting to preserve space for artistic pursuits despite legislative pushback.

"I think at a moment where there's not only a loss of partnership, there's actually outward aggression and hostility from the government in Washington," said Massachusetts State Senator Paul Mark in an interview last week, "I think it's an important moment to be supportive of culture and arts."

During the hearing, supporters pointed out the money is already there and distributing it faster would ultimately benefit the economy.

David added that the delays force them to scramble marketing campaigns at the last-minute for winter, even though Massachusetts is really more of a major destination during fall. He said

organizations are required to spend their budget by the end of the fiscal year.

"The biggest obstacle right now is that the federal government is actively reversing grants," said Mark, "trying not just to cut off funding that is coming, but trying to claw back funding that has already come."

Committee members appeared supportive of the legislation. "This is clearly a bill that we should be doing," said state Sen. David Linsky during the hearing.

On Dec. 1, the bill advanced and was passed through the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which was the next step in the process en route to a vote on the floor.

According to a Boston Art Review article published on Oct. 25, if the bills are passed on the floor, they could be enacted as soon as the 2026 fiscal year.

Arielle Appleby is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge and the Boston University Journalism program.

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# T's Green line service suspended until Dec. 22

By Kiran Rajamani

A major leg of the Green Line will be closed until Dec. 22 as MTBA crews replace century-old infrastructure. The work will halt service on major commuter rail lines between North Station and Babcock Street and Kenmore and Heath Street.

The closure will snarl daily travel from the North End during one of the busiest months of the year. The shutdown also includes the entire Green Line trunk under TD Garden, affecting thousands of riders who use the system to reach downtown offices, winter events and holiday gatherings.

Crews will replace a 130-yearold wooden catenary wire trough, part of the Green Line's original tunnel system built in the late 1890s. The wooden structure, which houses the overhead wires that power trains, will be replaced with a modern metal system designed to improve reliability. Crews will also continue installing the Green Line Train Protection System, upgrade signals, conduct tunnel inspections and improve train stations.

#### What stations are affected

During the closure: No Green Line service will run between North Station and Babcock Street on the B Branch, Kenmore on the C and D Branches, or Heath Street on the E Branch. Service north of North Station, including to Union Square and Medford/Tufts, will continue normally.

#### Shuttle buses and alternatives

The MBTA will offer farefree alternatives throughout the 15-day closure, including shuttle buses between Babcock Street and Back Bay on the B Branch, shuttle buses between Kenmore and Back Bay on the C and D Branches, and Route 39 buses to replace E Branch service between Heath Street and Back Bay. Accessible van service will run between Copley/Back Bay and North Station. Worcester Line commuter rail service between South Station, Back Bay and Lansdowne will operate fare-free, along with Route 57 buses.

Riders should plan for 20-30 minutes of extra travel time depending on their route, especially during peak hours or events at TD Garden.

Fitsum Ayalew, a Boston University, said he only recently learned about the closure. "I didn't know that, and now that I know, it's pretty annoying," he said. "I take (the green line) every day, so it's just frustrating."

The closures arrive during the holiday season, when restaurants, small businesses and community spaces in the North End experience some of their highest foot traffic. With North Station closed for Green Line boarding, the neighborhood expects reduced accessibility for visitors and residents alike.

Kevin Fleming, president of the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council, said the upcoming shutdown poses challenges for residents.

"It's bad timing before Christmas. People have work holiday parties and gatherings of family and friends in the neighborhood over the next few weeks," he said. "It would be better if this stoppage were in January."

Kiran Rajamani is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge and the Boston University Journalism program.

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## DIDOMENICO TALKS HEALTH CARE AT MASS EYE AND EAR

Senator Sal DiDomenico visited Massachusetts Eye and Ear with State House colleagues to learn more about their invaluable health care expertise, and how they support and care for a workforce made up of thousands of healthcare professionals. Their specialized doctors help people in need of care from across our state and the world.

Mass Eye and Ear is an international center for treatment and home to the world's largest vision and hearing research centers. Mass Eye and Ear is a member of Mass General Brigham and a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School



Senator Sal DiDomenico with House and Senate colleagues at Mass Eye and Ear.

## HAZARDS (from pg. 1)

if there are going to be impacts to their quality of life and financial impacts. Residents deserve to know that when they walk down their block, the wires above them are safe, inspected, and capable of withstanding increasingly volatile weather patterns," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "I look forward to future conversations. Thank you to everyone who joined to provide their perspectives and experiences."

The Councilors heard from an administration panel who provided an overview of the City's coordination efforts with utility companies and the challenges of undergrounding infrastructure in densely populated areas. The Public Improvement Commission clarified that its role is limited to reviewing the location of utility infrastructure and not determining its appropriateness, viability, or necessity. Those assessments fall to the utility companies and the State's Department of Public Utilities (DPU). Councilor Coletta Zapata emphasized the need for clearer communication, timely responses, and critical infrastructure upgrades.

