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FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

TURNING BAD WEATHER INTO FUN



NOLA SHANBAUM PHOTO

Someone was out having some fun during the recent snow storm making this snowman in front of the playground on the Boston Common. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.
(Nola Shanbaum is a student in the Boston University Journalism program.)

Wu urges caution as bitter cold weather remains

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced a cold weather advisory and shared winter safety tips through Saturday, January 31, due to the extreme cold weather forecasted for this time period. Boston is forecasted to experience wind chills reaching as low as -5 degrees tonight into Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Due to the anticipated frigid

cold weather that is following the snowfall, it's important for residents and property owners to clear snow before it freezes to avoid dangerous conditions for vehicles and pedestrians.

"As this stretch of winter weather continues with freezing temperatures and strong wind gusts through the rest of the week, we urge everyone to stay vigilant and take all necessary precautions," said Mayor Michelle

Wu. "I'm grateful to all of our city teams who continue to work around the clock to ensure our residents and families are safe and warm. With this ongoing bitterly cold weather creating the potential for snow freezing over into ice, we are reminding all property owners to thoroughly clear their sidewalks for everyone's safety."

The City of Boston issues a cold

(CAUTION, Pg. 3)

Coletta Zapata named Chair of Government Operations and City Council Vice President

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata has been named as the Chair of the Government Operations Committee and City Council Vice President for the 2026-2027 legislative year. In the last council session, Coletta Zapata served as Chair of the Government Operations and Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks Committee.

"I'm honored to continue serving as Chair of the Government Operations Committee and proud of what we accomplished last legislative cycle advancing responsible governance and promoting equity, sustainability, and livability across Boston," said Coletta Zapata. "Residents entrusted us with moving the needle on the issues that impact their daily lives, and it is our responsibility not just to identify challenges, but to propose and advance real solutions that serve our communities. I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues to ensure a productive legislative session while advancing policies that make Boston a city that works for all its residents."

As Chair of the Committee on



City Councilor
Gabriela Coletta Zapata

Government Operations, she plays a central role in the City Council's legislative process overseeing the review, analysis, and negotiation of all ordinances, home rule petitions, and special laws before they advance to the full Council or the Mayor's desk. This position serves as the final checkpoint for accountability, legal precision, and policy alignment across all city departments, ensuring that every law enacted reflects both community needs and sound governance.

(CHAIR, Pg. 3)

CNC MEETING DATES

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 7 PM, Knights of Columbus

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus, located at 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. The agenda will include an update from the City of Boston Transportation Department on current projects and plans for Rutherford Avenue. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com

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COMPASS

EDITORIAL

THE PITT DEMONSTRATES A HEALTHCARE SYSTEM ON LIFE SUPPORT

The Pitt, the critically-acclaimed hit series on HBO about an emergency room in a big-city hospital in Pittsburgh that has just begun its second season, is far more than just good entertainment.

The critically-acclaimed show also accurately portrays the critical condition of our healthcare system, which is spiraling ever-downward with no bottom in sight.

This by no means is the fault of the incredibly dedicated and competent doctors, nurses, and staff who serve all of us in our healthcare system.

This is a systemic problem in the United States that has been building for decades, fueled by: shortsighted reductions in hospital capacity; underinvestment in education, research, and supply-chains; the lack of focus on urging Americans to adopt a healthy lifestyle; the charlatans and corporate interests who have spread misinformation about vaccines and healthcare information; and the tidal wave of demographic shifts thanks to the aging of the Baby Boomer generation.

In addition, there is the most-recent strain on the system resulting from the political failure to reform our immigration laws that could provide for the hundreds of thousands of needed healthcare workers -- the doctors, nurses, nursing home and hospital employees, and home healthcare aides who form the backbone of our nation's healthcare system -- to be able to come to this country in order to fill the huge gaps created by employee shortages in all aspects of our healthcare system.

The Pitt highlights all of these issues. The show makes it abundantly clear that our healthcare system, and those who work in it, are being completely overwhelmed by the demands being placed upon them day-in and day-out.

The show also makes it clear to viewers that the last place you want to end up these days is an emergency room. We ourselves have had the misfortune to be there on several occasions over the past few years -- for ourselves, our families, and our friends -- and it is no exaggeration to say that a visit to the ER anywhere, anytime is to be dreaded, truly almost a fate worse than death.

The sad -- and tragic reality -- is that the essential services that Americans took for granted 20 years ago are in short supply today.

Given the inaction of our politicians, it is obvious that there is no ready solution to the healthcare crisis in the United States. The cavalry is not coming anytime soon.

On the other hand, as we have written many times previously, this is a man-made problem for which the only realistic solution on the horizon rests with the robots (i.e., artificial intelligence), who hopefully will come sooner rather than later to save us all.

THIS IS THE SAD-DEST TIME OF THE YEAR -- SO GET OUTSIDE

With the oppressiveness of a New England winter fully upon us, for many this can be the saddest time of the year -- quite literally.

The medical community has long-recognized that the shortened days of winter affect all of us to a certain extent and have given it a name -- Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Scientists do not understand exactly how the lack of daylight works on our brains, but demonstrable symptoms of the syndrome include heightened anxiety, a decrease in energy, oversleeping, an increase in appetite (marked by a craving for carbs that leads to weight gain), social withdrawal, and negative thoughts in general.

There are some treatments for SAD that may work for some people (such as light therapy, antidepressants, and vitamin D) in consultation with a doctor.

But there also are the simple solutions of spending more time outside during daylight hours and exercising regularly.

In our personal experience, we've found that the latter prescription -- exercising and going outside, even on the coldest of days -- has proven the best antidote to winter's doldrums.

All of us can recall the exhilaration we felt as children when we went sledding, skating on a pond, and shoveling snow. Although we're a bit too old these days to do most of those things, we've found that taking on the wintry blasts that we've endured these past few weeks by jogging and walking (even when the wind chills are in the single digits) each and every day never fails to bring us that renewed sense of vitality that we experienced in our youth when we embraced nature's harshest elements with barely even a thought about it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

57TH MICHAEL P. QUINN DINNER DANCE SET FOR MARCH 28

Over the years much has changed, in 1969 average cost of a new house was \$ 15,550.00, new car \$3,270.00 and the cost per gallon for gas was 35 cents.

The Quinn Scholarship continues to award annual scholarships to the fine men and women of our beloved town.

Remaining to survive is made possible by your fiscal

support.

We will continue our tradition as we celebrate the 57th Michael P Quinn Scholarship Dinner Dance on 3/28/2026, at Bunker Hill Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford St, Charlestown, Ma 02129. This evening we will be saluting the 2025, Quinn scholar Grace Gans Linnane a 2025 graduate from East Boston High and matriculating at Assumption University with the class of 2029

Our featured speaker will be Brigadier General Joseph A Katz, U.S.M.C., Commanding

General, 4th Marine Logistic Group. General Katz is a Boston native, and a 1998 graduate of Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Once again the six course meal will be provided by Sandy Griffin McLaughlin, and the musical enjoyment provided by Alan La Bella. Tickets are \$ 50.00 per person and can be purchased by email maryfitzpatrick@comcast.net, or calling 617-242-5493.

As always your perpetual support is cherished.

Ronan J FitzPatrick
Treasurer

CHAIR (from pg. 1)


Under her leadership in the previous Council session, the City Council passed several critical ordinances, including codifying the Office of Food Justice, prioritizing surplus municipal property for affordable housing, and protecting workers from heat-related illness and injury. As Chair of the Government Operations Committee, Coletta Zapata reviewed and passed 42 Home Rule Petitions and 16 ordinances. As Chair of Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks, 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. Her prior service as Chair of these committees and her track record of building consensus across complex policy areas position Councilor Coletta Zapata to be an effective partner to Council President Liz Breadon, helping guide the Council's legislative priorities and ensure smooth, collaborative Council operations in her new role as Vice President.

The Boston City Council meets on Wednesdays at 12pm in the Iannella Chamber of Boston City Hall. The first Council Meeting of 2026 is scheduled for January 28, 2026. City Council meetings and hearings can be found at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/city-council>

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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CAUTION (from pg. 1)

advisory when there is one day or more of 0°F or below observed wind chill. Due to the low temperatures, there is an increased risk for hypothermia and frostbite for certain individuals, such as those experiencing homelessness, the elderly, and young children. Cold weather may also exacerbate health issues in high-risk populations.

