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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



The inaugural Scaled Impact Celebration held at Faneuil Hall.

Mayor Wu hosts the first annual Scaled Impact Celebration

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston's Department of Supplier Diversity hosted the first annual Scaled Impact Celebration. This event, which took place at Faneuil Hall, highlighted the important progress the City of Boston is making towards building a more inclusive economy leveraging procurement opportunities. Scaled Impact celebrated five departments committed to equity in contracting and the 27 graduates of the Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) program.

"Boston's small businesses keep

our city running, strengthen our economy, and anchor our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. With the SCALE Program, we are removing barriers and investing in the businesses that serve our residents and families every day. I'm thrilled to recognize the participating small, local businesses in this inaugural cohort and look forward to building on our efforts to make Boston a home for everyone."

Every year, the City spends more than \$1 billion on contracts—from community events like Open Streets, to trash collection, to providing meals for Boston Public School students. The

Department of Supplier Diversity works to ensure that small and local minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses have the tools and resources they need to competitively bid on these contracts.

Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) is a grant and technical assistance program designed for small businesses in specific industries (snow removal and landscaping, food and dining services, design and architectural services, and construction). The 27 diverse Boston-based businesses selected for the SCALE pro-

(SCALED IMPACT, Pg. 3)

Coletta Zapata reflects on fourth year in office with annual report

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata has released her fourth Annual Report, reflecting on her work in 2025 and her second term on the Boston City Council. The report highlights major accomplishments across District 1, including transformative investments, key policy initiatives, and community-driven efforts, while

also outlining her priorities for the Council and the district in 2026.

"I'm proud of the progress we've made together, and I remain committed to ensuring that every resident in District 1 feels heard, supported, and represented," said Coletta Zapata. "Through collective efforts, we've achieved

(REFLECTS, Pg. 3)

Vibrant array of talent headed to City Hall Plaza and beyond for First Night Boston

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

First Night Boston is proud to announce its full schedule of performances for New Year's Eve, which will fill City Hall Plaza and surrounding venues in the hours leading up to 2026. Musicians, performers, and artists will per-

form in Boston's downtown, with the stage, lights, and ice in City Hall Plaza serving as the event's centerpiece. The latest schedule is included in this release, and all events are free for all.

Festivities for the 50th First

(FIRST NIGHT, Pg. 4)



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COMPASS

EDITORIAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and that 2026 is here -- and that we now are entering the second quarter of the 21st century.

For those of us who ourselves are close to three-quarters of a century in age, as we look back at the quarter-century markers of our lifetime, we realize that when we were young, everything from the past seemed like it was long, long ago (and in a galaxy far, far, away).

For example, when we'd be watching WWII movies such as The Longest Day or The Battle of the Bulge in the 1960s, that war seemed to be entirely of another era. But the historical events depicted in those movies had occurred less than 20 years previously.

That's about the same length of time, for example, that separates the start of the war in Iraq, which was in 2003, to today. Yet as we look back on that war, it seems like it was only yesterday that we were glued to our TV sets watching the U.S. forces advance to Baghdad.

Thoughts such as these make us realize that the one thing we've discovered about aging is that the older we get, the faster that time seems to go by.

We often quote a verse from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells" when we write our annual New Year's editorial.

But after re-reading the poem in its entirety, we are printing the whole thing, because it sums up -- better than we ever could express -- our feelings about the departing 2025 and our hopes for the coming year 2026.

Although it was published in 1850, the poem's verses are timeless. Indeed, one could apply every stanza to something going on in the world today.

So we hope you take the time to read it and enjoy it, as we did the other day:

<i>Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,</i>	<i>Ring out the want, the care, the sin,</i>
<i>The flying cloud, the frosty light;</i>	<i>The faithless coldness of the times;</i>
<i>The year is dying in the night;</i>	<i>Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,</i>
<i>Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.</i>	<i>But ring the fuller minstrel in.</i>
<i>Ring out the old, ring in the new,</i>	<i>Ring out false pride in place and blood,</i>
<i>Ring, happy bells, across the snow:</i>	<i>The civic slander and the spite;</i>
<i>The year is going, let him go;</i>	<i>Ring in the love of truth and right,</i>
<i>Ring out the false, ring in the true.</i>	<i>Ring in the common love of good.</i>
<i>Ring out the grief that saps the mind,</i>	<i>Ring out old shapes of foul disease,</i>
<i>For those that here we see no more,</i>	<i>Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;</i>
<i>Ring out the feud of rich and poor,</i>	<i>Ring out the thousand wars of old,</i>
<i>Ring in redress to all mankind.</i>	<i>Ring in the thousand years of peace.</i>
<i>Ring out a slowly dying cause,</i>	<i>Ring in the valiant man and free,</i>
<i>And ancient forms of party strife;</i>	<i>The larger heart, the kindlier hand;</i>
<i>Ring in the nobler modes of life,</i>	<i>Ring out the darkness of the land,</i>
<i>With sweeter manners, purer laws.</i>	<i>Ring in the Christ that is to be.</i>

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year.

A CORRECTION TO OUR "MAHA MOMS" EDITORIAL

Two weeks ago in an editorial under the headline, "MAHA moms are right about toxic waste," we discussed a petition that some of the members of the MAHA movement had sent to President Donald Trump urging him to fire Lee Zeldin, his EPA administrator, because of Zeldin's recent directives that will make it easier for the production and use of harmful chemicals that threaten to contaminate our air, food, and water.

In that editorial we further wrote: "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," and we used a quote from MCAF founder and director Dominique Browning, which concluded, "Lee Zeldin must go."

Taken together, our editorial suggested that the MCAF had signed onto the petition from the MAHA group.

However, according to a spokesperson for the MCAF, "Moms Clean Air Force is NOT a signatory to the MAHA petition. In fact, Moms Clean Air Force has absolutely no affiliation with MAHA. Moreover, Moms Clean Air Force has its own national campaign calling for the immediate resignation or firing of Zeldin — in fact, Moms Clean Air Force was the first national organization to take such action. But, as Moms Clean Air Force is totally independent of the MAHA petition; the timing was simply coincidental."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CBS: A NEWSROOM OR A PR FIRM?

To the Editor,

I am disappointed by CBS News' spineless decision this past Sunday to pull its investigation into the "Inside CECOT" mega-prison in El Salvador. This was not a failure of journalism; it was a failure of nerve. And an irrefutable sign that "freedom of the press," as guaranteed by our First Amendment is clearly in danger.

The report, led by correspondent Sharyn Alfonsi, documented the "brutal and torturous" conditions facing migrants deported by the Trump administration to a facility described as a living hell. According to internal reports, the story was screened five times and fully cleared by both CBS legal and standards departments. Yet, at the eleventh hour, Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss spiked it, claiming it needed "additional reporting"—specifically, an interview with the very administration responsible for the deportations despite the fact that Alfonsi had previously requested comment from the White House and relevant agencies.

When a news organization allows a government's refusal to comment to act as a veto over the truth, they have, as Alfonsi put it,

handed the state a "kill switch" for any story deemed inconvenient.


In Massachusetts, where we pride ourselves on a history of speaking truth to power, this kind of corporate cowardice is particularly galling. CBS didn't pull the story because it was inaccurate; they pulled it because it was uncomfortable. By choosing political safety over revealing the truth about the suffering in CECOT, CBS has traded its "gold standard" reputation for political appeasement and a week of quiet. In America, every person on our soil has fundamental rights to fair legal treatment, including court hearings and processes, ensuring they aren't deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, meaning even non-citizens facing deportation have rights to fair hearings.

We deserve better from our public airwaves.

Our neighbors to the north in Canada aired the roughly 15-minute segment, which was quickly spread online. For those who want to see the reporting CBS was too afraid to air, you can find the segment here: <https://archive.org/details/60mins-cecot>

Sincerely,

Kane DiMasso-Scott



CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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SCALED IMPACT *(from pg. 1)*

gram received a grant award of up to \$200,000 and engaged in a six month course on capacity building and business expansion with City-selected industry technical assistance providers.

At Scaled Impact, the Department of Supplier Diversity celebrated all SCALE grantees. The following businesses graduated from SCALE.