Utility companies present discussed the challenges of coordinating multiple utility projects in the same area and the importance of clear communication with city agencies. Eversource and National Grid shared that undergrounding

PLEASE RECYCLE

wires could cost millions per mile, with additional costs for conduits, permits, and excavation. They emphasized the complexity and high costs involved, noting that municipalities would bear the initial costs. During the hearing, the utility companies also addressed the impact of undergrounding on utility companies and their operations such as the complexity and cost of undergrounding, including the need for additional manholes

and engineering costs.

This docket will remain in the Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology. A recording of the hearing can be found at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/">https://www.youtube.com/</a> watch?v=tCvk\_co6PJQ

For additional information please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.

# CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

#### STANDINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/6/2025

	W	L	
Massport's Finest	9	2	2
Duce 2	8	3	2
A-1 Convenience	5	5	3
McCarthy Bros.	4	6	3
Halligan Club	3	7	3
YMCĂ	3	8	2

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR 12/6/2025

A-1 Convenience - Annie Bruno, William Butler. Duce 2 - Thomas Wright, Ronan Porter. Halligan Club - Emmett Demas, Brody Lawton. Massport's finest - Alyssa Byrne, Thomas Gavin. McCarthy Bros. - Grant Lewis, Jake Charest. YMCA - Aidan Marshall, Emmett Forbes.

# Early Registration for our 2026/2027 season at:

Charlestown Boys & Girls Club, 60 High St.
On Saturdays - December 13 & 20, and January 3, 2026
9 am to 11:30 am. Our ages are: 3 to 10 years old. Anyone who turns 11 years old before 1/1/2027 is too old to play.
You do not have to live in Charlestown to play.

We welcome kids from all communities!

#### THE STOVE FACTORY STUDIOS AND GALLERY HOLD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE.

The Stove Factory Studios and Gallery held its annual Open House. Visitors were invited to tour the facilities, view the artistic work, interact with the artist, and take part in workshops.



Jenny Hathaway, Benjamin Lipiecki, and Gina Casey.





Carol Schweigert with one of her oil paintings.



Visitors speak with artist Martha Starr about her work.





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Jessica Radford works on an oil painting in Rachel Romanowski's



Margaret Burns discusses her work to visitors to her studio space.



Jeanne Finnerty shows off photos of her work that won an award from the American Society Of Interior Designers (ASIDNE) to David Cabot, Treasurer of the Stove Factory Studios.



Artist Maureen Mellowes, with her watercolor work.

#### THE STOVE FACTORY STUDIOS AND GALLERY HOLD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Artist David Cabot with his painting on display in the Stove Factory Gallery.



Kathryn Hackl working in her studio space on her pottery.



Artist Rachel Romanowski's son Gray showed off the paper art he



The Stove Factory is the home of Reflex Letterpress. Here the photographer was given a printmaking stamp with his name on it.

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



Visitors explore the artists' working spaces at Stove Factory Studios.



Lee McDonald, an artist in residence at the Stove Factory for 45 years, runs the No Name Yet Paper Mill. Here he shows a young artist how to fabricate paper.







studio.

Pat McSweeney with her handmade paper work.



Barbara Torrey with encaustic painting "Waves".







# Deborah Jones, Nursing Dean and Chief Integration Officer at University of Texas Medical Branch, appointed President at MGH Institute of Health Professions

Deborah J. Jones, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN, Chief Integration Officer, Senior Vice President and School of Nursing Dean for The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), has been appointed president of the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

"I am inspired by the IHP's mission to educate health professionals and researchers who will drive innovation in the delivery of equitable and interprofessional care," said Jones. "This mission aligns deeply with my own purpose, which is to bring together people, ideas, and systems for the greater good, because the greater good is stronger than any individual part. I am honored to be leading the MGH Institute of Health Professions into its next chapter."

Jones succeeds President Paula Milone-Nuzzo, who is retiring after eight years of distinguished leadership. The selection of Jones follows a national search that



Deborah J. Jones, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN

drew a notable pool of candidates from across the health professions and higher education landscape.

"Dr. Jones brings the right combination of experience, insight, and interpersonal skill to lead the Institute into its next chapter," said MGH Institute Board Chair Jeanette Ives Erickson. "Her commitment to students, faculty, and staff—along with her strong

sense of mission and collaborative approach—resonated across our community."

Dr. Jones joins the Institute the only degree-granting entity within the Mass General Brigham healthcare system—with an extensive background in academic nursing leadership, interprofessional education, academic-clinical system collaboration, expanding educational programs, and strengthening clinical and community partnerships. Under Jones' leadership as nursing dean, Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates from UTMB achieved the highest NCLEX pass rates among large schools in Texas for four consecutive years, faculty retention exceeded 98%, doctoral preparation of faculty increased from 57% to 98%, and the previously unranked research enterprise is now in the top 50% of U.S. nursing schools in NIH funding.

When Jones served as UTMB's

Interim Provost for a year, she had leadership oversight and fiscal accountability for the entire academic enterprise, including more than 4,000 employees, 3,800 students, and a \$788 million budget. She advanced strategic initiatives that strengthened financial sustainability, expanded academic programs, improved clinical placement alignment, and enhanced faculty recruitment and retention.

"Dr. Jones has worked within complex health systems and is recognized for her ability to build constructive relationships across clinical, academic, and community organizations," said David Brown, MD, President of the Academic Medical Centers for Mass General Brigham. "Her background positions her well to strengthen the Institute's role within Mass General Brigham and support its contributions to workforce development across the system."