Following the major winter storm that dropped 23 inches of snow, the eighth-largest snowfall on record, the City continues cleanup efforts across all neighborhoods. At the height of the storm, the Public Works Department deployed over 900 pieces of equipment to treat and clear streets throughout Boston.

While streets have been cleared, snow plowing and roadway treatment operations are ongoing as residents work to clear snow around their parked vehicles and property. Space savers should be removed by Wednesday evening. They will start to be picked up on Thursday as part of regular trash collection.

Crews are working to improve visibility around intersections and to ensure safe access to crosswalks and curb ramps. Both pedestrians and drivers should use caution at intersections where snowbanks may impact visibility. Public Works continues to coordinate with Boston Public Schools to ensure bus routes are accessible. To clear routes and create more space at key intersections, Public Works will begin snow removal operations tonight at 10 p.m. and continue through 5 a.m. tomorrow. Residents may see heavy equipment working to remove large piles of snow from the street to various off-road locations.

"We sincerely thank all our residents, commercial property owners and institutions who took the time to clear their property in a timely manner," said Nick Gove, Interim Chief of Streets. "Your cooperation and partnership supports our efforts to keep our neighborhood streets and sidewalks clear, safe and accessible for everyone."

Mayor Wu is advising all residents to take precautions, including reminding everyone to check in on older adults, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. If anyone sees someone experiencing homelessness out in the cold, please call 911. If residents are aware of anyone staying in a vehicle or a place not intended for living during these extreme cold temperatures, residents are encouraged to call 911 as well.

While the temperature forecast does not reach the threshold for declaring a cold emergency, Bos-



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

A whopping 23.2 inches of snow blanketed Boston from Sunday, Jan. 25 to Monday, Jan. 26, according to the National Weather Service. The storm marked the eighth-highest accumulation in the city, surpassing the Blizzard of 2005 (22.5 inches). Mayor Michelle Wu is seen at a Jan. 24 press conference in preparation for the storm at the Eagle Room in City Hall.

ton Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) will be open Tuesday through Saturday during their normal operating hours. A full list of locations and their hours can be found here. Residents can also visit the Boston Public Library's Central Library in Copley Square or any branch location during BPL's normal operating hours.

Information and resources to support individuals experiencing homelessness:

- If you see a person experiencing homelessness or individuals out in the cold who appear immobile, disoriented, or underdressed for the cold, please call 911.

- The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) utilizes a city-wide network of emergency shelters, outreach providers, city agencies, and first responders to assist those in need of shelter.

- Boston Public Health Commission's emergency shelters are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and when temperatures are below freezing (32 degrees), amnesty is in place for those with nonviolent restrictions. Men can access shelter at the 112 Southamptton Street Shelter, and women should go to the Woods Mullen Shelter at 794 Massachusetts Ave. BPHC and the City also work closely with other shelter providers to ensure that no client is without shelter, food, resources, and a warm respite from the cold.

- Shelters are available any time of day or night for those in need.

- During extreme cold weather, street outreach teams operate with extended hours and provide mobile outreach vans on the streets in the evening and throughout the day.

Cold weather safety tips:

Dress for the weather:

- Wear several layers of

loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.

- Outer garments should be tightly woven and water-repellent.

- Wear mittens over gloves; layering works for your hands as well.

- Always wear a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

- Dress children warmly and set reasonable time limits on outdoor play.

- Restrict infants' outdoor exposure when it is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Watch for signs of frostbite:

- Signs of frostbite include loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.

Watch for signs of hypothermia:

- These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. Contact a healthcare provider immediately if you or someone you know shows any of these symptoms. If symptoms are severe, call 911.

Heating guidelines for property owners and tenants:

- Following the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, the heating season officially begins on September 15 and runs through June 15. Property owners must heat habitable spaces at a minimum temperature of 68 degrees between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. and 64 degrees between 11:01 p.m. and 6:59 a.m.

- In case of emergency, property owners are encouraged to keep a list of licensed contractors (electrician, plumber, and general contractor) on file. Tenants experi-

encing problems with their heating system should check the thermostat, ensure the dial is turned on, and report insufficient or no heat problems to the property owner or manager immediately.

- If your landlord or property manager is unresponsive, call 311 to file a complaint.

Heating safety:

- Never try to heat your home using a charcoal or gas grill, a kitchen stove, or any other product not specifically designed as a heater. These can quickly cause a fire or produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

- Have your heating system cleaned and checked annually.

- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas produced whenever any fuel is burned. Common sources include oil or gas furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, stoves, and some space heaters. It has no smell, taste, or color, but it is poisonous and can be deadly.

- Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn, including people.

- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room, or go to bed.

Tips to keep water flowing and pipes unfrozen during extreme cold:

- The Boston Water and Sewer Commission recommends homeowners locate their home's main water shut-off valve and learn how to use it. Should a frozen pipe burst, shutting the main valve quickly will minimize flooding and property damage.

- Homeowners should insulate pipes in unheated areas like basements, garages, and crawl spaces. Use inexpensive hardware store materials to prevent pipes from

freezing and to keep warm water flowing.

- Keep cabinet doors open to circulate warm air around pipes. A trickle of tap water through pipes during extreme cold can also help prevent them from freezing up.

- Locate your water meter, protect it from drafts, and make sure basement doors and windows are shut tight.

- If pipes freeze, thaw them slowly with a hair dryer, if possible. Never use an open flame to thaw pipes. If water is lost in all taps, call the BWSC 24-hour Emergency Assistance Line at 617-989-7000.

Emergency home repair resources:

- Income-eligible homeowners and Boston residents over age 60 can receive assistance with winter emergencies and repairs, such as fixing storm damage, leaking roofs, furnaces, and leaking/frozen pipes. For assistance, residents should call the Mayor's hotline at 311 or the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663).

- In addition, the Mayor's Seniors Save program helps income-eligible Bostonians over the age of 60 replace old, inefficient heating systems with a brand-new heating system, even before a failure occurs during the cold winter months. Older adults can also call 311 or the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663) to be connected with a City staffer to provide additional details.

- The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) will have additional staff available to support residents throughout the extreme weather.

For alerts, including cold-weather alerts, residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert Boston. More information can be found on boston.gov/cold.

LOCAL

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City of Boston conducts 46th annual homelessness census

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu, Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon and Commissioner of Public Health Dr. Bisola Ojikutu led more than 300 volunteers, including state and city officials, homelessness service providers, public health representatives, and first responders, in conducting the City of Boston's 46th annual homelessness census. This comprehensive annual effort is part of Boston's yearly work to assess and address homelessness by counting individuals and families experiencing homelessness, living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence programs, and unsheltered places. The count of Bostonians plays a crucial role in guiding the allocation of City resources to aid people experiencing homelessness.

"Boston's annual homelessness census is an important part of our work to better understand the needs of unsheltered Bostonians and to connect individuals to services," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "At a time when housing costs continue to skyrocket, the data collected through our annual census is critical as we urgently work to create more housing and support our residents. We are grateful to our partners and the dedicated volunteers across the city for their collaboration in making this year's census possible."

At this year's census, volunteers canvassed 45 areas, includ-

ing every city neighborhood, Logan Airport, and Boston's transit and parks systems, starting just before midnight. They conducted surveys, identified those sleeping on the streets, and distributed safety information and items to help individuals stay warm. Survey results will be analyzed, cross-checked with shelter data, and used to inform policies and allocate resources. This effort is required annually by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"The annual homelessness census is more than a count—it is a critical step in understanding the challenges faced by our most vulnerable residents and shaping strategies to meet their needs," said Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing. "These findings guide our work to connect individuals and families with stable homes and the supportive services necessary for long-term success. In partnership with our talented and dedicated non-profit organizations, we remain focused on preventing and ending homelessness."

"Homelessness has a profoundly negative impact on physical health and mental well-being. Our annual homeless census is an important tool that we use to improve access to stable housing because it is so essential," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "The Boston Public Health Commission will continue to



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY ISABEL LEON

More than 300 volunteers canvassed every Boston neighborhood for the 46th Annual Homelessness Census.

work closely with Mayor Wu and City partners to offer emergency shelter and connections to other necessary services. Addressing the needs of those facing homelessness is part of our ongoing effort to make Boston a place where everyone can thrive."