Construction: Tradeswork

- Better Together Brain Trust (Roxbury)
- Boston BuildHERS LLC (South Boston)
- Golden Key Advisors LLC (Jamaica Plain)
- Truecraft Drywall and Painting (Dorchester)
- MVS Welding LLC (Mattapan)

Construction: General Contracting

- Atomic Ant Construction, Inc. (Hyde Park)
- Bleu Line Designs (Back Bay)
- CAAN Fence Inc. (Dorchester)
- Desmond Tech, LLC (Dorchester)
- Nicoya Construction (Roxbury)

Design and Architectural Services

- Brown Sardina, Inc. (Charlestown)
- Delta Wye Critical Solutions, LLC (Back Bay)
- Joy Squared Design, Inc. (East Boston)
- Saam Architecture, LLC (North End)
- Studio Luz Architects, Ltd. (Roslindale)
- ZeroEnergy Design (North End)

Food and Dining Services

- Ariana Restaurant, Inc. (Allston)
- Bono Restaurant and Catering (East Boston)
- House of Seven Café & Bakery (Dorchester)
- Super Bien (Brighton)
- Ula Cafe (Jamaica Plain)
- Vision's Sown-The Ancient Bakers (Mission Hill)

Snow Removal and Landscaping

- A & M Home Services LLC (Roxbury)
- Earthshapers Cooperative Inc (Dorchester)
- Edwards Group, LLC (Mattapan)
- Los Mellos Cleaning Services, Inc. (Hyde Park)
- RNS Facility Services, LLC (Dorchester)

The Department of Supplier Diversity also honored Boston Public Schools, Boston Transpor-

tation Department, Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Public Works Department and the Property Management Department. From Fiscal Year 2023 to 2025, Property Management awarded nearly \$15 million, or 30 percent, of its total contract awards to certified businesses. The Transportation Department has awarded \$38.5 million in contracts to diverse businesses, accounting for nearly 44 percent of their contract award dollars, in the past three fiscal years. All five of the departments recognized have demonstrated their commitment to Supplier Diversity, and have helped fuel the progress the City has made during the Wu Administration in increasing city discretionary spend and contract award with certified businesses.

Over the past three fiscal years, \$628.7 million in City contracts have been awarded to certified minority- and women-owned businesses, a 94 percent increase compared to the previous four fiscal years. In fiscal year 2025, \$232.5 million in contracts were awarded to certified minority- and women-owned businesses. This is equivalent to 13 percent of all contracting dollars awarded by the City in FY25.

The Department of Supplier Diversity and the Procurement Department also recently released the annual Equity in Contracting Report for FY25, highlighting the City's equitable procurement data and achievements. Additional information about the City's efforts is available on the Equitable Procurement webpage.

"Thanks to the clear, intentional vision set by Mayor Wu to expand economic opportunities for Bostonians, we have achieved sustained year-over-year growth in the amount and value of contracts awarded to qualified small and local minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses," said Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Segun Idowu. "In addition to the capital and coaching the City of Boston provides through programs like SCALE, the third leg of the stool is contracts. Our neighborhoods benefit from greater participation in public procurement by local and diverse firms, helping strengthen them as employers and service providers. I am grateful to my colleagues in public service who have been strong partners in not only achieving this success, but helping to implement policies and programs that will ensure its continuation."

"Scaled Impact celebrates the City's work furthering the Department of Supplier Diversity's mission of making contracting acces-

sible to diverse businesses," said Director of Supplier Diversity Andrea Caruth. "We are grateful for the support we receive under Mayor Wu's leadership to amplify our efforts and support businesses."

Building on the success of the SCALE program, the City also continues to advance policies and initiatives that better support local, small businesses and ensure a more transparent and equitable procurement system. Created by Mayor Wu's home rule petition in 2022, the Inclusive Quote Contracts procurement method—soliciting at least three quotes from certified diverse busi-

REFLECTS *(from pg. 1)*

significant and meaningful change together through policy initiatives and community-based efforts. Thank you for the privilege of serving this community and for the trust you've placed in me. Together, I'm hopeful that we will continue to build on our progress in partnership."

The report highlights the Councilor's collaborative work with city departments to strengthen constituent services, advance critical street and sidewalk improvements including ramp upgrades, pothole repairs, and street repaving. Simultaneously, she has championed key priorities such as affordable housing, climate resiliency, prioritized workforce development opportunities, and high-quality public education.

In 2025, the City Council had its fourth opportunity to influence the budget. Coletta Zapata hosted three town halls to gather input from constituents on priorities, such as the importance of youth programming, job opportunities, trash containerization, pest control, affordable housing, BCYF programming and education. In her report, the Councilor emphasized the importance of community engagement throughout the budget review process, highlighting its critical role in shaping her advocacy and guiding her work.

Throughout the year, Coletta Zapata advanced a comprehensive policy agenda, focusing on both the practical functions and long-term goals for the city. Notable initiatives include:

Accelerating Boston's waterfront resilience through coastal resilience strategies, investments and exploring a municipal Climate Bank to fund climate solutions, create green jobs, and drive equitable economic development.

Reviewing oversight and accountability of Boston's short-term rental ordinance.

nesses—allows City officials to use the written quote process to procure higher values of supplies and services up to \$250,000 when purchasing from certified small, local, disadvantaged businesses. The City has awarded 54 total Inclusive Quote Contracts, 28 of which were awarded in fiscal year 2025. Since 2022, the City has awarded \$7.4 million in contracting dollars to certified businesses through Inclusive Quote Contracts.

The Department of Supplier Diversity (DSD) of the City of Boston is dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in City contracting. DSD certifies businesses owned by people of

color, women, veterans, and small and local businesses, and manages programs to encourage their participation in public contracting and foster their growth. More information about business certifications is available on the certification webpage.

The Procurement Department's mission is to purchase the highest-quality goods and services at the lowest possible price for the City and its residents. Procurement also supports non-profits through community grantmaking. More information about the Department is available on the Procurement homepage.

Proposing increased fines for unauthorized parking during TD Garden events in the North End.

Launching a Region 1 Boston Public Schools community engagement initiative to shape the future of schools in Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End.

Advocating for the expansion of affordable housing across Boston.

Introducing a Home Rule Petition reforming the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Additionally, Coletta Zapata served as Chair of both the Government Operations Committee and the Environmental Justice, Resiliency & Parks Committee. Under her leadership, the City Council passed several critical ordinances, including codifying the Office of Food Justice and establishing the Office of LGBTQIA2S+ Advancement. The Council also advanced efforts to expand food access, support food pantries, and approved grants that unlock investments to strengthen and expand Boston's open and green spaces.

In the new year, Councilor

Coletta Zapata is excited to continue advocating for District 1 and Bostonians city-wide with a robust policy agenda. Looking ahead to the next Council term, the Councilor remains committed to continuing this work with a focus on expanding affordable housing, strengthening high quality public education, advancing innovative climate action, investing in the essential 'nuts and bolts' issues, and building strong workforce development pathways to good-paying jobs in the climate sector as the economy shifts and AI reshapes the workforce.

Coletta Zapata encourages residents to contact her office for a meeting to discuss suggestions and ideas for solving the most persistent issues. To see her 2025 Annual Report in full, please visit bit.ly/GCZReport_2025 for English and bit.ly/GCZ_Reporte2025 for Spanish.

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

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FIRST NIGHT *(from pg. 1)*

Night Boston begin at 10:00 a.m. with performances at the Boston Public Market and exhibits opening at the First Church of Christ, Scientist. At noon, stages alight at Boston Public Library in Copley Square, the Copley Place Mall, and in newly refurbished Copley Square Park. Beginning at 2:00 p.m., outdoor performances kick-off at the main stage in City Hall Plaza with Leaving Irene, Superpink, Houston Bernard, and Mamadou blending a variety of beats for the growing crowds. The ice sculpture gallery will sparkle for all to enjoy, celebrating major events coming to Boston in 2026 and America's 250th birthday.

The Greenway carousel offers free rides through the afternoon, and at Boston Common, archery for beginners opens for guests to take aim at 12:00 p.m. The Skating Club of Boston hosts its first of two figure skating shows in the Frog Pond at 3:00 p.m.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and others will speak from the main stage in City Hall Plaza at 5:45 p.m., before the First Night Parade brings hundreds of performers to Boston Common for the 7:00 p.m. Mugar Family Fireworks presented by The Mugar Foundation. As the countdown continues, the tempo at City Hall Plaza picks up with Sons of Levin, Veronica Robles, Hill House the Band, Kei, and the Sultans putting their local roots and vibrant sounds on display.

As the clock strikes midnight, a second fireworks display will set Boston aglow, with the best vantage points available at Christopher Columbus Park, the North End, and East Boston. The fireworks and headlining performance will cap more than 12 hours of free entertainment, light shows, ice sculptures, and other family-friendly programming ringing in 2026, and continuing the longest-running First Night celebration in the world.

For more information and to support First Night with a donation, the public is invited to visit www.firstnightboston.org.

Full Performance Schedule
(As of December 17, 2025. All times subject to minor changes.)
Church of Christ Scientist
210 Massachusetts Ave., Bos-

ton MA 02115

First Church of Christ, Scientist
– The Mother Church Extension
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy free admission to the How Do You See the World? experience + Mapparium globe from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., tours of The Mother Church at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

First Night Organ Concert
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Soul-touching performances from organists upon one of the world's ten largest organs

Boston Public Market
100 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02108

Jeff Jam Sing-a-long
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Get ready to sing-a-long and dance in the Nook at the Boston Public Market

Fuller and Friends Trio
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Rooted in jazz, funk, and soul music, Fuller and Friends journeys across all genres of music and have you tapping your toes.

Boston Public Library – Newsfeed Cafe
700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Boston Saxophone Quartet
12:00 p.m. - 12:40 p.m.