Jones will become the MGH

Institute's seventh president when she begins her role on January 18, 2026.

MGH Institute of Health Professions educates the next generation of healthcare leaders with a tested and proven approach—grounded in a commitment to health equity, defined by collaboration, and backed by Mass General Brigham. As the only degree-granting member of this world-class health system, the Institute provides students with access to clinical sites, research opportunities, and mentorship. Founded in 1977 by Massachusetts General Hospital, the MGH Institute counts more than 11,000 alumni who are making an impact in hospitals, clinical sites, and schools all over the country. From day one, students train the way they'll practice: interprofessionally, in service of better care and better outcomes.

# CITY PAWS

# Digital dog training resources

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We often remind our readers that the cold, wet weather of winter is a perfect time to reinforce your dog's training. Keep in mind that, just as you get tired when you have to adapt to a new tech tool, adjust to a significant phone update, or take classes to learn a new skill, your dog is ready to rest after a good training or retraining session. So, add some training to your schedule for the winter months.

Good training is ongoing Dog training is really a matter of training yourself, and that should also be ongoing. Early in our dog days, we relied on books and training classes. Today, you can keep up with the latest research and adapt to new methods from experts with digital resources. While some of these have fees, others are free online or at your local library. Penny has taken a recommended dog-training class on Kanopy, thanks to the Boston Public Library. Even an old dog guardian can learn new ways.

We stay up to date with the latest training methods and ideas by subscribing to dog publications like the Whole Dog Journal. You can also follow Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) Emeritus, on "The Other End of the Leash."

YouTube and other video services have many offerings for those who want to refine their skills so they can work with their pup in new ways. However, as with all Internet sources, you will find both good and bad options.

# Positive training is the key

Good training is about positive reinforcement, not punishment. That means no devices like choke chains or shock collars. If you Google, "Where are shock collars banned?" you will be shocked by the number of places where they are illegal and stunned by some of the punishments for using them. For example, Wikipedia notes that, in the Netherlands, "Its use is subject to €20,000.00 fine and three-year prison sentence."

We highly recommend following renowned trainer Victoria Stilwell and the resources she offers on her site www.positively. com. She has gathered a roster of



While your dogs can't be trained by watching a screen, you can learn how to train dogs with digital resources.

writers on the topic and even has a "Find a Trainer" box on her site in case you need an in-person option after exploring the digital world.

#### What Works for Dogs

As you think about how you will approach any training with your dog, try to imagine yourself in the dog's position and think about the ways you can refine what you are saying and make what you want to happen clearer to the dog. Ask yourself if you would be able to figure out what you are asking if you didn't speak the language?

Part of training yourself to train your dog is learning how dogs learn and what is important to them. Then be more specific and think about how a particular training method, reward, or hand signal will work for your dog.

Make a list of the behaviors you want to reinforce and those you would like to add to your dog's life. These will not be the same for those living in a single-family home as for those living in a dog-friendly condo or apartment building. As one of our former editors likes to say, "You Do You" and personalize your training to your needs and those of the unique creature on the other end of your leash.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

# **OBITUARIES**

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#### DIDOMENICO CELEBRATES ITALIAN CULTURE WITH CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITALY

Senator Sal DiDomenico recently spent an evening with the Consulate General of Italy in Boston, Arnaldo Minuti, and friends celebrating Italian cuisine and its ongoing path towards recognition as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage. The group enjoyed a specially curated menu—designed by Chef Ambassador Mario Marini and inspired by the principles of sustainability and biodiversity which explored the values, identity, and benefits that define Italy's culinary tradition. "What an honor and privilege to celebrate my Italian heritage with the Consulate General of Italy in Boston and the Chef Ambassador," said DiDomenico. "I am extremely proud of my roots, and it was great to take part in this celebration of Italian culture with community leaders from throughout Greater Boston."



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaks alongside Consulate General of Italy in Boston, Arnaldo Minuti, at the celebration.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with the Consulate General of Italy in Boston (middle).

# Kingsley Concert celebrates culture and inner confidence

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Kingsley Montessori School's annual Winter Concert is held at the historic John Hancock Hall each December.

This year, two Kingsley parents volunteered their time as choral language consultants—Carly Yue Wu and Angela Stefatos Patel. Carly, who speaks Mandarin, and Angela, who speaks Greek, visited Lower Elementary Chorus to help students practice authentic pronunciation and to better understand the stories behind the songs' lyrics.

Ms. Galankis, Kingsley's Elementary Performing Arts Teacher, is passionate about the many benefits of parent partnership. First, there is enormous pride for the students whose cultures and identities are represented. It's also confidence-building for students who are learning a new language—they have the opportunity to memorize and master something very challenging. And, Ms. Galankis says, they gain an authentic way to connect with people from those cultures for years to come. "Our students can go out into the world and say, 'You speak Mandarin? I know a song in Mandarin!"



MARIANNE SALZA PHOTO

Kingsley Montessori School students are shown singing during their Winter Concert.