In 2025, the homelessness census showed meaningful progress in Boston's efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness. Overall, homelessness declined by 4.3 percent, reversing several years of post-pandemic increases that had been seen locally and nationwide. More than 2,800 people exited homelessness to permanent housing in 2024—up 41 percent from the prior year—reflecting significant gains for individuals, families, veterans, and unaccompanied youth. Boston continues to have one of the lowest rates of unsheltered homelessness among major U.S. cities, with just 2.4 percent of people experiencing homelessness living on the street. Veteran homelessness decreased by nearly 15 percent—part of a 55 percent reduction since 2011. Unsheltered homelessness has declined by nearly 57 percent since 2007, and there were no unsheltered families on the night of the census, a milestone Boston has maintained since federal reporting began.

Expanded shelter capacity, strong partnerships, and sustained investments in affordable and permanent supportive housing have driven these outcomes. This includes major developments such as 140 Clarendon Street, 37

Wales Street, The Lyndia, and multiple projects serving families, youth, and individuals with high service needs. With 100 additional supportive housing units currently under construction, almost 200 units in the pipeline, and new shelter-to-housing initiatives underway, Boston remains focused on moving people quickly and safely from homelessness to stable, permanent homes.

"The homelessness census helps Neighborhood Services and the City better coordinate outreach, deploy resources where they are needed most, and work closely with residents, service providers, and other City departments to respond with care, consistency, and compassion in every neighborhood," said Mohammed Missouri, Executive Director of Neighborhood Services. "It offers critical, on-the-ground insight, informing us where people are sleeping outside and which neighborhoods are most impacted."

"Boston's annual homelessness census is a vital tool for understanding the realities faced by people experiencing homelessness and ensuring they are connected to the right supports," said Andrew McCawley, President and Chief Executive Officer of the New England Center and Home for Veterans. "For veterans in particular, this effort helps strengthen coordination between outreach teams, housing providers, and service organizations so we can move people more quickly from the streets into stable, permanent homes."

"The annual homeless census provides an essential snapshot of who is experiencing homelessness in Boston," said Lyndia Downie, President and Executive Director of Pine Street Inn. "This census information strengthens our ability to target resources, refine programs, and support people in securing housing with support so they can rebuild their lives. Working together with our partners at the City of Boston and other providers, Boston has maintained a very low street count of under 2.5% -- but even one person on the street is one too many," she added."

The results of the 2026 homelessness census will be available in the coming months.

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) is to foster healthy, vibrant, and welcoming communities for all by ensuring stable, environmentally friendly, and accessible housing, as well as the sustainable use of land. The MOH achieves this through creating and preserving income-restricted housing, supporting residents in buying and maintaining their homes, and developing housing policies that promote access and long-term stability. It also works to prevent evictions, implement housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness, and make Boston's housing stock healthy, resilient, and environmentally sustainable. For more information, please visit the MOH website.



Mayor Michelle Wu with census volunteers.

SCENES FROM THE CITY OF BOSTON’S 46TH ANNUAL HOMELESSNESS CENSUS

MAYOR’S OFFICE PHOTOS BY ISABEL LEON



Massport releases Draft 2025 Strategic Plan; public input will help shape the Authority's vision for the next decade

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) announced the release of its draft Strategic Plan and is seeking public comment to help shape Massport's path forward. The Plan builds on Massport's strengths and a decade of progress, assesses current conditions and trends, and identifies future challenges and opportunities. It balances operational excellence with inclusive forward-looking growth, reaffirming the Authority's commitment to safe, efficient, sustainable operations that engage and benefit the communities we serve. The Strategic Plan sets a vision for the next decade and outlines a flexible, action-oriented path to achieve it.

The public comment period opens today and runs through March 6th. The Plan and opportunity to provide feedback can be accessed here: <https://www.massport.com/strategic-plan>.

"Massport has not undertaken a strategic planning effort in a decade. As a central engine of economic activity, we need to plan for the future and respond to growing demand while setting the highest standards for safety, sustainability and community partnership," said Rich Davey, Massport CEO. "Guided by this vision, we will be transforming aging infrastructure, leveraging emerging technologies and delivering innovative customer-focused experiences and lasting benefits to our communities and the region. We welcome the public's feedback as we work to achieve these goals."

Key elements of the 2025 Plan:

The Strategic Plan presents a vision and a roadmap by key Massport assets and across the organization.

Aviation

Massport's aviation system must adapt to meet increasing demand and emerging technology as Massachusetts and New England are home to several travel-intensive industries and companies that rely on air travel to support their operations and drive economic impact, as well as a large traveling population that depends on safe, efficient and affordable air service.

Boston Logan

International Airport:

With one of the smallest and oldest airport footprints in the country, Logan must invest strategically to maintain safe, efficient, and reliable operations. Priorities include:

A major renovation or replacement of the Air Traffic Control Tower;

Enhancing Boston Logan's portfolio of high-occupancy vehicle and transit options including implementing innovative ideas like remote terminals;

Modernizing Logan's terminal core to enhance the passenger experience.

Worcester Regional Airport:

To sustain growth, Worcester will focus on:

Maintaining and expanding commercial passenger service;

Assessing opportunities for potential to grow cargo or logistics operations;

Exploring new opportunities and partnerships with support of community stakeholders.

Hanscom Field

As New England's premier general aviation airport, Hanscom plays a critical role in supporting business aviation, medical flights, and regional innovation. Priorities include:

Powering the future of aviation innovation with research partnerships and support services;

Advancing Massport's sustainability and Net Zero efforts, including development and adoption of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF);

Continue to meet metro Boston's general aviation needs.

Maritime

For nearly 400 years, the Port of Boston has supported regional economic growth and jobs.

Conley Terminal aims to strengthen its position as a reliable, efficient container port with a goal of reaching 200,000 containers by 2035. Achieving best-in-class operational excellence to maximize competitive advantage will require:

Developing a roadmap for crane and wharf upgrades;

Further monetizing and increasing stickiness of customer relationships.

Flynn Cruiseport Boston will focus on improving the passenger experience and enhancing ground access, targeting 600,000 annual passengers by 2035. Priorities include:

Developing core cruise business in collaboration with cruise lines

Improving customer experience and service

Enhancing ground transport access and curbside flow

Real Estate

Massport's real estate portfolio supports economic growth through waterfront development, maritime industrial uses, and commercial activity. By 2035, Massport aims to generate approximately \$100 million in recurring annual revenue. Strategic priorities include:

Attracting and enabling Blue

Economy companies;

Funding sustained placemaking activities;

Prioritizing land acquisitions and infrastructure investments.

Organization Wide

Four organization-wide capabilities are essential to delivering on the Plan: Talent, Community, Sustainability & Resilience, and Digital/Data & AI. These are not supporting elements – they are foundational to achieving our mission and advancing Massport's role as a leader in climate innovation and the region's sustainability ecosystem.

Our Net Zero strategy continues to be a top priority as we move forward. This strategy addresses all emissions from Massport-controlled sources through sustainable infrastructure and operational improvements. Massport also recognizes the importance of reducing emissions beyond its direct control by extending our influence and building strong partnerships including the adoption of SAF at our airports.

Massport is also committed to advancing the East Boston community's vision for Piers Park 3. We look forward to working with the community on that.

Massport's 2025 Strategic Plan is Built on a Decade of Progress

Massport's 2014 Strategic Plan laid the foundation for major accomplishments across aviation,

maritime, and real estate. Accomplishment achieved from the 2014 Strategic Plan include:

Transformed Conley Container Terminal into a "big-ship-ready" facility capable of handling the largest vessels calling the East Coast;

Additional international gates at Boston Logan's International Terminal E;

Installed a CAT III landing system at Worcester Airport;

Completed Piers Park II in East Boston;

Delivered a dedicated freight corridor and buffer park in South Boston;

Applied the nationally recognized "Massport Model" to the Omni Boston at the Seaport Hotel procurement;

Opened a new Framingham parking garage that reached full utilization on day one;

Connected Boston Logan's terminals beyond security to enhance the passenger experience;

Expanded Boston Logan's parking capacity;

Maintained Hanscom Field's role as New England's premier general aviation airport and a critical reliever for Boston Logan.