Performing for more than 30 years, BSQ programs have been successful with developing high school saxophonists the Boston area.

ToriTori
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Boston-born singer, songwriter, bending R&B and Soul into something unique. 2023 R&B Artist of the Year by the Boston Music Awards and Act of the Year by the New England Music Awards

Copley Place Mall
100 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02116

Chu Ling Dance Academy
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Performing at First Night since 1999, a colorful and inspiring performance that showcases the diversity, culture, and art in Boston

Puppet Showplace Theater
1:30 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., 2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Two shows: Party Animals



City Hall Plaza during last year's First Night Boston.

follows five furry friends as they navigate the biggest social hurdle of their young lives – throwing a party! Holiday Sing-Along: A Puppet Variety Show starts at 2:45 with singalongs and festive friends.

Copley Square Park
Copley Square, Boston
Performances by the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association

12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Drumming, dulcimer, guzheng, and Chinese yo-yo performances for all to enjoy

A Trike Called Funk
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Participatory dance and arts experience featuring various music and dance forms, pulsing from a customized cargo tricycle and its sound system.

Boston Public Library – Raab Auditorium
700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Chester Brezniak and Yelena Beriyeve
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Beriyeve has been hailed “the paragon of the concert pianist” and “a standout performer.” Brezniak has performed extensively as an orchestral and chamber music player throughout the US

Alex Minasian Trio
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

New York-based pianist, musical director, and educator known for his versatility across jazz and soul genres. Alex bridges generations of music with deep skill & soul

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116

Emancipation Proclamation Concert
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Handel and Haydn Society and the Museum of African American

History co-present the Emancipation Proclamation Concert, a celebration of liberty and freedom

Boston Common
Archery on the Common
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

On the Mark Archery is a professional traveling archery service dedicated to teaching youths and adults this unique Olympic sport

Frog Pond Skating Spectacular
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

See national and international competitive figure skaters, soloists, groups, wee skaters, and more at the two shows

Mugar Family Fireworks
7:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m.

A spectacular Fireworks display over the Boston Common presented by the Mugar Foundation

City Plaza Main Stage
1 City Hall Sq.
Leaving Irene
2:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

A soundscape of raw emotion, layered with shimmering guitar work and heartfelt lyrics

SUPERPINK
3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

An indie disco band — sometimes instrumental, sometimes lyrical, always funky

Houston Bernard
4:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

Drawing inspiration from Springsteen and Parton, Bernard plays with power, twang, and authenticity

MAMADOU
5:00 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

Blends West African rhythms with, rumba, samba, salsa, and reggae, all rooted in rich guitar and percussion

Boston Music Project
6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Creative youth development program highlighting students unleashing their musical creativity

Sons of Levin
7:20 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Boston-based rock band inspired by acts such as Led Zepelin, The Who, Phish, Grateful Dead and other classic rock mainstays.

Veronica Robles
8:10 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Performance by the Mariachi singer, musician, and Latin American folkloric dancer and choreographer

Hill House the Band
8:50 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Performing a dynamic fusion of funk, soul, and pop

Kei
9:50 p.m. -10:10 p.m.

Performance by Boston's best R&B artist, including singing, dance, and energy

The Femmes
10:30 p.m. - 11:10 p.m.

A performance by an all-woman and non-binary party band specializing in songs by female and non-binary artists

The Sultans
11:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

The Sultans, one of the area's best cover bands will keep the crowd on their feet as the countdown continues

Old South Church
645 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Pipes and Pops Concert
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join organist Mitchell Crawford in a super-sonic program of popular classics. Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes

Boston Harbor
(Off of Long Wharf)

Boston Harbor Fireworks
12:00 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Breathtaking fireworks display over the Boston Harbor, brought to you by Meet Boston.

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781-485-0588 x106

Boston Harbor Now signs memorandum of understanding with City formalizing Harborwalk role

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston Harbor Now - the leading organization advocating for a vibrant, accessible, and resilient waterfront, harbor, and islands - has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Boston formalizing its role as a nonprofit steward of the 43-mile Harborwalk and harbor-wide advocacy organization.

"Boston Harbor Now has played a critical role in preserving, promoting and enhancing Boston's harbor and Harborwalk," said Brian Swett, Boston's Chief Climate Officer. "We look forward to partnering with Boston Harbor Now not only to make our waterfront more accessible and enjoyable for our community, but also to protect our city from the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels."

As Boston Harbor Now approaches its 10th anniversary next year, the MOU puts an official structure around crucial work that the organization has prioritized for years, and commits Boston Harbor Now and the organization's new Senior Harborwalk Manager to several new specific responsibilities, including:

- Assessing conditions and accessibility along the length of the 43-mile Boston Harborwalk and reporting issues requiring attention to City officials for action;
- Creating a master list of all 360-plus Harborwalk properties, and their owners and managers, that are impacted by sea level rise, storm surge, and coastal flooding, and advise on resilience projects;
- Creating voluntary design

standards for the Harborwalk that incorporate resiliency as a key value, including further refining the Harborwalk 2.0 design guide;

- Updating and maintaining the Harborwalk Webtool that helps people find public amenities, some of which are required under the state Public Waterfront Act, including Facilities of Public Accommodation, restrooms, community meeting rooms, water taxi docks, free Wi-Fi, and other public benefits secured by the Commonwealth; and

- Supporting and promoting the City's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the nation's founding;

Boston Harbor Now President and CEO Kathy Abbott said, "This MOU reflects Boston Harbor Now's core commitments to improve access to Boston Harbor while protecting neighborhoods from flooding. Our goal is to ensure our City has one of the world's most attractive, welcoming, vibrant, and resilient waterfronts. Formalizing our relationship with the City gives us both the opportunity to build on and improve the promises of Chapter 91 access improvements while improving resiliency."

In the MOU, Boston Harbor Now also commits to further expanding its collaboration with partners, including the Green Ribbon Commission and Stone Living Lab, in support of identifying opportunities for nature-based and hybrid approaches to climate resilience and potential public and private funding sources to implement the City's "Climate Ready Boston" plans.

Winter weather advisory: keep animals safe and warm this winter

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

With winter—and low temperatures—upon us, it's important to think about how we'll keep all our family members safe, warm, and healthy, including the four-legged ones.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), the nation's leading legal advocacy organization for animals, has tips for how you can make sure your companion animals stay safe even in the worst weather winter has to offer. Dogs, cats, and other companion animals are not equipped to handle the cold much better than humans, so it's important to pay close attention to signals they may be getting

uncomfortable.

- First and foremost, bring your companion animals indoors, where it is warm. If it's too cold for you to be outside, it's too cold—and potentially deadly—for them, unless they are arctic breed dogs that can withstand colder weather such as a husky or malamute.

- Watch for signs of hypothermia—shivering, weak pulse, dilated pupils, stupor, and unconsciousness. If an animal exhibits these symptoms, get them to a veterinarian right away.

- "Salts" that melt snow can

(ADVISORY Pg. 7)



Among those gathered for a holiday luncheon at 1928 Rowe's Wharf to thank those who serve our country were Navy and Coast Guard personnel stationed locally aboard the USS Constitution and USCG base Northeast, respectively. Seen are, from left, former Boston Police Commissioner William Gross; USCG Operations Specialist Chief Colin MacDonald; USCG Command Senior Chief Jimmie Carter; USN Commander Crystal L. Schaefer, commanding officer of the USS Constitution; Males for Military Founder Maureen Byrne; 1928 Rowe's Wharf owner Kristin Jenkins; Marine Corps veterans Ronan Barrett and Danny O'Toole, USN Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Phillip Morris; and USCG Chief Warrant Officer Rob Resendes.

1928 RESTAURANT THANKS SERVICE MEMBERS WITH A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The 1928 Rowe's Wharf restaurant on Dec. 22 served a complimentary Christmas luncheon to military veterans, active-duty service members, and their families as a show of appreciation to the brave men and women who have protected — and those who still defend — the nation. Among the active-duty personnel in attendance were the captain and sailors from the USS Constitution, which is berthed at the Charlestown

Navy Yard, and Coast Guardsmen stationed at USCG-Northeast District, headquartered in the North End.

Kristin Jenkins, the owner of 1928 Rowe's Wharf and its sister restaurant, 1928 Beacon Hill, offered the lunch in gratitude for the sacrifices made by those who serve. The non-profit organization Males for Military, which provides flights home for junior enlisted personnel on leave who otherwise might not be able to afford them, joined the event. Guests were able

to make donations to Males For Military.

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn presented a proclamation from the Council recognizing Males For Military for its support of service men and women. Other speakers included Males For Military founder Maureen Byrne, and former Boston Police Commissioner William Gross, who spoke about service and leadership. Mix 104.1FM morning host Karson Tager, an Army veteran, emceed the luncheon event.

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CITY PAWS

Treats for furry friends

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Winter has restrictions that may impact your companion animals' health. Less exercise and more treats can add up to weight gain before you notice it. One way to avoid this is to consider alternative treats that will make you and your animals feel good without a lot of calories.