The entire class benefits from thoughtful discussions about translation and the importance of storytelling in the original language. Students are asked to step into the shoes of another, through music, and connect to the native speaker's experience. Language work also provides excellent opportunities for peer teaching across different grade levels and classrooms.

Studying the Performing Arts at Kingsley is not necessarily about preparing children for a career in music; it's about developing a healthy mindset in all areas of life. As Ms. Galanakis puts it, "Habits of mind are the cornerstone of our curriculum. We hone self-reflection to bring out a child's inner coach instead of their inner critic. We see obstacles as opportunities. Just like in an athletics game, music has so many moments to push past your comfort zone and rise to the occasion. The Kingsley arts program provides students repeated opportunities to summon courage, take a leap, and see all that they are capable of.

# News Briefs

## HOLIDAY SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lessons and Carols, Saturday, December 13 at 5 pm Reception after with food and wine!

All are welcome!

St. John's Episcopal Church 27 Devens Street Charlestown, MA

# **OBITUARIES**

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper.

Includes photo.No word Limit.

Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

## ANNUAL CHARLESTOWN CHRISTMAS STROLL AT THE HISTORIC TRAINING FIELD PARK



Animal Affair Traveling Petting Zoo had many friendly creatures for the kids to meet.



Tiffany Riddle, Molly Stern, and Emily Martens with the Charlestown Preservation Society.



The Training Field drew in many visitors to celebrate the coming of the holidays as a community.

Bunker Hill Associates and Friends of The Training Field presented the Annual Charlestown Christmas Stroll. The historic Training Field park in Winthrop Square was transformed into a Winter Wonderland as complimentary Pony rides, food, activities, and more greeted families throughout Charlestown who came to celebrate the holiday season together.



Nathalie Mangrum of The Maker Mangrum with ornaments that reveal Home Alone fandom.



Maureen and Grant Robinson



Lucy Adams smiles as her brother Finn is overwhelmed by a giant slice of pizza.



Thompson Bond with his creations he calls "Home Sewn Knit Knacks"



Inflatable decorations were courtesy of Doug MacDonald.



Kaeden and Tina LeBlanc



J&J Pony Rentals Offered complementary rides as Clara McNiff enjoys a mellow stroll on Rory



Charlotte, Colleen, and Cathleen

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## ANNUAL CHARLESTOWN CHRISTMAS STROLL AT THE HISTORIC TRAINING FIELD PARK

DEREK KOUYOUMHAN PHOTOS



Paula, Janet, and Andrea with Friends Of The Training Field.



Timor likes Leyre Ruiz's Bug Designs toys.



Inflatable decorations were courtesy of Doug MacDonald.



 $Sophia\ Moon\ with\ Charlestown\ Mother's\ Association\ gave\ out\ holiday\ temporary\ tattoos.$ 



Daniel DiCienzo with his son George and wife Sophia Connelly.



Christmas wasn't the only Winter Holiday celebrated at the Training Field.



Brian, Michelle, Carina, and Amelia Taranto meet with Santa.



Give the gift of unforgettable memories this holiday season!

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### EDUCATION BILL (from pg. 1)

"This legislation passed by the House will revitalize and modernize higher education across the Commonwealth's public colleges and universities," said Representative Adrian Madaro. "By upgrading college campuses, addressing deferred maintenance and sustainability, and ensuring facilities are being updated to align with our educational and workforce goals, we are building on the House's work on free community college and improved financial aid to ensure that higher education in Massachusetts has the resources to thrive".

"The BRIGHT Act will help usher in a new era for public higher education in Massachusetts," Representative David M. Rogers (D- Cambridge), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education. "Under Speaker Mariano's leadership, the House has created free community college, exponentially increased financial aid, and now the BRIGHT Act invests nearly \$3.65 billion in public higher education campuses statewide. This new investment will: address essential campus infrastructure needs; develop modern learning spaces; and decrease reliance on fossil fuels."

"The \$3.65 billion BRIGHT Act, bonded through a new special obligation fund and backed by Fair Share revenues, will modernize every public higher education campus in Massachusetts," said Representative Michael J. Finn (D-West Springfield), House

City of Boston

Landmarks Commission

Chair of the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. "This investment will spur economic development creating good-paying jobs, and deliver cleaner, state-of-the-art facilities that will prepare our students to lead in a competitive, sustainable future. I thank Speaker Mariano and House Leadership for prioritizing this landmark legislation and ensuring Massachusetts remains a national leader in public higher education."

The investments included in the bill create a long-term, statewide

Specifically, the bill:

Invests \$3.65 Billion in Core

Authorizes approximately

cation capital projects related to deferred maintenance, decarbonization, modernization, and planning. The investments at public institutions of higher education are broken down as follows:

- \$1.25 billion for the University of Massachusetts (UMass)
- \$1.25 billion for state universities (9 campuses) and community colleges (15 campuses);
- \$275 million for upgrades at MassArt:
- \$100 million for the transition of campus facilities and property into housing and mixed-use developments:
- \$80 million for costs associated with decarbonization and energy efficiency;
- \$120 million for lab modernization, projects at community colleges to support collaboration with vocational technical schools, and projects related to student health and well-being; and
- \$30 million for costs associated with developing required campus master plans.