These achievements demonstrate Massport's ability to deliver on complex projects, adapt to evolving needs, and advance economic growth while strengthening community engagement.

Author sets second novel in her adopted Beacon Hill neighborhood

By Dan Murphy

While Karen Winn set her first novel in a fictionalized depiction of her New Jersey hometown, 'The Society,' her second full-length work of fiction published by Dutton and out now, instead takes place in her adopted neighborhood of Beacon Hill.

Winn grew up in Mendham, a small town in Morris County, N.J., about 45 minutes outside of Manhattan. She received an MFA from Fairleigh Dickinson University and previously worked as a nurse in the surgical ICU at Mass General Hospital. After leaving that position, she went back to school for her master's and doctoral degrees in nursing before becoming a nurse practitioner. Winn, also a mother of two, had been quietly working on her first novel in her spare time for a number of years as well, but she didn't commit herself to finishing a first draft of it until 2016.



COURTESY OF KAREN WINN
Karen Winn holding a copy of her just-published second novel, 'The Society.'

Her first novel, 'Our Little World,' published by Dutton in 2022, was a mystery and coming-of-age story that focused on a small girl who goes missing from a lake in suburban New Jersey in 1985. (Despite the timeframe

of the story, Winn is admittedly a child of the 1980s and '90s.) The novel's fictional small town of Hammend, N.J., has a population of 5,000, just like Mendham, while the name itself is an anagram for Winn's hometown.

In contrast, 'The Society' is set on Beacon Hill, which is home to the fictional Knox Society – a shadowy, exclusive organization comprised of Boston's old-money elite that dates back centuries. When Vivian Lawrence loses her family fortune, she sets out on a quest to investigate a family legend that links her kin to this secret society.

The initial seeds for 'The Society' were sown for Winn during a visit to The Boston Athenaeum – a longstanding membership library located across Beacon Street from the State House.

During a guided tour of the library, Winn spotted an oil painting of Thomas Handasyd Perkins, a merchant and philanthropist

from a wealthy Boston Brahmin family who funded several local institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts and Massachusetts General Hospital, as well as the Athenaeum itself.

Her curiosity piqued, Winn began researching Perkins, only to discover he made much of his fortune dealing in the opium trade. Winn said she then began envisioning the Athenaeum, which she has belonged to for several years through a family membership, as a secret society where wealthy Brahmins involved in the opium trade met to conduct covert business dealings.

The Knox Building, located on Mount Vernon Street with a fictional street in back that closely mirrors Branch Street, is home to the novel's enigmatic organization.

"The Knox Building is a character itself in the book and takes on the persona of an old Beacon

(WINN, Pg. 10)

Residents now able to apply for home heating and energy assistance

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts' home energy assistance program (HEAP) is a free resource to help eligible households pay a portion of winter heating bills.

Homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent, can apply in person at the agency in their area or through the online application.

Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age or older.

Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated State Median Income.

This program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary

source of heat with includes, but is not limited to: Oil, Electricity, Natural gas, Propane, Kerosene, Wood, and Coal.

If eligible, discounts are automatically given on:

- electric bills for investor-owned electric utilities
- gas bills for investor-owned gas utilities
- telephone bills

Payments for actual usage or fuel delivery are made directly to the heating vendor for primary energy needs from November 1st to April 30th.

Eligibility/Selection Criteria

- There are a variety of factors that impact the eligibility of a household.
- Eligibility is based on

household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age or older.

• Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated State Median Income

• Please contact the local fuel assistance agency for detailed information on criteria used for eligibility.

• Housing subsidies will also determine the specific benefit level.

Fees

The program is 100% free for those who qualify. Beware of scams by people charging an "application fee" to help submit an application.

How to apply

The online application opens on October 1 for the upcoming heat-

ing season (November 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025). You can apply online, in person at the LIHEAP agency in your area, or by mail. Use the HEAP portal to find your agency or start the application. Households must apply each year.

• First time applicants must participate in an intake appointment, to get started please submit an online application or contact your local agency.

• Applications are mailed to households after the first year and can be renewed online, in person, or by mail.

• Applicants who are denied assistance have the right to appeal the decision through their local home energy assistance agency.

• You may also take a look at

the FY 2025 Cold Relief Brochure

Next steps

Necessary Documents

As part of the application process, please be prepared to share necessary information, including but not limited to:

- photo identification for the head of household or primary applicant (e.g. driver's license)
- a list of all household members
- information on your heating bills (e.g. heating company name and account number)
- information on your housing situation (e.g. an active lease or mortgage statement)
- proof of income for 30 days prior to application date (e.g. wages, pension).

RMV reminds residents that TSA fees for passengers without a REAL ID or passport begin February 1

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is reminding residents that they must present a federally approved form of identification, such as a REAL ID driver's license, a REAL ID identification card, or a valid U.S. passport, when proceeding through airport security for domestic flights. A full list of TSA acceptable documents is available here.

Massachusetts currently has over 65% adoption state-wide with over 3.67 million residents possessing a REAL ID. Residents do not need to wait until their current license or ID expires and may renew up to one year before the printed expiration date.

TSA has announced that beginning February 1, 2026, travelers arriving at the airport without a federally approved ID will be required to enroll in the TSA's Confirm ID program. To enroll, travelers will be directed to provide information for identity verification. The verification takes between 10 – 30 minutes and costs \$45 covering 10 days of travel.

"We want everyone to be able to get through airport security as quickly and smoothly as possible. For that reason, we are encouraging residents to check that they have a REAL ID available for future travel including school vacations or spring and summer travel," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. "Residents can visit the Mass.Gov/REALID web-

site to learn what documents are required and plan ahead to gather their documents before their in-person appointment."

Individuals who need to apply for a REAL ID are required to do so through an in-person appointment which can be scheduled through the RMV's Online Service Center at Mass.Gov/myRMV, or at Northeast.aaa.com for AAA members.

Travelers should plan ahead to request and obtain certified documents if needed, schedule an in-person appointment, and allow three weeks after the appointment for receipt of the REAL ID by mail. The REAL ID typically arrives within 10 – 14 business days.

The following is more information on the fees, required documents, and renewal options:

REAL ID Fees

REAL ID fees are the same as fees for standard noncompliant credentials are below. Renewals can be done up to a year ahead

of the printed expiration date:

- Driver's license renewal (standard or REAL ID): \$50
- Mass ID renewal: \$25
- REAL ID upgrade prior to expiration: \$25
- Customers with a stay in the U.S. of less than five years pay a prorated fee

Required Original or Certified Documents

To obtain a REAL ID, customers must bring original or certified versions of the following:

- Proof of lawful presence
- Two proofs of Massachusetts residency
- Proof of a full Social Security Number

Name Changes

Residents who have changed their name since the issuance of their lawful presence document must also bring legal proof of the name change, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order. The RMV recommends gathering documents well in advance to avoid delays.

Renewal Options

Customers may renew their license or ID up to one year before the printed expiration date. Those who already hold a REAL ID compliant credential may renew online, provided they have not changed their name or hold a limited term REAL ID.

Additional Information

• Information on REAL ID requirements, visit Mass.Gov/REALID

• General RMV services, visit Mass.Gov/RMV

• TSA identification guidelines, visit tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification

• TSA Confirm ID Program, visit: TSA.Gov

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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR & SHOVEL YOUR SIDEWALK

Property owners must clear sidewalks within 3 hours of snowfall ending or 3 hours after sunrise if it snows overnight.

For more winter weather info & resources, visit Boston.gov/snow




Boston 311

WINTER WEATHER IN THE BOSTON AREA

Mother Nature delivered the first major snowstorm since January, 2022 in Greater Boston, dumping more than 20 inches of snow. The schools were closed due to the storm and many residents spent Monday and Tuesday clearing out pathways and digging out their vehicles. The storm was well-predicted by local TV meteorologists, giving residents time to prepare for the severe, wintry conditions.

Photos are by Nola Shanbaum, who is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. These photos are a partnership between The Beacon Hill Times and the Boston University Journalism program.



Snow piled high along the intersection of Boylston Street and Arlington Street.