Sassy, our first Westie, had a weight problem, which, of course, was a people problem. We gave her too many high-calorie treats. When she hit 20-plus pounds, our veterinarian suggested carrots and other safe vegetables as treats. Sassy's favorite vegetable turned out to be rutabaga. She would stand next to Penny and beg anytime one was on the cutting board.

Whole Dog Journal quoted canine nutritionist Diana Laverdure-Dunetz in their article "How Many Treats Can A Dog Have Per Day." She suggested no more than 10% of a dog's calories should be from treats. On what to use as treats, she said, "...treats containing high amounts of meat, oil, or

sugar, for example, will generally contain more calories than treats containing whole grains, legumes, and non-starchy vegetables. Also, treats that contain more fiber will likely contain fewer calories." Read the ingredient list on a few options before choosing a new treat.

She also reminded us that more active dogs will burn more calories, while older dogs and those who don't get much exercise need fewer or lower-calorie treats. We give our dog Poppy Nulo Training Treats, which are just two calories per treat. In addition, we weigh her food to ensure she doesn't overeat. It may be that your big dog would be just as happy with a couple of small treats as with one big one.

The Best Vegetable Treats

Just like people, companion animals can have different tastes in treats. The best way to find out and ensure you have that vegetable on hand is to start by sharing something you are eating or preparing. Make a list of foods you



Some dogs, like this little one, love carrots and other vegetable treats.

can feed without harm, and refine it to what you usually buy. If green beans are on the menu, offer one to your pal. Cut off a bite of apple as you eat one and see if your dog likes it. Baby carrots are ready to hand out from the package if your pet likes them.

IOU's

We hear so often that experiences are the best gift of all. With an IOU jar, you can replace a treat with something that will make your companion feel the love behind the gift.

Sit and think about experiences and moments your dog or cat seems to love. Write a few on a slip of paper, fold it, and pop it into a jar. You could make multiples for "one extra treat," "a small piece of cheese," or "a favorite scratch."

Poppy loves it when we take a family walk. Most of the time, Ed walks her, but she does seem to like it when we all walk together. On the other hand, a walk with a friend might only take you a few moments to arrange, but it would be an excellent experience for both

of you. If there are dogs that your beast seems to enjoy, send a text and arrange a date to walk together.

Make this winter a time when you maintain your critter's health by adjusting their treats. Giving treats does make both you and your animal happy. You can do that with alternative treats, lower-calorie treats, or smaller treats.

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

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State Fire Marshal issues safety reminder regarding lithium-ion batteries

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

With the holiday gift-giving season in full swing, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents to use caution when choosing and using devices powered by lithium-ion batteries.

Video of a consumer-grade lithium-ion battery failure is attached. The accompanying sounds are alarms detecting toxic and flammable gases.

"Many of this year's Christmas and Hanukkah presents will be use lithium-ion batteries," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "These devices pack a lot of power into a small device, so it's important to choose and use them safely."

- Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, look for a certification mark from an independent testing lab such as UL

or Intertek/ETL. This means the device meets important safety standards.

- Charge devices safely. Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.
- Keep doorways, stairways, and windows clear. A fire involving a large device such as an e-bike can trap residents if left in an escape route like a doorway, stairwell, or window. Store e-bikes and electric scooters outdoors if possible.
- Recycle batteries responsibly. When it's time to dispose of the device or replace the battery, don't throw it in the trash or regular recycling bins. Physical damage in a compactor truck or transfer station is a common cause of lithium-ion battery fires. Instead, bring them to a safe battery recycling location. Visit www.call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

In 2023, the Department of Fire Services launched a data collection tool to help officials track the extent of fires, explosions, and other lithium-ion battery incidents. This investigative checklist is used by the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit, and local fire investigators are encouraged to use it as well. While previous reporting suggested about 20 lithium-ion battery fires per year, the new tool has identified about 90 so far this year.

Visit the Department of Fire Services' website for more lithium-ion battery safety resources.

City of Boston and Public Health Commission warn residents of a significant increase in flu cases

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The City of Boston and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) are informing residents that flu cases are surging earlier this year than last year, with a recent increase of 114% in reported cases. Flu related emergency department visits also increased 44% in that same period of time. The rate of infection is increasing most rapidly among children, with those under age five seeing an 83% increase and those ages 5–17 experiencing a 217% increase. This uptick in flu cases is occurring a month earlier than last season, when Boston did not hit these numbers until January. Further information on rates in Boston can be found on the Flu Dashboard and Wastewater Dashboard.

Residents, especially children and older individuals who are also at high risk, are encouraged to get their annual flu vaccine. Vaccines are highly effective at lowering the risk of severe illness and hospitalization from the flu and are essential for keeping yourself and your community safe this winter. BPHC recommends that everyone age 6 months or older receive an annual flu vaccine. BPHC has hosted 27 free vaccine clinics across 15 neighborhoods, vaccinating more than 2,500 individuals. Despite those and other efforts, as of December

6th, only 30% of Boston residents were vaccinated for the flu.

“Flu cases are on the rise in Boston, and we are urging residents to protect themselves and their loved ones from respiratory illnesses which can cause hospitalization and severe illness,” said Bisola Ojikutu, MD, MPH, FIDSA, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. “Flu spreads easily during this time of the year when we gather together indoors. It is not too late to get vaccinated. Vaccination is the best tool we have to prevent serious illness. The Boston Public Health Commission will be hosting additional vaccination clinics throughout the city in January.”

Appointments to get a flu or COVID-19 shot can also be made at local pharmacies, your community health center, your primary care physician, or at a clinic sponsored by one of the Boston’s hospitals. You can find more information about available vaccines in your area at www.vaccinefinder.org. Community-based organizations also host free flu vaccine clinics around the city, and BPHC will be hosting additional free vaccination clinics for anyone 6 months and over in January 2026; updates can be found at boston.gov/vaccine-clinics, or by calling the Mayor’s Health Line at 617-534-5050.

By practicing core preven-

tion strategies, you can protect yourself and others from flu and other respiratory illnesses. Strategies include practicing good hand hygiene, increasing ventilation and staying home and away from others when sick. Wearing a mask provides added protection against flu, COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses when in crowded spaces. You should consider wearing a mask if you or someone in your household are at increased risk of severe disease.

Individuals at high risk of complications from respiratory infections, including people under two or over 65 years of age, pregnant people, immunocompromised individuals and people with chronic illnesses, should seek medical care if they develop flu-like symptoms or are exposed to flu; early testing and antiviral treatment of flu and COVID can prevent severe illness and hospitalization.

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is the country’s oldest health department. We envision a thriving Boston where all residents live healthy and fulfilling lives. To accomplish this, BPHC works in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, especially those impacted by racism and systemic inequities. Learn more about our work at boston.gov/bphc.

ADVISORY (from pg. 5)

be a serious irritant for an animal’s paws—and some are toxic if eaten. Make sure to wipe or rinse their feet when back indoors.

- Don’t leave antifreeze in open containers. Antifreeze is deadly—its sweet taste attracts almost any animal and will kill them.

- Bang on the hood of your car before starting it—small animals, including cats, may crawl under the hood to find warmth.

Companion animals give us unconditional love but they can’t tell us when they get too cold. A little care and caution will go a long way toward keeping all our family members healthy this winter.

If you see an animal in distress outdoors, call 911.

It is not uncommon for dogs and cats left outdoors in the brutal cold to suffer severe frostbite or even to freeze to death. Some areas, like North Dakota and Minnesota, have recorded temperatures as low as 40 degrees

below zero.

State laws differ dramatically when it comes to defining the standards of care required for animals. Some states fail to expressly include a requirement to provide adequate “shelter” as an element of the crime of animal neglect.

However, others, like North Dakota (mentioned above) expressly mandate it. For example, in North Dakota, neglect of a dog or a cat includes failing to provide “[s]helter from the elements, as appropriate for the species, the breed, and the animal’s age and physical condition.”

But one thing is certain: it is illegal to knowingly cause a companion animal to freeze to death in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

ALDF is frequently contacted regarding animal cruelty charges filed against people who have left animals out in the cold.

Public scrutiny and law enforcement are our best tools to enforce

animal cruelty laws, and that is why we make exposing such neglect—like leaving dogs outdoors to freeze to death—a priority and make sure violators of these laws are held accountable.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund was founded in 1979 to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. To accomplish this mission, the Animal Legal Defense Fund files high-impact lawsuits to protect animals from harm; provides free legal assistance and training to prosecutors and law enforcement to ensure that animal victims are removed from cruelty situations and animal abusers are held accountable; supports tough animal protection legislation and fights harmful legislation; and provides resources and opportunities to law students and professionals to advance the emerging field of animal law. For more information, please visit aldf.org.

OBITUARIES

Jayne Marie Moriarty

One of God's special children – a radiant spirit filled with joy and love

Jayne Marie Moriarty, formerly of Charlestown, and a cherished long-time resident of Woburn, departed from us on December 11, 2025.