The remaining \$170 million is authorized for several separate items as follows:

- \$50 million for a grant program administered through the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) for general improvements and climate-related upgrades at public institutions of higher education;
- \$20 million to the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) for costs associated with facilitating or enhancing

remote or hybrid learning at public institutions of higher education; and

• \$100 million for a grant program administered by the Executive Office of Education (EOE) for improvements to upgrade and expand career technical education and training programs (Skills Capital Grants).

Updates to DCAMM Oversight

- Updates DCAMM's project oversight in campus construction by raising the project delegation threshold from \$5 million to \$10 million for state universities and community colleges, allowing the Commissioner to delegate more projects to the MSCBA for supervision.
- · Raises the threshold for schematic design to \$500,000, exempting smaller repairs and upgrades from lengthy design and certification requirements.

Surplus Campus Property Pro-

- Allows DCAMM to dispose of surplus campus property and directs all proceeds into a new Higher Education Property Disposition Fund. DCAMM needs to provide written notice to the municipalities where the property is located. These revenues can then be reinvested in other capital projects, including deferred maintenance, decarbonization, and other critical repairs, without requiring additional appropriations, giving campuses a sustainable way to reinvest in their own infrastructure.
- Requires DCAMM to conduct a public hearing to consider restrictions for property that exceeds 2 acres or is 150,000 square feet or greater.
- Anticipates delegating envelope/HVAC projects, allows for increased decarbonization work.

Improves Education and Transportation Fund Capital Financing

- To support investments, the bill authorizes the State Treasurer to issue special obligation bonds backed by the Education and Transportation Fund, strengthening long-term funding capacity for capital projects.
- Education and Transportation Fund revenues pledged for debt services are protected from diversion, and Fair Share surtax rate cannot be reduced while those revenues are needed for repayment.
- Clarifies and expands allowable uses for the Education and Transportation Innovation and Capital Account to include public education, affordable higher education, transportation infrastructure, and related capital needs, such as rail, bridges, bicycle path-

ways, and other public transportation assets.

Modernizes Massachusetts State College Building

Authority (MSCBA)

- Allows DCAMM Commissioner to delegate campus construction projects costing up to \$10 million to the MSCBA, increasing it from \$5 million.
- Updates MSCBA's authority to provide expanded services to state universities and community colleges, including financing academic, administrative, and campus infrastructure, as well as managing decarbonization and energy efficiency improvements.
- Adds two ex officio non-voting seats to the MSCBA Board (one state university president and one community college president), increasing membership to 11 and allowing for enhanced information sharing.

Bond Issuance &

Debt Structure

- To finance capital improvements, the bill authorizes the State Treasurer to issue up to approximately \$3.1 billion in bonds for campus upgrades and \$170 million for grants and technology services.
- Bonds are backed by Education and Transportation Fund revenues, not the state's general obligation capacity, and are therefore exempt from statutory debt limits.

Enhances Reporting,

Oversight & Accountability

- Requires annual reporting from DCAMM, A&F, EOE, UMass, the state universities, and the community colleges detailing project status, expenditures, emissions reductions, deferred maintenance addressed, square footage impacted, and alignment with campus master plans.
- Requires additional reporting for all deferred maintenance projects over \$50 million within 90 days of the bill's passage.

Increases Access to Higher **Education Opportunities** 

- Provides private nonprofit institutions of higher education who are designated as federal minority serving institutions, or as municipally owned colleges, access to grant programs that are currently available to community colleges.
- Programs include MassReconnect, the SUCCESS program, and other grant programs that are run by the Department of Higher Education.
- Directs DHE to promulgate regulations accordingly.

The bill passed the House of Representatives 148-5. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

strategy for addressing aging facilities while aligning campuses with the state's workforce, economic development, and climate goals. The bill also streamlines capital project delivery, expands the role of the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA), and increases flexibility for campuses to manage facilities and property. The BRIGHT Act is estimated to create roughly 20,000 construction-related jobs across the Commonwealth as campuses undergo major capital improvements.

Campus Infrastructure

\$3.65 billion in bond authorizations for investment in public higher education campuses. The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) will manage most of these investments. Of the approximately \$3.65 billion, about \$3.1 billion will support higher edu-

City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu

## MONUMENT SQUARE LANDMARK DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE OUTREACH AND MEETINGS:

The Study Committee will identify the historic, architectural and archaeological significance of the resources located in the proposed district, and finalize the proposed district's boundaries. Current and future planning issues will be reviewed and discussed to formulate recommendations to preserve the unique historic character of the Monument Square neighborhood while encouraging contextually sensitive new development in appropriate areas.

Meeting: **December 17** @ 6:30pm - Virtual: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613171668 (Meeting ID 161 317 1668) Meeting: January 14, 2026 @ 6:30pm - Virtual: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603630588 (Meeting ID 160 363 0588)

All listed events are open to the public. For more information visit: www.boston.gov/monumentsquare

# Schools honor DiDomenico

By Adam Swift

The School Committee presented state Senator Sal DiDomenico with a Champion in Education Award at last week's meeting.