A Parks and Recreation truck plows the pathways of the Boston Common.



Bushes and pathways in the Public Garden caked in snow.



Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings buried under the snow in the Public Garden.



Lisa Viale and her dog, Rudy, sled down a hill.

WINTER WEATHER IN THE BOSTON AREA



Cars plowed in along Bay State Road near Boston University.

NOLA SHANBAUM PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Many residents had a hard time finding their cars.



NOLA SHANBAUM PHOTO

A broom and dustpan adorn a car buried in snow on Bay state Road near Boston University.



COURTESY PHOTO

Someone saving a parking spot.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

For anyone who was not able to attend Trophy Day, you can come get your child’s Trophy:
Special Townies, 314 Main Street,
On Saturday January 31st 2026
10am to 12pm
Anyone wishing to register their child for the 2026/2027 season can do so at that time .



2025 MASSPORT DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

See our vision. Share your feedback.

As we finalize the 2025 Massport Strategic Plan, we want to hear from the communities we serve. Your comments will help shape Massport’s path forward.

Join us for a virtual presentation on
Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM,
and submit comments any time during the public comment period, open until March 6, 2026.

To learn more about Massport’s Strategic Plan, register for the virtual presentation or access the Comment Form, please visit:

www.massport.com/strategic-plan



Presentation available in English and Spanish.
For additional language interpretation, contact community@massport.com by Tuesday, February 3, 2026.



GOING ABOVE & BEYOND

Winter storm safety tips

Winter storms in New England can range from freezing rain and ice, to a moderate snowfall over a few hours, to blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow that can last several days.

What Are Winter Storms?

Winter storms can include large snow accumulation, extremely cold temperatures, coastal flooding, beach erosion and heavy, wet snow or ice.

Why Prepare?

Extreme winter weather can shut down an entire region. It can lead to roof collapses, communications disruptions and power outages. Winter storms are associated with storm-related deaths caused by:

- Automobile accidents
- Heart attacks due to overexertion
- Freezing to death; and
- Carbon monoxide incidents

To minimize the dangers associated with winter storms, take the proper safety precautions to protect yourself and your family.

Winter Storm Watches and Warnings

The National Weather Service issues watches and warnings for winter storms and blizzards to alert the public of potential winter storms. It is important to understand the difference between these warnings so you know what to do to stay safe:

Winter Storm Watches

It is likely that winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning criteria will be met due to the conditions of an upcoming storm.

Winter Storm Warning

6" of snow or more in a 12-hour period (or 8" of snow or more in a 24-hour period) expected within next 12 to 36 hours.

- **Blizzard Warning** — Sustained wind gusts greater than or equal to 35 mph AND considerable falling and/or blowing snow, resulting in reduced visibility of less than 1/4 mile for at least three hours.

- **Ice Storm Warning** — 1/2 inch or more of freezing rain.

Before a Winter Storm

- Be informed by receiving alerts, warnings, and public safety information before, during, and after emergencies.

- Create and review your family emergency plan.

- If you receive dialysis, medical treatments or home health care services, work with your medical provider to determine how to maintain care and service if you are unable to leave your home for a period of time.

- Assemble an emergency kit. Add seasonal supplies to your emergency kit, such as extra winter clothing and blankets.

- Follow instructions from public safety officials.

- Prepare for possible power outages.

- Fully charge your cellphone, laptop, and other electronic devices before a storm if power outages are expected.

- If your medical equipment uses electricity, talk to health care providers, utility company & your personal support network for options during a power outage. If you'll need assistance during an outage, talk to family, friends & your support network.

- Consider purchasing a gener-

ator to provide power during an outage. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and learn how to use it safely before an outage.

- Prepare your home for possible emergencies.

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches around your home that could fall and cause injury or damage.

- Clear clogged rain gutters to allow water to flow away from your home. Melting snow and ice can build up if gutters are clogged with debris.

- Ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working and have fresh batteries.

- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.

- Make sure your home is properly insulated. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows to keep cold air out. Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside to provide insulation.

- Ensure you have sufficient heating fuel and consider safe backup heating options such as fireplaces or woodstoves.

- Ensure your vehicle is ready for safe winter driving. Keep the gas tank at least half-full and have a Winter Emergency Car Kit in the trunk.

During a Winter Storm

- Minimize outdoor activities. Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive, utilize MEMA's winter driving safety tips.

- Keep your pets safe with Winter Pet Safety Tips.

- Dress for the season to protect against the elements. Dress

in several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing instead of a single heavy layer. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Wear a hat, mittens (not gloves) and sturdy waterproof boots to protect your extremities. Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

- During extreme cold weather, follow our extreme cold safety tips.

- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

After a Winter Storm

- Continue to monitor media for emergency information.

- Follow instructions from public safety officials.

- Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies, including downed power lines and gas leaks.

- Check with your local authorities or call 2-1-1 to find locations of warming centers or shelters near you or for other storm-related questions.

- In the event of power outages during cold weather, you may need to go to a warming center or emergency shelter to stay warm. Report power outages to your utility company.

- Stay away from downed utility wires. Always assume a downed power line is live.

- Stay off streets and roads until they are clear of snow.

- Use caution and take frequent breaks when shoveling snow to prevent overexertion. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter.

- Clear exhaust vents from direct vent gas furnace systems to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your carbon mon-

oxide detectors are working as it is a silent, odorless, killer.

- Clear snow from around vehicle exhaust pipes before starting the vehicle to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Make sure emergency generators or secondary heating systems are well ventilated because their fumes contain carbon monoxide. See more Generator Safety Tips.

- Dig out fire hydrants and storm drains in your neighborhood.

- Clear snow from the sidewalk on your property including nearby curb cuts to allow access for wheelchair users. Regulations and requirements for homeowners and business to clear sidewalks vary by community, but even if not required, please clear sidewalks to make safe travel for all.

- Property owners and businesses should clear snow from walkways, entrances and access ramps, and handicapped parking spots and may be required to do so.

- Check your roof and clear accumulated snow to avoid roof collapses.

- Don't park too close to corners so public safety vehicles and plows can maneuver safely.

- Be aware of children playing in the streets, particularly climbing on or running out from behind large snowdrifts. Parents should remind their children to be aware of plowing operations and traffic.

- Be a good neighbor. Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions and those who may need additional assistance.

WINN (from pg. 6)

Hill snob," said Winn, adding that she has given the building its own voice. "It was really fun to write."

Storied Antiques, the fictional antiques shop owned by Lawrence in the novel, closely resembles the real-life Fabled Antiques at 93 Charles St.

Winn interviewed Fabled Antique's owner, Rebecca Connolly Hackler, to accurately reflect the innerworkings of running a retail antiques business on Beacon Hill. (In her novel, Storied Antiques is located on Pinckney Street, just around the corner from the actual location of Fabled Antiques, Winn noted.)

While investigating the novel's

secret society, Lawrence, who lives at in a penthouse apartment at a fictional address on Lime Street, succumbs to a suspicious fall that lands her in the Emergency Room at Mass General Hospital. A young nurse there, named Taylor Adams, hears Lawrence's story, and after Lawrence goes missing, Adams begins following the trail herself, visiting a number of actual Beacon Hill locales along the way.

"I wanted to include places I frequent, but I was also thinking about the characters and the places they would frequent," said Winn, who added she also wanted to give 'shout-outs' to a few of her favorite neighborhood businesses.

Adams, who has a "pendant for luxury items," according to Winn, is a loyal patron of Covet at 109 Charles St., while Crush Boutique, another high-end clothing consignment shop located at 138 Charles St., also makes a cameo in 'The Society.'

A neighborhood restaurant, 1928 Beacon Hill, is memorably featured in the novel as well.

"I love 1928's Library Room," she said. "It's so magical with books hanging from the ceiling, and I thought there's no more perfect place for a first date than this room."

And in recognition of the publication of Winn's second novel,

1928 Beacon Hill will be adding a specialty cocktail called "The Society" to its menu for a limited time.

'The Society' also briefly visits (or at least mentions) a range of other real-life Beacon Hill locales, including Townhouse Beauty Bar, Cheers Bar, Anton's Cleaners, Rouvalis Flower Shop, Beacon Hill Books, Toscano's, and even The Vilna Shul, among other places in the neighborhood.