Jayne graced this world on November 4, 1962, the beloved daughter of the late Gertrude Butler Moriarty and the late Harris D. Moriarty.

Jayne leaves behind her devoted sister and caregiver, Dawn Moriarty Richards, who lovingly supported her for 28 remarkable years. Jayne was a proud aunt to Michael and Heidi Richards and a great aunt to Aiden Michael Teves.

Jayne was one of God’s special children a true blessing in our lives—a radiant spirit filled with joy and love. Her warmth touched everyone she encountered, and she was affectionately adored in return.

With her infectious laughter and boundless energy, Jayne spent over 30 years attending a day program at Opportunity Works in Newburyport, where she formed countless friendships. She embraced life wholeheartedly, taking joy in simple pleasures like family outings for ice cream or



slushes, and found joy in observing the world around her, often seeing the humor in everyday moments.

Our sweet Jayne was taken from us far too soon, leaving behind a legacy of love and light. Her spirit will forever be missed and cherished in our hearts for the rest of our lives.

Funeral services took place in Woburn on Friday, December 19, followed by interment at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. Contributions in Jayne’s memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

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A group of friends enjoy the Nichols House Museum's annual Holiday House Tour on Dec. 14.



Neighbors and visitors (above and below) lining up at the Nichols House Museum for the annual Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour.

Holiday decorations at the Nichols House donated by Rouvalis Flowers and Gardens. See Page 4 for more photos.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM



CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

STANDINGS FOR THEIR WEEK OF 12/20/2025

	W.	L.	T
Massport's finest	9	3	3
Duce 2	9	4	2
A-1 Convenience	6	5	4
McCarthy Bros.	4	7	4
YMCA	4	8	3
Halligan Club	3	7	5

Players of the week for 12/20/2025
A-1 Convenience - Finn D., Boyd D., Madison G., Jake G.
Duce 2 - Isabel DeLeon, Samuel Ellis.
Halligan Club - Luke M., Quinlan G., Bea W.,Crew H.
Massport's Finest - Lincoln Bagshaw, Kennedy Dighton.
McCarthy Bros. - Walker Carroll, Ayden Brennan.
YMCA - Gennaro M., Callen C., Nora M., Riley O'C.

Early Registration for our 2026/2027 season at:
Charlestown Boys & Girls Club, 60 High St. Saturday
January 3, 2026. 9 - 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 Holiday House Tour reception at the William Hickling Prescott House.

BHWF HOLDS HOLIDAY PARTY 2025

Photos by Marianne Salza

The Union Club of Boston sparkled during the Beacon Hill Women’s Forum (BHWF) Holi-

day Party on December 9. Friends enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres with views of the festively -lit Boston Common. Live musical entertainment was performed by Gracey Wilson and Charles Vada-

la, as well as accordion player, Jeremy Bell, who encouraged guests to wear Victorian-era top hats and bonnets.



Courtney Jones, BHWF Secretary, and her Workday co-workers, John Ivers, Zach Hennessey, Dominic Mosca, Afoo Arafat, Max Sanchez, Tia Freund, Heather Ciottone, and Deanna Tommarello



Accordion player, Jeremy Bell, with friends wearing his Victoria-era hats



Tiana Celesia, BHWF Neighborhood Narrative Director, Jackie McBride, BHWF Book Group Co-Director, and Kati Livingston, BHWF Connections Co-Director

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IN THE
WINTER
SKIES

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massport.com/safety-and-security/drone-safety



Stop & Shop to help feed 2,000 Boston students during the two-week holiday break

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Stop & Shop is partnering with the YMCA of Greater Boston on a special holiday food distribution to ensure Boston students have access to nutritious meals during the extended two-week holiday break. 70% of Boston Public School (BPS) students are characterized as low income and depend on free school breakfast and lunch programs, but can be left without consistent access to food during extended school closures. To help bridge the gap for these families in need, the Stop & Shop School Food Pantry Program is donating more than \$65,000 worth of non-perishable food items to be distributed across 20 BPS schools, prioritizing 2,000 Boston students and families who can benefit the most. In total, Stop & Shop is donating over 22,000 meals to nourish BPS students and their families over the holiday break.

"For students who rely on free school meals, an extended break can create real anxiety about when and where their next meals will come from. Stop & Shop wanted to help bridge that meal gap so students can set aside those worries and fully enjoy their time off with their families," said Roger Wheeler, President of Stop & Shop. "We know the holidays can be financially challenging for many, and we hope this donation can help families focus on the joy of the season rather than the cost of food."

The holiday food bags were assembled by volunteers from Stop & Shop, the YMCA of Greater Boston, Boston Public Schools and Mayor Wu's Community

Engagement Cabinet at the Greater Boston Collaborative Food Hub, a 27,000-foot warehouse established to address the need for greater cold storage and strengthen the city's food access network. Each bag contains non-perishable food items including canned proteins, pasta, fruit cups and other healthy pantry staples to create approximately 11 meals. In partnership with the Y's Hunger Prevention Program, the completed bags were delivered to the 20 BPS schools where they will be distributed to students before December 19th, when Boston school's close for the two-week holiday break.

"No one should have to face uncertainty about their next meal but unfortunately, this is occurring for too many of our neighbors. Thanks to the partnership of Stop & Shop, Boston Public Schools, and Hub Schools, we can help thousands of Boston families bridge the gap and meet needs and be there for each other" said David Shapiro, CEO YMCA of Greater Boston.

"Boston Public Schools is committed to ensuring that our students have access to free, healthy, nutritious meals throughout the school year so students come to school ready to learn," said Eric Stevens, Interim Executive Director of Food and Nutrition Services, Boston Public Schools. "We extend our gratitude to Stop & Shop for their partnership as we work together to expand access to the resources that support the well-being of our students and families."

The Stop & Shop School Food Pantry Program has partnered with BPS Schools for 6 years serv-



PHOTOS COURTESY MATT STONE PHOTOGRAPHY

The holiday food bags were assembled by volunteers from Stop & Shop, the YMCA of Greater Boston.

ing 18 schools through in-school pantries, and the program's donations total nearly \$800,000 to date. The Stop & Shop School Food Pantry Program was established in 2019 to limit barriers impacting students' ability to succeed in the classroom by making sure that they have consistent access to food. The program currently serves over 280 schools across the northeast, including 84 in Massachusetts. It is one of the largest school food pantry programs in the country.

In addition to the holiday distribution, Stop & Shop hosted a holiday celebration at the Mattahunt Elementary School, a BPS Hub School and Stop & Shop School Food Pantry partner, providing cookies and milk for the entire school. Students were able to take photos with Wally the Green Monster, who was dressed in a Santa hat and holiday jersey. The

Mattahunt school received 125 of the holiday bags distributed for winter break.

A neighborhood grocer for more than 100 years, Stop & Shop is focused on delivering a wide assortment of fresh, healthy options at a great value through strong weekly sales and everyday low prices. Its new GO Rewards loyalty program delivers personalized offers and allows customers to earn points that can be redeemed for gas or groceries every time they shop. Stop & Shop customers can choose however they want to shop - whether it's in-store or online, which offers both delivery and same day pickup. The company is committed to making an impact in its communities by fighting hunger and working to ensure no students has to go to school hungry through its Stop & Shop School Food Pantry Program. Headquartered in Quincy, Massachusetts, The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company LLC is an Ahold Delhaize USA

Company and employs nearly 50,000 associates and operates more than 350 stores throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey. To learn more about Stop & Shop, visit www.stopandshop.com.

The YMCA of Greater Boston, one of Massachusetts leading nonprofits and America's first Y, is dedicated to enhancing the mind, body, and spirit of individuals and families in our communities. For more than 170 years, the Y has been developing skills and emotional well-being through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse populations, preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities. We provide welcoming, belonging, and opportunity for all. For more information visit Home - YMCA of Greater Boston (ymcaboston.org), or follow us on Linked In, Facebook, and Instagram.