"This is Sal's 15th year as our state senator, and Sal has advocated for education in the state of Massachusetts; I know you were behind the Student Opportunity Act funding and you are constantly and continually advocating for education in Chelsea," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. "Every year he puts earmarks in the budget for performing arts, every year he is always thinking about us and how (he) can help and advocate for the Chelsea Public Schools."

The Champion in Education Award honors DiDomenico for elevating the importance of learning at every stage through visionary advocacy and promoting innovative pathways that open doors for all students.

"It has always been a pleasure working with you (and) advocating for education," said school committee member Yessenia Alfaro. "I know that you are the number one believer in our Chelsea schools, especially with the non-accompanied students that were coming; the immigrant rights that no one wanted to touch at the State House, you were the champion always protecting us and you are still protecting us."

School committee member

Mayra Balderas praised DiDomenico for his leadership, his caring for the community, and his transparency.

"My favorite thing about Sal is that he's not someone that you have to turn to to convince him why you have to support your cause, he's already there with you because he shares our values; he understands the issues Chelsea faces and the solutions we need to tackle them," said school committee member Dr. Sarah Neville. "We don't have to tell him what to do, he's already on it, he's always in our corner, and he's always our champion."

School Committee Chair Ana Hernandez said she was honored to have been able to work with the senator over the past decade.

"You gave me back faith in politics ... you are so down to earth, so human, you are an amazing dad, you are an amazing senator, and an amazing person, and I thank you so much for holding Chelsea in such a special place in your heart and working so hard along with us," she said.

City Manager Fidel Maltez praised DiDomenico for being a uniter and a strong advocate for Chelsea.

DiDomenico praised the school committee and Abeyta for their efforts in working for the community, and he praised his staff for their role in his 15 years as a state senator.

"I didn't know what to expect



Chelsea Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta (second from left, front row) and City Manager Fidel Maltez (far right) and members of the Chelsea City Council are pictured with State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, who was honored as "A Champion For Education," at the Dec. 4 School Committee meeting at Chelsea City Hall.

when I found out I was being recognized tonight, but this was more than I could have expected," said DiDomenico. "Your words really touched me, because Chelsea ... I say it and I try to show it to the people of Chelsea how much I

care about this community."

DiDomenico noted that his mother grew up in Chelsea and his parents got married at St. Rose Church.

"I tell the students wherever you go when you leave Chelsea, never say you are from Greater Boston, never say you are from Massachusetts, always say you are from Chelsea," he said. "Be very proud of where you came from, because Chelsea is very proud of you."





# Park Street School celebrates 25 years of opening its doors

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

It began as a wish in 1999. It grew into a desire.

And then, Park Street School (PSS) became a realized dream, backed by research. Long waiting lists at preschools in downtown Boston provided convincing evidence that there was demand for a high-quality preschool. A group of mothers met and dreamed, and Park Street Kids was born – officially incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the fall of 1999. With 36 Toddlers and Preschoolers enrolled and four faculty and staff, Park Street Kids opened its doors at One Park Street.

In the blink of an eye, again in recognition of the need expressed by community leaders and families, a decision was made in the fall of 2002 to offer an elementary school to the community. It would be called "Park Street School." Finding 67 Brimmer Street in the flat of the Beacon Hill neighborhood was indeed a gift. For nearly 100 years, the building at 67 Brimmer Street was a landmark at the corner of Brimmer and Chestnut Streets. Home to schools and colleges since the Brimmer School left Beacon Hill, the building remained a historic symbol of Boston's rich educational history. In September of 2005, Grades 1-3 and Kindergarten moved into their newly renovated building. In its twenty-fifth year, the school serves more than 225 students through sixth grade.

This December, Park Street School concludes its celebration of 25 remarkable years. And what a year it has been!

As the school prepares to enter 2026, it looks back with immense gratitude for each family, student, friend, neighbor, and supporter. It looks back with tremendous thankfulness for its neighbor-

hood and the larger community of downtown Boston. It looks back with appreciation for 25 years of dedicated educators who have sought to know and love each child, and who have inspired and guided PSS students toward a lifelong love of learning and care for others.

"This milestone is not just a celebration of our past," shares Park Street School Founding Mom Laura Perkins, "but it is a testament to God's faithful provision and the strong foundation we have built together. We marvel at both God's faithfulness as well as the dedication of our families that have shaped our vibrant community."

For over the past quarter-century, Park Street School has remained steadfast in its mission to serve and unite children from many backgrounds in the Boston area and to be a school that embodies the highest academic standards. Tracy Bradley, Park Street School's founding Head of School, who remains at the school's helm, remains grateful, as well, for the school's commitment to its original mission and vision. "Our commitment to maintaining high academic standards and fostering the development of the whole child, while modeling empathy and care," she says, "has allowed us to cultivate a diverse community where families and faculty come together to enjoy authentic friendship and support."

Kicking off the year, Park Street School's community enjoyed several events and new ventures including: the inauguration of its first Founders Day over the weekend of October 25, 2024, with a Convocation Chapel, an all-school Celebration on the Esplanade, the Introduction of the new PSS Mascot – the PSS Knight, and a Found-

er's Day Dinner with Founding families, the Board of Trustees, and Board of Visitors. The school kicked off its Capital Campaign and saw two building projects near completion (which are never convenient for neighbors, but which also spark deeper gratitude for them!). They also enjoyed a special Alumni Reception, Pancake Breakfast, and an extra-special 25th Anniversary Gala at the Boston Public Library in April.