Although 'The Society' has only just been published, Winn, who also still does some healthcare consulting work on the side, already has an idea for her next novel, and she even sets the stage for it in her latest work.

Winn's still-untitled third novel will focus on Nicholas - a minor

character from 'The Society' and proprietor of Turned Pages, a fictional Downtown Crossing bookstore.

Nicholas first emerged as the main character in a short story that has "lived on my computer for many years," said Winn, and "now, I'm finally ready to bring him to life in a book format."

The Knox Building is also very likely to make a return appearance in her third novel, along with the secret society itself, as Winn continues to expand her burgeoning literary universe.

'The Society' is now available at local bookstores, as well as at Barnes & Noble stores and via Amazon, among other online retailers.

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

Boston Food Access Council awarded Community Power Grant from Project Bread to advance food justice and systems change

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston Food Access Council, of Boston, has been named a recipient of Project Bread's inaugural Community Power Grants program. The funding will help to drive grassroots advocacy and systems change to address the root causes of food insecurity, building capacity for smaller organizations where it would not be otherwise possible. Boston Food Access Council was selected from over 40 proposals for its proven impact, advocacy wins, and strong potential to build power across communities.

"Food insecurity is not just about food - it is about deep structural disparities," says Adriana Mendes-Sheldon, Director of Community Partnerships at Project Bread. "True transformation happens when power is redistributed and communities most impacted by food insecurity are part of shaping the solutions. By investing in grassroots leadership and advocacy, we build long-term capacity for organizing and a sustainable impact that goes beyond charity and toward systemic change."

The Boston Food Access Council is a community-led coalition working to ensure that Boston residents most affected by food

insecurity have the knowledge, resources, and power to shape food access solutions. Comprised of community members and organizational leaders, Boston Food Access Council brings together residents, advocates, and policymakers to break down silos and advance equitable food access through collaboration, advocacy, and awareness-building. With support from Project Bread's Community Power Fund, Boston Food Access Council will strengthen its capacity and deepen community leadership, while also funding a small cohort of paid community advocates. They have already hired a new fractional executive director, Sutton Kiplinger, to provide dedicated coordination and strategic guidance. In partnership with the Neighborhood Food Action Collaborative (NFAC), 3 community advocates have been hired who will do community engagement to help neighbors understand their own opportunities for action and become part of an engaged base of community members advocating for the changes they want to see in food access in their communities. These advocates—people with lived experience of food insecurity—will be trained to conduct SNAP and food access outreach, share accurate information, and

elevate community stories at farmers' markets, neighborhood events, and in conversations with decision-makers across Boston.

"We need to be able to connect policymakers directly to people who are experiencing food insecurity and supporting their communities every day," says Seana Weaver, former steering committee member and continued supporter of the Boston Food Access Council. "By investing in both leadership capacity and paid community advocates, we're strengthening the bridge between lived experience and power, while reducing misinformation and ensuring that community voices are driving food justice solutions in Boston."

Project Bread awarded a total of \$97,000 to five Massachusetts organizations through the Community Power Grants program. Grantees received individualized technical assistance from Project Bread's Research and Evaluation team to develop customized logic models that track each project's progress and impact. They will also participate in Project Bread's statewide Community of Practice. Mendes-Sheldon explains that "the program was intentionally designed to provide value beyond funding, offering key supports that build long-term organizational capacity, sustainability, and

impact." The grants strategically support the Make Hunger History Coalition, Project Bread's bold statewide initiative mobilizing more than 500 partners around a shared roadmap to permanently end hunger in Massachusetts. This work seeks to intentionally shift the power dynamics in anti-hunger work by providing tools and support for grassroots organizations and individuals to voice their perspectives and become leaders in this statewide movement. The coalition operates through five strategic pillars: ensuring all residents can access and buy food, integrating food security with health care, supporting residents to eat nutritious and local food, enhancing food support programs for priority populations, and addressing root causes that contribute to hunger. The other 2025-2026 grantees include Revere Arabic Community, Roslindale Food Collective + New Beginnings Reentry Services, MetroWest Food Collaborative, and Hampshire County Food Policy Council. They have all joined the coalition as active members, with their community leadership and organizing efforts directly feeding into working groups and collaborative efforts across the state.

To get involved with the Make Hunger History Coalition, visit:

www.makehungerhistoryma.org.

People experiencing food insecurity should call into Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential assistance to connect with food resources, including SNAP benefits, in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org/get-help.

Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts, connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

Boston Food Access Council (BFAC) is a community-led coalition working to empower Bostonians with the knowledge to access food resources and to bring together and amplify community voices and needs through collaboration, partnership, advocacy, and awareness building. Through community outreach, policy advocacy, and organizing strategies, BFAC ensures that those closest to the problem are the ones leading the solutions. For more information visit: <https://bostonfoodaccesscouncil.org/>

Snow thrower safety tips: keep best practices in mind

Clearing snow and ice from driveways, sidewalks and parking lots is no small job. You rely on your outdoor power equipment to do the heavy lifting, and it's important to keep safety in mind. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners to use snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers, safely and offers tips to help.

"Weather today is unpredictable. You need to have your snow thrower serviced and ready to power up," says OPEI President and CEO Kris Kiser. "Review your owner's manual so you can use your equipment safely." Kiser says preparation is key and that home and business owners should consider the following:

Review the owner's manual. Check the owner's manual for safe handling procedures. If the manual cannot be found, look it up online, and store a copy on your computer so it's available to reference in the future. Review how to operate controls. Be able to shut off equipment quickly.

Check equipment. The snow thrower should be powered off when being checked over. Adjust any cables and check the auger.

Charge batteries. Locate the batteries for your snow thrower and charge them fully before it snows.

Purchase fuel. Be sure to use the correct fuel recommended by the equipment's manufacturer. For most gasoline-powered snow throwers, that is E10 or less. Often fuel stations are closed after a storm so buy gasoline in advance of storms. Fuel that is more than 30 days old can phase separate and cause operating problems. For more information on fueling properly see www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning

Store and use fuel properly. Place gasoline in a proper fuel container and label it with the date purchased and the ethanol content. Store fuel safely and out of the reach of children. Fill the fuel tank outside before starting the engine and while the engine is cold. Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.

Clear the area. Snow can sometimes hide objects. Door-mats, hoses, balls, toys, boards, wires, and other debris should be removed from areas you intend to clear. When run over by a snow thrower, these objects may harm the machine or people.

Dress for winter weather. Locate safety gear now, and place it in an accessible closet or location. Wear safety glasses, gloves and footwear that can handle cold and slippery surfaces when operating the snow thrower.

Key Safety Tip: Never put your hands inside the auger or chute. Use a clean out tool to unclog snow or debris from the snow thrower. Your hands should never go inside the auger or chute.

Turn OFF the snow thrower if you need to clear a clog. If you need to remove debris or unclog snow, always turn off the snow thrower. Wait for all moving parts to come to a complete stop before clearing any clogs or debris.

Operate in visible conditions. Never operate the snow thrower without good visibility or

light.

Aim with care. Never throw snow toward people or cars. Keep children or pets inside and away from your snow thrower when it is operating.

Use extreme caution on slopes and hills. Use caution when changing directions on slopes. Do not attempt to clear steep slopes.

Know where the cord is. If using an electric powered snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times. Avoid tripping.

OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the indus-

try, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI owns Equip Exposition, the international landscape, outdoor living and equipment exposition, and administers the TurfMutt Foundation, which directs the environmental education program, TurfMutt. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces.

To place a
memoriam
please call
781-485-0588



Aquarium welcomes new members to Board of Trustees and Ambassador Council

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The New England Aquarium is beginning 2026 with six new members joining its Board of Trustees and Ambassador Council.

The Board of Trustees recently elected Danny Kalmar and Jane Willis to its ranks. Kalmar, who has served on the Aquarium's Ambassador Council since 2018, is a partner at McKinsey & Company with significant experience in AI and digital transformation, operational excellence, and leadership development. Jane Willis is a partner at Ropes & Gray where she focuses her practice on complex business litigation, class action litigation, and antitrust matters. They were each elected to a three-year term on the Aquarium's Board.