STOP & SHOP TO HELP FEED 2,000 BOSTON STUDENTS DURING THE TWO-WEEK HOLIDAY BREAK

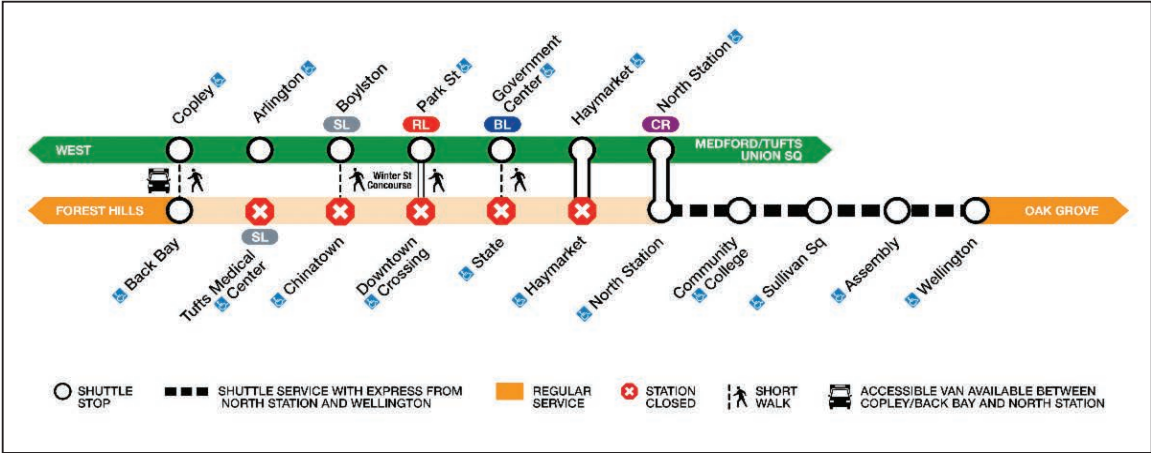
PHOTOS COURTESY MATT STONE PHOTOGRAPHY



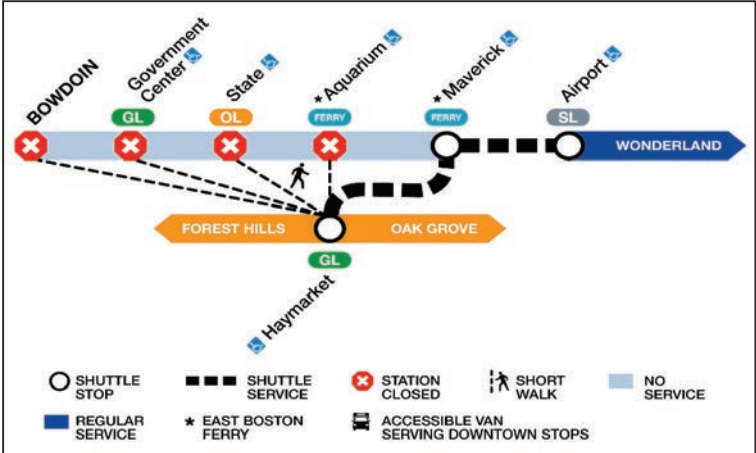
Scenes from the Stop & Shop, and the YMCA of Greater Boston filling bags to deliver around the city to Boston students.



MBTA announces January service changes



The Orange Line



The Blue Line

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Service changes are taking place in January to support Orange and Blue line tunnel inspections, Red Line signal work, MassDOT's West Roxbury Parkway Bridge Replacement project, and the North Station Terminal Area Signal System Improvement Project.

The MBTA announced service changes in January on the Orange, Blue, Red, Needham, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Lowell, and Newburyport/Rockport lines.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/PlannedWork. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA, @MBTA_CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

On the Orange Line:

The MBTA will perform tunnel inspections on the Orange Line

between Wellington and Back Bay in January. Proactive inspections are a critical and necessary part of maintaining the integrity of the system.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place the weekend of January 10 – 11:

Orange Line service will be suspended between Wellington and Back Bay.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate during this service change.

Local shuttle buses will make all stops between Wellington and North Station.

Express shuttle buses will operate directly between Wellington and North Station.

Riders using the shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Downtown Crossing from Wellington should budget at least an additional 45 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

For service through the downtown area near Back Bay, riders are encouraged to utilize parallel

Green Line service between North Station and Copley (which is less than a quarter-mile or about a four-minute walk from Back Bay). The MBTA will increase Green Line service during this time to accommodate Orange Line riders.

There will be free fares with the fare gates open at Back Bay, Copley, Wellington, and North Station.

Riders are encouraged to consider fare-free Commuter Rail service between Oak Grove and North Station as well as between Forest Hills and South Station.

Accessible vans will be available at downtown Orange Line stations between Back Bay and North Station as well as Copley on the Green Line.

On the Blue Line:

The MBTA will perform tunnel inspections on the Blue Line between Bowdoin and Airport in January. Proactive inspections are a critical and necessary part of maintaining the integrity of the system.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place the weekend of January 24 – 25:

Blue Line service will be suspended between Bowdoin and Airport.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops at Airport, Maverick, and Haymarket on the Green

and Orange lines.

There will be no direct shuttle bus service to/from Bowdoin, Government Center (for connections to the Green Line), State (for connections to the Orange Line), or Aquarium.

Bowdoin is 0.3 miles (or about a six-minute walk) from Haymarket and Aquarium is 0.4 miles (or about a nine-minute walk) from Haymarket.

Accessible van service will be available for direct service to Government, Haymarket, Aquarium, and State. Accessible vans can be requested by MBTA personnel or by a station call box.

The East Boston Ferry will operate and be free during this service change.

On Saturday, the ferry will operate from 6 AM to 10 PM.

On Sunday, the ferry will operate from 6 AM to 9 PM.

The ferry will depart from each terminus point every 30 minutes.

Schedules will be available soon at mbta.com/EastBostonFerry.

Riders using shuttle buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Government Center from Wonderland should budget at least an additional 30 – 40 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

There will be free fares with the fare gates open at Airport, Wood

Island, Orient Heights, Suffolk Downs, Beachmont, Revere Beach, and Wonderland.

On the Red Line:

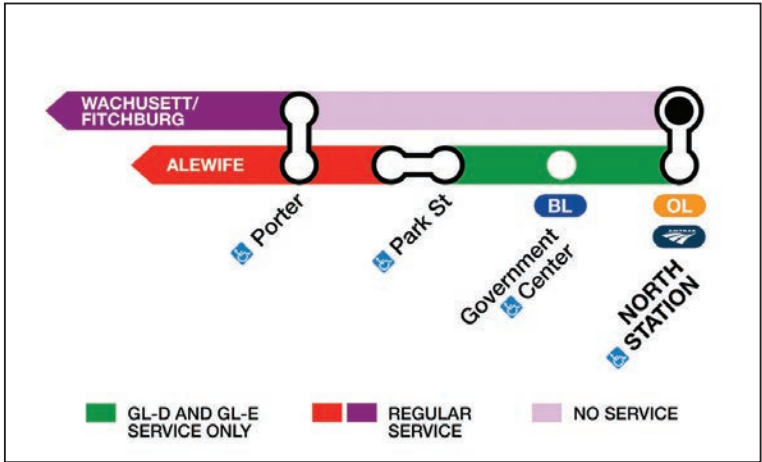
The MBTA will continue signal upgrade and modernization work in January on the Red Line. By upgrading and modernizing its signals, the MBTA will significantly increase operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for riders. The MBTA will also maximize access to closed stations by performing cleaning, signage replacement, plumbing repairs and pump room work, and window replacements throughout the shutdown area as well as preparations for column work at Massachusetts Avenue Station.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place the weekend of January 31 – February 1:

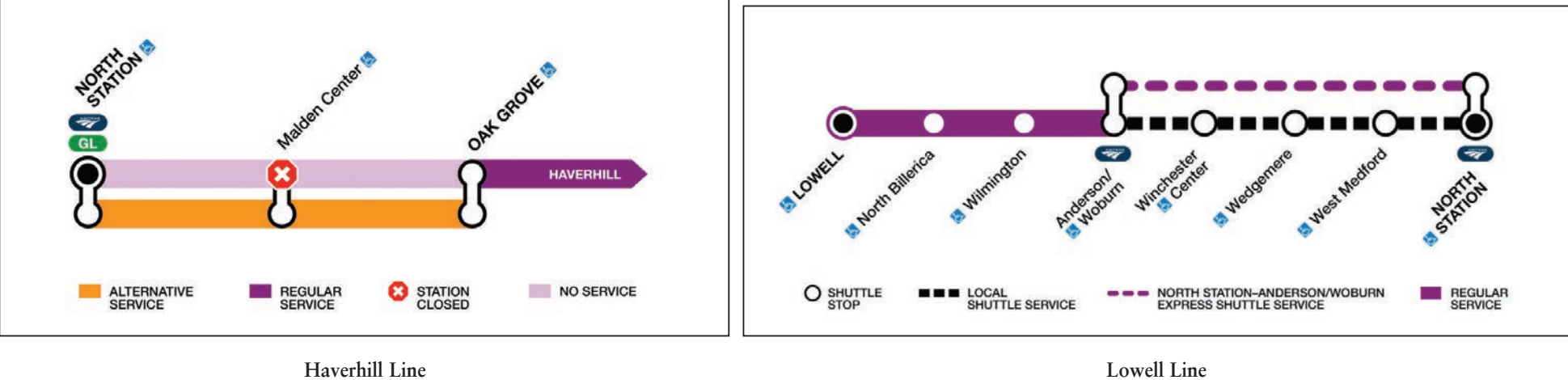
- Red Line service will be suspended between Broadway and Ashmont on the Ashmont Branch and Broadway and North Quincy on the Braintree Branch.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Broadway and Ashmont as well as between Broadway and North Quincy.
- There will be free fares with the fare gates open at Broadway and North Quincy.
- Riders are strongly encouraged to use the Fall River/New Bedford, Kingston, and Greenbush (Old Colony) Commuter Rail lines for fare-free service between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station. Commuter Rail schedules are available at mbta.com/CR.
- Travel time between Braintree and South Station on the Commuter Rail is about 24 minutes.
- Riders should note that regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected for travel beyond Braintree.