As the school looks forward to the next milestone, it does so with excitement, purpose, and great enthusiasm. Armed with a new five-year strategic plan, and with a newly enhanced Science Lab, a much-needed flexible, multi-purpose space for students



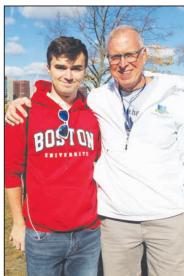


for performing arts, after-school programming, and special events, and new rooms designed for individualized instruction, multi-media and learning labs, private meetings, and larger conference room spaces, the school is poised to enter 2026 ready for growth.

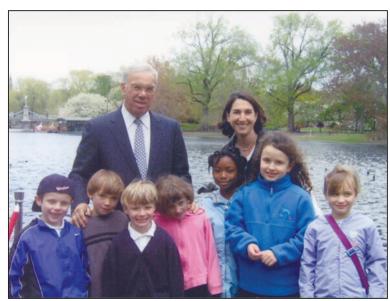
"We've been incredibly bless-

ed," concludes Tracy Bradley, "We are so thankful for our location here in Beacon Hill, and the many downtown neighborhoods we have the privilege to serve. We look forward to seeing how we can serve families in the coming 25 years. What a privilege it has been!"





Shown are scenes from the past 25 years at Park Street School.

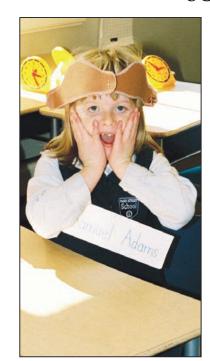


COURTESY PHOTOS





# SCENES FROM PARK STREET SCHOOL THROUGH THE YEARS

























# Charlestown Patriot-Bridge Pick-Up Locations

Tick-op Locations			
Newtowne Market 87 Medford St.			
Community Center 255 Medford St.			
365 Convenience Store			
Annas Café			
Jenny's Pizza 320 Medford St.			
Waverly Café			
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			
Santander Bank 437 Rutherford Ave.			
7/11 Store			
Zelma Lacey House 9 W School St.			
Gatehouse Apartment			
Ace Hardware Bunker Hill Mall			
CVS Bunker Hill Mall			
Citizens BankBunker Hill Mall			
Whole Food Market Bunker Hill Mall			
MGH Health Care Center 73 High St.			
7/11 StoreThompson 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			
Basilica			
Anchorage Apartment 103 13th Ave.			
Parris Landing			
Tuttles Clevergreen Cleaners 197 Eighth St.			
Flagship Wharf			
Style Café			
Building 104104 First Ave.			
Building 110110 First Ave.			
MGH Institute26 First Ave.			
7/11 Store			

## **DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS**



On December 4, Soley Street residents gathered for their 25th annual street decorating event to wrap garlands and bows around their lamp posts. Happy Holidays Charlestown! Go Soley!

## North Washington Street Bridge

## **CONSTRUCTION** UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through December 20 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

#### Scheduled Work

• Various minor project closeout activities

Work Hours

- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- Bruins: Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. and 12/18 at 8 p.m.
- Celtics: Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
- Other events: Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

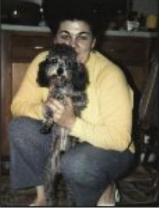
How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: Mass. g o v / n o r t h - w a s h i n g - ton-street-bridge-replacement

Project email: NorthWashing-tonStreet@dot.state.ma.us



# Birthday Remembrance

# Ruth M. Lori Napolitano

December 5, 1927 – June 9, 2007

Eighteen years have passed and we all miss you very much.
Although you're in heaven, you'll always be here
and the birthday memories will last forever.
The warmth of that hug of the past memories are stronger,
longer, and will always last.

Ruthie, you are someone we love and can't replace.

Never selfish, always kind...these are the memories left behind.

Memories will always keep us together...we are never far apart.

Remembering you on your birthday...and every day.

Always in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

With love.

Your husband, your two sons in Heaven with you, Al & John, loved ones and friends

# NSMT's Bill Hanney and Karen Nascembeni featured 'Power Duo' in BostonMan Magazine's 7-year anniversary issue

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

BostonMan Magazine is proud to announce that Bill Hanney and Karen Nascembeni have been selected as one of this year's official Power Duos, a new editorial feature debuting in the magazine's 7-Year Anniversary Issue, set to be unveiled at the 2025 Runway Ball on Saturday, December 14 at the Hilton Boston Park Plaza.

The Power Duo series celebrates influential pairs across New England whose partnership, creativity, and shared vision are shaping the region's cultural, business, philanthropic, and artistic landscape. Bill and Karen—whose impact spans the performing arts, entertainment innovation, community rebuilding, and leadership at both North Shore Music Theatre and Theatre By The Sea—were a natural and unanimous selection.