The Aquarium also welcomes four new members to its Ambassador Council: Alice Anne Barbo, Errin Davis, Matthew Marino, and Becca Schulman Havemeyer. These individuals serve as essential links to the community in advancing the Aquarium's mission.

"The New England Aquarium is constantly evolving and inspiring people to form a deeper connec-

tion to the ocean with a dynamic combination of exhibits, scientific research, education, and advocacy. We are pleased to expand our Board with an impressive group of Trustees and Ambassadors who bring with them expertise in business, education, green energy, and more," said Thomas R. Burton III, a Boston-based Mintz attorney and Chair of the Board of Trustees.

New Trustees

Danny Kalmar (Boston, MA)

Danny Kalmar is a Partner at McKinsey & Company and a senior leader in the firm's Financial Services practice. He is highly experienced in AI and digital transformation, operational excellence, and leadership development. Kalmar has helped organizations around the world manage significant change and growth, influencing how companies stay competitive in an ever-changing business environment. Outside of his professional achievements, Kalmar has a deep passion for the ocean, having served as a submarine naval officer, being an avid sailor, and actively supporting bluetech initiatives. He holds a BA from the Technion Israel – Insti-



The new Trustees and Ambassadors joining the New England Aquarium. Clockwise from top left: Danny Kalmar, Jane Willis, Rebecca Schulman Havemeyer, Matt Marino, Errin Davis, and Alice Anne Barbo

tute of Technology and an MBA from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management.

Jane Willis (Boston, MA)

Jane Willis is a Partner at Ropes & Gray. She became a member of the firm's policy committee (the firm's governing body) in 2019 after serving for several years as co-chair of the global litigation and enforcement practice. Willis focuses her practice on complex business litigation, class action litigation, and antitrust matters, including, in large part, matters for health care and life sciences clients. She has been named the Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for Antitrust in Boston for several years. She holds a BA in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University and a JD from Harvard Law School.

New Ambassadors

Alice Anne Barbo (Boston, MA)

Alice Anne Barbo is a lifelong advocate for marine conservation and supporter of the New England Aquarium. She began her professional career as a secondary and adult education teacher in the fields of history, world cultures, political science, and study skills. Barbo served three parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston as the Director of Religious Education including managing the largest pre-k through grade 8 program in the diocese. She is happiest outdoors exploring natural wonders, parks, gardens and local history. Barbo earned a BA in History and

Teacher Certification from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a Master Teacher certification from Regis College.

Errin Davis (Boston, MA)

Errin Davis serves as the Chief Operations Officer at The Davis System, LLC, where she oversees major contracts and event management initiatives. Her career spans various roles supporting elected officials, including Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, and State Senator Liz Miranda. Davis's professional journey includes contributions to the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; Boston Public Schools Office of Equity, Strategy & Opportunity Gaps; and Emerge Massachusetts. Davis is a graduate of Salem State University, holding a BS in Business Administration focused in Entrepreneurship.

Matt Marino (Scituate, MA)

Matt Marino is the co-founder and CEO of ETX Upstream, an investment platform for Energy Transition projects. Prior to ETX, he was co-founder and CEO of Galehead Development, a renewable energy development platform that has delivered more than 2 GW of fully commercialized utility-scale solar and wind projects. Marino is an FII Level 1 Freediver and perpetually novice surfer. He resides in Scituate, MA, with his wife and two daughters, where they dive, beach, and surf whenever the weather allows. He holds

a BA and MBA from Boston College and is currently matriculated at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

Becca Schulman Havemeyer (Chestnut Hill, MA)

Becca Schulman Havemeyer is co-founder and president of Beach Plum Properties, a design and development firm committed to building in an eco-friendly and climate-forward manner, limiting site waste, encouraging reuse and the incorporation of salvaged materials, and installing fossil fuel-free systems and appliances. Her early career was in nonprofit management and philanthropy, including time spent leading the Boston office of Room to Grow, managing programs at Jumpstart National, and leading corporate giving efforts at Manulife/John Hancock. Shulman Havemeyer serves as a marine mammal volunteer at the New England Aquarium. She earned a BA in Political Science and Women's Studies from Brown University.

New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Bread pudding

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We all have our favorite comfort foods. Bread pudding is one of ours. It's also a brilliant way to use up items in your refrigerator, pantry, or breadbox. It's an obvious choice when you have stale bread on hand and don't want to waste it. But we also make it when we have extra eggs or other leftovers.

Since Ed is a bread lover, that's one thing we always have onhand. Those who don't have a ready supply of bread could start a freezer bag of stale bread to make a pudding anytime you'd like. A mixture of breads will only add more flavor to the dish. You can also use fresh bread. Either leave the bread out to dry or pop ripped pieces into a warm oven to toast lightly.

Sweet Options

Most of us think of bread pudding as a dessert or a sweet dish. While you can make it from any leftover bread, we love the batches made from specialty loaves, from cinnamon swirl to more exotic offerings. And, these sweet versions can use up any items that might be softening in your fruit bowl. Apples, pears, or bananas will add sweetness and nutrition to the mix.

We often add dried fruits like raisins, apricots, or figs to a sim-

ple bread pudding. The trick is to layer those in the middle of the pudding, or at least push them down into the mix. When they're on top, dried fruits tend to burn before the custard cooks.

Savory Versions

You can also take this cooking technique to the savory side and make a great breakfast or brunch dish, or a supper that can be waiting in the refrigerator when you get home.

Toss together any ingredients that you might put in a frittata. You could sauté onions, peppers, and sausage or ham, then let that mixture cool. Mix your bread with grated cheddar cheese, toss it with the sautéed mixture, pour the custard mixture over it, and sprinkle the top with more cheese. Bake, and you have a wonderful savory bread pudding.

Specialty breads, from a place like When Pigs Fly Bakery, give you an easy way to go savory. Their Sicilian Green Olive & Hot Cherry Peppers bread just needs a bit of cheese and custard to make a quick meal.

Around the holidays, they make a Savory Cranberry bread that contains cranberries, onions, fresh sage, rosemary, thyme, and oregano. We call this "stuffing bread." A bread pudding made with that lovely loaf would be welcome on



This savory bread pudding was adapted from a traditional sausage stuffing recipe and was baked in a ramekin.

any buffet.

Stuffing recipes are a great inspiration for savory bread puddings. You can make your family's favorite cornbread or sausage stuffing, then add a custard to turn it into a creamy bread pudding. We often bake our savory bread puddings in ramekins for individual servings and to freeze for future meals.

Recipes

We don't follow a recipe as such

for bread puddings. Rather, we use a ratio of 16 ounces of milk to 8 ounces of eggs (about 4 large) for the custard mix. You can break eggs into a measuring cup and add twice as much milk.

Season with salt, sugar, vanilla, or spices, depending on the other ingredients in the dish. If the bread is sweet, add less sugar. If the ingredients are salty, for example, cured meat or fish, don't add much salt.

If you prefer to follow a recipe, there are dozens online. Both Epicurious and All Recipes have reliable versions. And, most general cookbooks, old or new, contain instructions for basic bread pudding.

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

National Grid offers safety reminders for clearing snow at your home or business

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

National Grid reminds its customers to exercise caution near the energy equipment outside of their homes as they clear snow left behind from Winter Storm Fern. Over a foot of snow has fallen across our Massachusetts service area with additional snow forecast throughout the afternoon. National Grid's top priority is safety, including the safety and well-being of our crews and customers, and we offer the following reminders to assist with removing snow from your property.

Keep Your Meters Clear of Snow and Ice

Many National Grid customers have electric and/or natural gas meters on the exterior of their homes and businesses. When clearing snow, customers and snow removal contractors should be aware of the location of this equipment to avoid coming into contact with meters or outside gas

risers. Additionally:

- Gently remove icicles from the meter with a gloved hand, if necessary. Never kick your meter or use a snow shovel to knock away ice.
- If energy equipment is located near your driveway or parking lot, and you have a vehicle-mounted snowplow or use a snow removal service, ensure that the equipment is well-marked so the vehicle operator knows to keep a safe distance. Striking a natural gas riser or electric wire with a plow could cause injury.
- The buildup of ice and snow around or over natural gas meters, regulators and pipes can pose a serious safety risk. Ice and snow falling from a roof can damage gas meters or service connections to customers' homes or businesses, resulting in potential gas leaks. Customers should take immediate action if a natural gas leak is suspected:
- Get out – All occupants should leave the house immediately. Do not use the telephone, light

switches or automatic garage door openers for any reason.