Fitchburg, Haverhill, Lowell, and Newburyport/Rockport lines



Fitchburg North



MBTA (from pg. 12)

- Accessible van service will be available between the Savin Hill headhouse and the shuttle stop. Accessible vans can be requested by MBTA personnel or by a station call box.
- Riders using shuttle buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Downtown Crossing from Ashmont should budget at least an additional 40 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

On the Needham Line:

- MassDOT will perform work in January as part of the West Roxbury Parkway Bridge Replacement project, which will replace the bridge that carries the West Roxbury Parkway over the Needham Line.
- To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place the weekend of January 31 – February 1:
- Needham Line service will be suspended between Needham Heights and South Station.
 - There will be no shuttle bus service alternatives for this service change.
 - Passengers may use Bus Routes 35, 36, and 37 between West Roxbury and Forest Hills for connections to Orange Line subway service between Forest Hills

- and Back Bay.
- Passengers may use Bus Route 59 between Needham Junction and Newton Highlands for connections to Green Line D branch subway service to Copley, which is less than a quarter mile away (or about a four-minute walk) from Back Bay.
 - There will be no service at Hersey.
 - Riders using Bus Routes 35, 36, 37, or 59 should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to South Station from West Roxbury should budget at least 35 minutes of travel in addition to their regular trip time.

On the Fitchburg, Haverhill, Lowell, and Newburyport/Rockport lines:

The MBTA will perform work during select weekends in January as part of the North Station Terminal Area Signal System Improvement Project that affects all Northside Commuter Rail lines. This project is replacing the obsolete signal system that controls the movement of MBTA Commuter Rail and Amtrak trains in and out of North Station with a new, state-of-the-art microprocessor system that requires less maintenance and reduces failures and train delays. The area where work is taking place is a complex network of

- tracks and switches that connect the station tracks at North Station, five major Commuter Rail lines, and the Boston Engine Terminal where trains are stored and maintained.
- To accomplish this work, the following service suspensions will take place during the weekends of January 3 – 4, January 17 – 19, and January 31 – February 1:
- Fitchburg Line service will be suspended between North Station and Porter. Passengers can instead utilize the Red Line subway service to and from Porter for alternate connections.
 - Riders traveling to/from North Station should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Porter should budget at least 20 minutes of travel in addition to their regular trip time.
 - Haverhill Line service will be suspended between North Station and Oak Grove. Passengers can instead utilize Orange Line subway service as an alternative between each station.
 - Riders using the Orange Line should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Oak Grove should budget at least 10 minutes of travel in addition to their regular trip time.
 - Lowell Line service will be

- suspended between North Station and Anderson/Woburn.
- Free and accessible local shuttle buses will operate between each station.
 - Free and accessible express shuttle buses will operate directly between North Station and Anderson/Woburn.
 - Regular Commuter Rail fares should be purchased for service beyond Anderson/Woburn.
 - Riders using the shuttle buses should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Anderson/Woburn should budget up to 15 minutes additional travel on the express shuttle and up to 40 minutes additional travel on the local shuttle.
 - Newburyport/Rockport Line service will be suspended between North Station and Swampscott.
 - Free and accessible local shuttle buses will operate between each station.
 - Free and accessible express shuttle buses will operate directly between North Station and Swampscott.
 - Regular Commuter Rail fares should be purchased for service beyond Swampscott.
 - Riders using shuttle buses should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Swampscott should budget up to 40 minutes additional travel on the express shuttle and up to 70 minutes additional travel on the local shuttle.
 - Note: The last outbound trip of the night will also serve Salem and Beverly Depot. There will be no train connections at Beverly Depot.

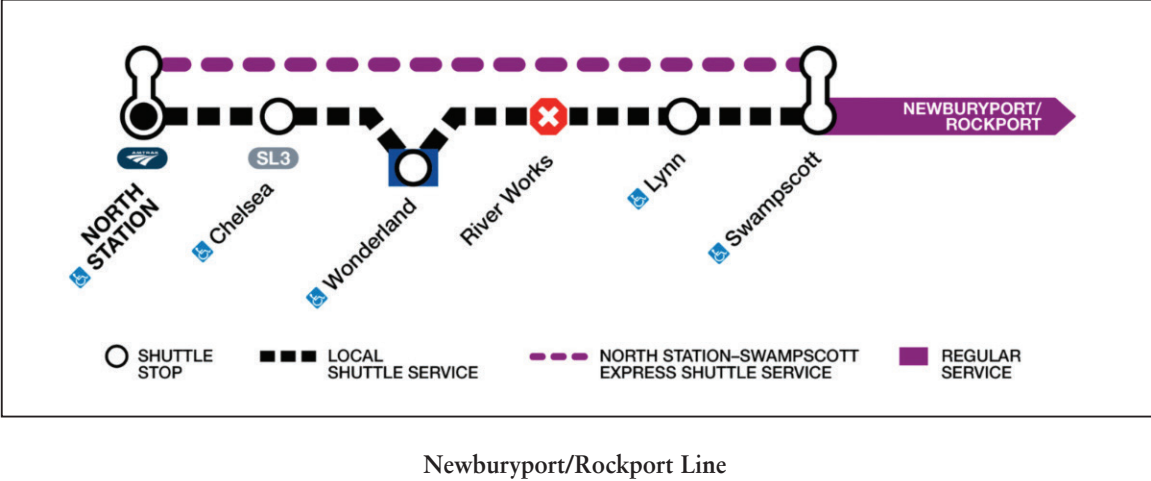
A dedicated diversion schedule will be available soon on MBTA.com/CR.

The MBTA previously

announced service changes in December. More information is available here.

For more information, visit MBTA.com/PlannedWork or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America’s first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on while supporting the region’s economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, Bus Network Redesign, and Rail Vision, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders’ daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, riders are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact mediarelations@mbta.com. For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit MBTA.com or follow @MBTA on social media.



Newburyport/Rockport Line

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.

NeighborHealth appoints veteran healthcare leader Jamie Hazard as President and CEO

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

NeighborHealth announced the appointment of Jamie Hazard as its new President & Chief Executive Officer, following his nine months of service as Interim CEO. A longtime leader in community health system finance and strategy, Hazard has spent more than a decade at NeighborHealth guiding the organization through major growth, financial transformation, and operational innovation.

Hazard steps into the role with a deep understanding of what makes NeighborHealth unique – its roots in community, its people-first culture, and its belief that great care happens when patients, families, and providers are deeply connected.

“Jamie understands NeighborHealth from the inside out, not just the numbers, but the mission, the people, and the communities who count on us every day,” said Rita Sorrento, Chair of NeighborHealth’s Board of Directors. “At a defining moment for our organization, Jamie brought stability and a renewed sense of purpose. His leadership reflects our values of respect and openness, grounded in community, and a commitment to delivering care that goes beyond the clinic.”

Hazard’s tenure as Interim CEO came at a pivotal moment for community health centers nationwide. Amid industry-wide challenges, Hazard stabilized NeighborHealth’s financial position, strengthened employee engagement, and advanced several mission-critical initiatives. By prioritizing listening, collaboration, and clear communication, his approach fostered strong connections and confidence across staff, providers, the board, and commu-



Jamie Hazard.

nity partners.

“NeighborHealth is a part of the social fabric of Greater Boston, and serving as Interim CEO allowed me to see our organization through a different lens,” said Hazard. “What struck me most was the resilience of our team and the extraordinary trust our patients place in us. Stepping into this permanent role is both a privilege and a responsibility I take to heart.”

Hazard’s 13-year tenure as Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer positioned NeighborHealth for success, increasing annual revenue from \$75 million to more than \$300 million, and advancing key expansions in services, facilities, and community partnerships. He also led the financial integration of the South End Community Health Center, secured complex financing for new facilities, and implemented transformative technology systems that improved operational efficiency and patient experience.

Looking ahead, Hazard’s vision builds on the belief that care in community is essential for true health. He plans to expand innovative care models, grow technological and operational capabilities, and continue strengthening

the culture so every employee feels valued and every patient feels seen.

“Our mission has always been to create a compassionate, culturally aligned environment that meets people where they are,” said Hazard. “We belong to these communities, and together we can shape a healthier future, built on connection, dignity, and access for everyone.”

Hazard will begin his role as President and CEO of NeighborHealth on December 19, 2025.