Their profile chronicles their remarkable journey, both individually and together: from Bill's visionary reinvention of historic theatres across New England, to Karen's courageous and inspirational role in transforming North Shore Music Theatre into one of the region's most beloved artistic institutions. It also highlights their deep partnership, shared mission, and the dynamic synergy that has made them one of New England's most admired arts leadership teams.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Hanney and Karen Nascembeni.

The feature will premiere the same night they take the stage at The Runway Ball, BostonMan's signature winter event that fuses high fashion, culture, performance, and philanthropy before a sold-out audience of the city's most influential creative and business leaders.

To celebrate their selection, Bill and Karen have secured an exclusive promotional code for their network:

Use Promo Code: NSMT50 for \$50 Off Each Ticket to The Runway Ball

Guests will be among the first to receive the historic 7-Year Anniversary Issue, see the full Power Duo portfolio, and experience one of Boston's most spectacular evenings of fashion, entertainment, and community connection.

Launching this year, the Power Duo feature honors the region's

most dynamic pairs who are driving innovation, cultural growth, resilience, and leadership in New England. Each duo is selected not only for their individual accomplishments, but for the transformative impact they make together.

The Runway Ball is BostonMan Magazine's premier annual gala, merging couture runway presentations, live performances, art showcases, and community celebration. The 2025 Ball marks the debut of several new designers, featured performers, and the launch of the 7-Year Anniversary Issue.

Since opening in 1955, NSMT has become one of the most attended theatres in New England, with approximately 250,000 patrons annually. With a national and regional reputation for artistic achievement, NSMT has received numerous industry awards including Elliot Norton Awards, IRNE Awards, the Rosetta Le Noire Award from Actors' Equity, and the Moss Hart Award. NSMT produced the World Premiere of 'Memphis' in 2003, the show went on to win four 2010 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Under the new ownership of Bill Hanney since 2010, NSMT continues to annually produce a musical subscription series and an annual production of 'A Christmas Carol' along with celebrity concerts, children's programming and year-round education classes for children and adults.

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# **OBITUARIES**

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper.

Includes photo.No word Limit.

Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

# Real Estate Transfers

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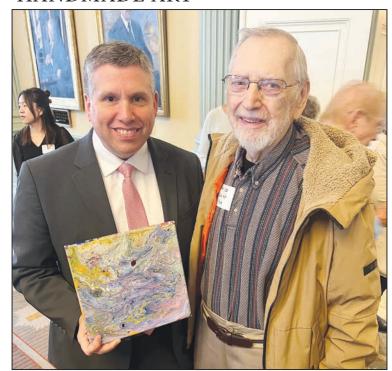


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# OLDER ADULT RESIDENTS GIVE DIDOMENICO HANDMADE ART

Dozens of older adults from 2Life Communities visited the State House and gifted their handmade artwork to legislators, including Senator Sal DiDomenico. DiDomenico said, "It was an honor to receive such a beautiful work of art from one of these talented artists." Residents created their pieces using an acrylic painting technique called tree ring pour painting, chosen because tree rings represent history, strength, and wisdom.

Over the past several months, with support from funding provided by MassHousing, over 70 residents from across 2Life Communities' 7 campuses have engaged in an interactive arts & advocacy project centered around leveraging art to reflect unique identities, stories, and perspectives.



Senator Sal DiDomenico holding the artwork given to him by the artist standing to his left.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with seniors who came to the State House.

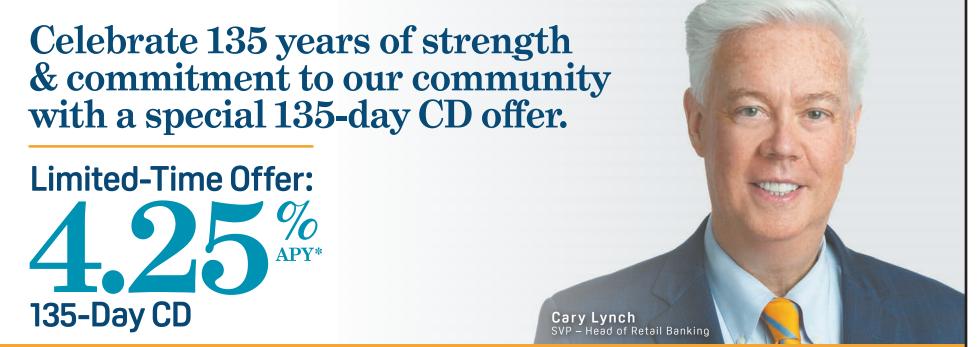


# SUPPORTING STUDENTS, FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE HOCKEY RINK!

Tyler Katz' teachers at Kingsley Montessori School spent their Saturday cheering on his game with the Greater Boston Junior Bruins. This is Tyler's third year on the 2025 Elite Team (part of the E9 league), where he plays left wing. A Charlestown native, he also plays with the Charlestown Townies. For dedicated youth hockey players like Tyler, having family, friends, and teachers in the stands is just "icing" on the cake.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.



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\*New money only. \$250,000 maximum deposit. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate of the date posted and is subject to change without notice. APY assumes the interest remains on deposit until maturity. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. A minimum of \$500 is required to open a Certificate of Deposit and earn the advertised APY.

There's Every Bank, Then There's Every Bank, Then There's