- Call us – After leaving the house and reaching a safe environment, call National Grid's 24-hour gas emergency number: 1-800-233-5325.

- Stay out – Don't return to your home until National Grid tells you it is safe to do so.

- If energy equipment is located near your driveway or parking lot, and you have a vehicle-mounted snowplow or use a snow removal service, ensure that the equipment is well-marked so the vehicle operator knows to keep a safe distance. Striking a natural gas riser or electric wire with a plow could cause injury.

Keep Your Vents Clear

The excessive amount of snowfall from this storm may have increased the snow depth in your yard and near your home or business. When clearing snow from your driveways and walkways, never pile it near vents on the side

of the building. A blocked vent – whether it's a furnace, hot water heater, dryer or sewer – can lead to the buildup of deadly carbon monoxide. Keep the vents clear and free of snow and ice, treating them as carefully as you would an energy meter.

The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to those of the flu, and can include headaches, weakness, confusion, chest tightness, skin redness, dizziness, nausea, sleepiness, heart fluttering or loss of muscle control. If you suspect carbon monoxide is present in your home, immediately go outside and breathe deeply. Then call 911.

Trees, Snow and Your Electric Service

Snowfall places excessive weight on tree limbs and branches, creating potential hazards for energy infrastructure. Downed trees near power lines should be reported to National Grid at 800-465-1212. Visit our website

for more information about your electric service and trees. Customers are also reminded to exercise extreme caution near downed power lines:

- Always use extreme caution near downed power lines and wires, and always assume that they are carrying live electricity.
 - Never touch a person or an object that is in contact with a downed line, as electricity can pass through to you.
 - Take caution when approaching fallen trees, which could have power lines caught in them.
 - Remember that water can conduct electricity. If you see a line down in a puddle or flooded area, avoid contact with the water to prevent risk of shock.
 - Learn more about staying safe near downed power lines.
- To learn more about electric and natural gas safety, visit our website – nationalgridus.com.

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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.

Coalition of Mayors across U.S. file Amicus brief challenging ICE surge in Twin Cities

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Led by the City of Boston and the Public Rights Project, 44 mayors, cities, and counties argue that the deadly surge of federal agents into Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota is an unlawful and unconstitutional effort to punish these communities, endangering Americans

Mayor Michelle Wu co-led a coalition of mayors from across the United States to file an amicus brief in federal district court in Minneapolis to stop the Trump Administration's unconstitutional and illegal surge of federal agents into Minneapolis and St. Paul (the Twin Cities). The brief, which supports a lawsuit filed by the State of Minnesota and the Twin Cities, seeks a temporary restraining order to end the occupation by more than two thousand federal agents. ICE's aggressive enforcement tactics have created mass unrest in the community, undermined public safety, injured several Minnesotans, including children, and led to the death of civilian Renee Nicole Good.

"The Trump Administration's ongoing occupations of peaceful American cities are unconstitutional and illegal," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These politically-motivated invasions of cities, whether by ICE agents or the National Guard, endanger our residents and violate federal law. We are urging the courts to curb the dangerous impulses of a reckless federal administration."

This amicus brief is filed in response to the Trump Administration's launch of "Operation Metro Surge," an ongoing enforcement effort that has led to an unprecedented increase of thousands of masked and armed federal law enforcement officers in the Twin Cities, effectively creating a military occupation of those cities. It is the latest in a series of deployments across the country that constitute a perilous increase

in the presence of militarized federal immigration officers and which have caused mounting fear, tensions, and violence in the cities and localities amici represent.

The coalition of amici cities argues that the Trump Administration is invading peaceful American cities to unlawfully punish communities that do not instruct local police to engage in Trump's mass deportation agenda. The Tenth Amendment protects the sovereignty of States and bars the federal government from commandeering state and local resources for federal purposes. This argument has been upheld in cases around the country where the Trump Administration has sought to strip funding or otherwise punish jurisdictions with local policies disfavored by the President.

"Local governments shouldn't have to govern under threat," said Jill Habig, CEO of Public Rights Project. "Operation Metro Surge is a military occupation of an American city. Cities are standing together against this coercion campaign that spreads fear, diverts local resources, and undermines public safety."

The Public Rights Project served as amici counsel. The full list of mayors, cities, and counties who joined the brief is below.

Local Governments and Mayors

- City of Boston, Massachusetts
- City of Alameda, California
- City of Albany, New York
- City of Albuquerque, New Mexico
- City of Alexandria, Virginia
- Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
- City of Ann Arbor, Michigan
- City of Baltimore, Maryland
- City of Beaverton, Oregon
- City of Bend, Oregon
- City of Cambridge, Massachusetts
- City of Chelsea, Massachusetts

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- City of Chicago, Illinois
- City of Cincinnati, Ohio
- City of Columbus, Ohio
- Dane County, Wisconsin
- City and County of Denver, Colorado
- City of Hillsboro, Oregon
- City of Los Angeles, California
- City of Lynn, Massachusetts
- City of Madison, Wisconsin
- Martin Luther King, Jr. County, Washington
- City of Melrose, Massachusetts
- Monterey County, California
- City of New Haven, Connecticut
- City of Newton, Massachusetts
- City of Northampton, Massachusetts
- Pima County, Arizona
- City of Portland, Oregon
- City of Sacramento, California
- City of San Diego, California
- City and County of San Francisco, California
- County of Santa Clara, California
- City of Seattle, Washington
- City of Shoreline, Washington
- City of Somerville, Massachusetts
- City of Tucson, Arizona
- City of West Hollywood, California
- Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles, California
- Celina Benitez, Mayor, City of Mount Rainier, Maryland
- John Clark, Mayor, Town of Ridgway, Colorado
- Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor, City of Alameda, California
- Bryan Kennedy, Mayor, City of Glendale, Wisconsin
- Quinton D. Lucas, Mayor, City of Kansas City, Missouri
- Kim Lund, Mayor, City of Bellingham, Washington
- Dominick Pangallo, Mayor, City of Salem, Massachusetts

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.

Old North Illuminated News

Old North Illuminated Presents “Queer & Trans Early America in Print” with Historian Jen Manion

Digital Speaker Series Continues on Wednesday, February 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Join Old North Illuminated for a compelling online conversation with historian Jen Manion exploring queer and trans histories from early America as they appeared in print. Set for Wednesday, February 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Manion will explore how people understood and talked about gender identity and sexuality before modern terms like “transgender” or “homosexual” existed. Using newspapers, magazines, and children’s literature from early America, they will share stories of queer pioneers—including female husbands, sailors, children, and prisoners—and discuss what these accounts reveal about everyday life and identity in the past. The talk will also look at how queer and trans people were portrayed in historical media and why these stories still matter today. The program is part of Old North Illuminated’s ongoing commitment to public history and community dialogue. This virtual event is accessible with a donation of any amount to support Old North Illuminated, the nonprofit that stewards Old North Church Historic Site. The 2026 Speaker Series is brought to you in part by HUB Town Tours. To register, please visit: <https://www.oldnorth.com/events/>.

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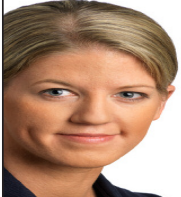
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A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.


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

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

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



American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
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Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

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51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
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MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
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Boston, MA 02108-1599
617-994-6000

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DiDomenico applauds affordability focus in Governor’s State of the State Address

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined colleagues and leaders from throughout Massachusetts for Governor Healey’s State of the Commonwealth Address at the State House last Thursday. DiDomenico welcomed the Governor’s emphasis on lowering costs for residents on everything from housing to utilities to even making it easier to cancel subscription services.

“I am proud to work alongside our great Governor and colleagues to serve my constituents and residents across Massachusetts,” said Senator DiDomenico. “I look forward to supporting Governor Healey’s efforts to bring down costs and protect the rights and freedoms of all our friends and neighbors.”



Governor Healey delivering her address in the State House Chamber.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with Senate colleagues in the State House Chamber.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll (second from right) and Senate colleagues in the State House Chamber.

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