Hazard earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance from Boston College, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts Boston, a Master of Science in Finance from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) as a McDonough Scholar from Georgetown University. He also serves on multiple boards and committees, including Boston Medical Center’s Boston HealthNet, the Community Health Center Committee, the Boston Accountable Care Organization Finance and Contracts Committee, Advocates for Community Health in Washington, D.C., and Community Health Best Practices, LLC in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a 2025 National Quality and Cancer Screening Leader. For more than 50 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston’s South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. With nearly 2,000 employees, NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.

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Revolutionary Spaces set the stage for America’s 250th anniversary with reenactment of the debate that sparked the Boston Tea Party

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

As Massachusetts prepared to launch celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of American independence, Revolutionary Spaces invited the public and media to step back into the charged atmosphere of December 1773, when a single night of impassioned debate helped ignite a revolution.

On Tuesday, December 16, Revolutionary Spaces hosted a special reenactment of the historic Meeting of the Body of the People

at Old South Meeting House—the largest public gathering space in colonial Boston and the site where thousands once assembled to debate British taxation. That contentious gathering ultimately dissolved into the protest now known worldwide as the Boston Tea Party.

The reenactment unfolded exactly 252 years after the original meeting, placing audiences inside the raucous exchanges, rising tensions, and collective resolve that defined the evening.

“These walls bore witness to the

debate, the anger, the hope, and the determination of the community,” said Nat Sheidley, president and CEO of Revolutionary Spaces. “Thousands gathered here to protest taxes, argue about liberty, and ultimately set the Boston Tea Party in motion. It was democracy in its rawest form.”

In addition to the reenactment, participants received an exclusive sneak peek of a new 360-degree immersive experience scheduled to launch on July 1, 2026—just in time for Independence Day and the influx of visitors marking

America’s 250th anniversary. The forthcoming experience will use cutting-edge technology, animation, and sound to transform Old South Meeting House, surrounding visitors with the sights, sounds, and emotions of a community on the brink of rebellion.

The event marked an early milestone in Revolutionary Spaces’ broader efforts to connect the public to the origins of American democracy ahead of the nation’s semiquincentennial, using immersive storytelling to make history immediate, visceral, and relevant.

Revolutionary Spaces stewards Boston’s Old South Meeting House and Old State House as historic landmarks, museums, and active civic spaces. Its mission is to bring people together to explore the American struggle to create and sustain a free society—using history as a powerful tool for civic engagement and public dialogue. Learn more at RevolutionarySpaces.org or follow @RevSpaces on social media.

Senate Tax relief bills advance

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Two Senate proposals aimed at delivering property tax relief to homeowners are currently being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means after advancing in the Senate last week.

S.1933, An Act to Prevent Property Tax Bill Shocks, filed by Senator Will Brownsberger, would allow municipalities to phase in significant residential tax increases over several quarters and provide targeted relief to seniors, low-income residents, and others most vulnerable to residential property tax increases.

S.1935, An Act Relative to Municipal Tax Relief, filed by Senator Nick Collins, would authorize municipalities to issue uniform rebates to homeowners using surplus revenue. This would provide immediate relief to residential property owners without undermining fiscal stability.

The City of Boston’s budget

has grown 26% over the last four years. With the City refusing to reel in spending, they have decided to increase taxes on commercial property owners and homeowners. Boston property tax increases for 2026 have been set for homeowners at the following rates: \$12.40 per \$1,000 in value for residential and \$26.96 per \$1,000 in value for commercial. Both represent an unnecessary increase over last year.

According to Evan Horowitz, Executive Director of the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University, the City is “choosing to raise tax rates and pretending that it’s not a choice at all, that they’re being forced to do it and someone should rescue them.”

Furthermore, while the City continues to raise taxes on residential and commercial property owners, they are currently sitting on over \$552 million in reserves.

The Senate bills are focused on providing relief to residen-

tial property owners to mitigate municipal property tax increases on homeowners by leveraging the City’s substantial taxpayer reserves.

The goal of the Senate bills is to provide municipalities with the tools to provide real relief for residential taxpayers without harming small businesses or putting the economy at risk. With affordability on everyone’s minds, increasing the tax burden unnecessarily on homeowners and businesses to perpetuate exponential and irresponsible spending increases is unacceptable.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means will receive written testimony on legislation related to municipal property taxes beginning Thursday, December 11, 2025, through Monday, December 29, 2025, at 5 p.m. The public is encouraged to participate by submitting written testimony via email to SenateCommittee.Ways&Means@masenate.gov.

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Fifth annual Rally 4 Nally Polar Plunge set for Jan. 3 at Carson Beach

Milestone event aims to surpass \$500,000 raised for ALS care and family support

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

To honor the life and legacy of Cathy Nally and support families impacted by ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), siblings Dan and Betsy Nally will host the 5th Annual Rally 4 Nally Polar Plunge on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at Carson Beach. Proceeds from the event will benefit Compassionate Care ALS (CCALS) and The Peter Frates Family Foundation, continuing Cathy's mission to ensure families facing ALS receive compassionate care, critical resources, and hope.

Cathy Nally, of Westwood and Boston, passed away in August 2022 after a courageous two-year battle with ALS. Since its inception, Rally 4 Nally has raised more than \$430,000 to support individuals and families living with the disease and to advance critical care and research initiatives. Organizers expect the 2026 event to push total fundraising past \$500,000, marking a significant milestone in the fight against the disease.



Supporters pictured at a previous Rally 4 Nally Polar Plunge.

Event Details

Event: Rally 4 Nally Polar Plunge & Reception

Date: Saturday, January 3, 2026

Time: Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.; plunge at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Location: Carson Beach Boat-house, William J. Day Blvd., Boston, MA

Post-Plunge Reception: 12:00 p.m. at Loco Taqueria, 412 West Broadway, Boston, MA

To register or donate, visit

<https://givebutter.com/rally4nally>.

"It's hard to believe that January 3, 2026 will mark our fifth Annual Rally 4 Nally," said Dan Nally. "This event has grown into something far bigger than we ever imagined. With the continued generosity of our community, we're hopeful that this year will bring us past \$500,000 raised for Compassionate Care ALS and The Peter Frates Family Foundation."

Nally added that the milestone carries special meaning given the realities of ALS. "Every year, approximately 5,000 people in

the United States are diagnosed with ALS, and the average life expectancy is less than five years. With no cure and limited options to slow progression, families need immediate support. These two organizations are dedicated to providing grants, equipment, education, and peace of mind so families can focus on cherishing time together."

Compassionate Care ALS (CCALS) is a nonprofit organization that supports individuals living with ALS, along with their families, caregivers, and health-

care providers, through comprehensive services addressing both physical and emotional needs. The organization became a lifeline for the Nally family early in Cathy's diagnosis, providing hands-on guidance and support throughout her journey.

The Peter Frates Family Foundation is a grant-based organization that assists families with the overwhelming cost of in-home care as ALS progresses. Founded in honor of Pete Frates—diagnosed with ALS at age 27—the foundation continues his legacy of advocacy and action. A former Boston College baseball captain, Frates helped launch the viral Ice Bucket Challenge in 2014, which raised more than \$225 million worldwide for ALS research and family support. Funding from that effort contributed to new treatment development, including Relyvrio, approved by the FDA in September 2022.

To mark the fifth anniversary, the Nally family has set an online fundraising goal of \$55,000, with additional proceeds raised through a silent auction, raffle prizes, and a post-plunge celebration. Community members are invited to take the plunge, donate online, or support the effort from afar in Cathy Nally's memory by visiting <https://givebutter.com/rally4nally>.

Milton teen delivers thousands of socks to St. Francis House

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

For the 11th year in a row, Milton teen Sophia Casini continued a tradition of generosity by delivering thousands of pairs of new socks to St. Francis House in downtown Boston. Now 14, Sophia founded Sophia's Socks for the Homeless at just 4 years old, after learning that socks are among the most request-

ed items at homeless shelters. This year's drive collected 4,800 pairs of socks, bringing her lifetime total donated to St. Francis House to an impressive 31,501 pairs.

Sophia was joined for the Sunday morning delivery by her parents, Rachael and Michael Casini, and her grandparents, Nancy and Kevin Sullivan—all of whom help support the sock drive each year,

from collection through delivery. Over time, what began as a small family effort has grown into a meaningful community tradition, demonstrating how one young person's compassion can inspire sustained action and impact.

Located just steps away from Beacon Hill at 39 Boylston Street, St. Francis House shelters and supports up to 500 individuals each

day. Founded in 1984, the organization is New England's largest daytime shelter, providing meals, clothing, and critical services to more than 10,000 adults each year. Donations like Sophia's help ensure that guests facing homelessness can stay warm, healthy, and treated with dignity—especially during the cold winter months.



Sophia Casini.

Bea's Big Freedom Trail Adventure

When this spirited puppy wanders too far from home in Charlestown, she finds herself on a big journey along the historic Freedom Trail. From the tall shadow of the Bunker Hill Monument to the masts of the U.S.S Constitution in the Navy Yard, Bea sniffs out surprises as she tries to find her best friend, Tom.

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All proceeds from this book support Harvest on Vine Food Pantry in Charlestown

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