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# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## ANNUAL ST PATRICK'S DAY SENIOR LUNCHEON AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL



DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTO

The Annual St. Patrick's Day Senior Luncheon was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Hosted by Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, and the Age Strong Commission. Shown are Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea, Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata with members of David Whelan's family. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

## Coletta Zapata holds hearing on drink spiking in Boston

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) held a hearing to review progress and identify further opportunities to address drink spiking and drug-facilitated sexual assault. Coletta Zapata sponsored the hearing to review the City's ongoing efforts on this issue, examine updated data on suspected drink spiking incidents, and assess remaining service gaps in testing, reporting, survivor care, and prevention. The hearing also explored opportunities to align municipal strategies with pending state legislation and national best practices. The discussion was timely particularly in the midst of St. Patrick's Day celebrations.



City Councilor  
Gabriela Coletta Zapata

"Public safety means ensuring people can enjoy our city without worrying that their drink could be tampered with. Boston has taken important steps to address the challenges of drink spiking, but the burden of prevention should never fall on victims. Our focus must be on preventing these incidents in the first place and ensuring clear pathways to care and support when they do occur," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta

Zapata. "By bringing everyone to the table from restaurants and bars to hospitals and community organizations we can strengthen prevention, provide businesses with the tools to protect patrons, and improve the support systems available to survivors. I look forward to continuing this important conversation."

During the hearing, Councilors heard from representatives of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative at the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Police Department, the Boston Licensing Board, and the Office of

(HEARING, Pg. 2)

## DiDomenico speaks at Portal to Hope's legislator panel

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined colleagues and advocates at Portal to Hope's "Talk Priorities with

Legislators" event at the Medford Police Department. DiDomenico and the other panelists discussed programs from local nonprofits

that support victims of domestic violence and how legislators can support their efforts with funding and legislation. The Senator highlighted his efforts to bring in more funding for these programs and legislation he has led on such as the Healthy Youth Act, Language Access, as well advocating for the Safe Communities Act which was filed by another legislator. These bills would educate our children on forming respectful relationships free of violence, ensure access to public benefits and government resources for all residents regard-

(PORTAL TO HOPE, Pg. 3)



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking on a panel alongside legislators and advocates at the Medford Police Department.

### CNC MEETING DATES

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 7 PM, Knights of Columbus

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus, located at 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. The agenda will include a presentation by the New England Revolution and Kevin Bogle, Boston Parks and Recreation, with an update on Barry Playground. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at [cnc02129@gmail.com](mailto:cnc02129@gmail.com)

For the latest news in Charlestown that you need to know, check [Charlestownbridge.com](http://Charlestownbridge.com)

# EDITORIAL

## MASS. SHOULD END SNAP FOR JUNK FOOD

First and foremost, we wish to express our abhorrence that federal SNAP benefits (formerly known as the Food Stamp program) have been eliminated for more than two million Americans thanks to the budget that Congress enacted last year.

America is the richest nation in the history of the earth, yet millions of our fellow citizens suffer from food insecurity on a daily basis, a state of affairs that is nothing less than shameful.

However, we think one aspect of the SNAP program everyone can agree upon is that SNAP benefits should not be used for the purchase of junk food items.

For decades, the junk food industry successfully lobbied federal officials to allow SNAP recipients to use their benefits to buy items such as soft drinks, candy, and other sugar-filled, ultra-processed foods, which are “food” only to the extent that they can be consumed.

Not only do these junk foods lack any nutritional value, but they also are incredibly harmful to human health.

It is estimated that 40 percent of all Americans meet the definition of obesity and another 30 percent are overweight. Thanks to our appetite for sugar-filled junk food products, diabetes has reached epidemic proportions throughout our society.

Even worse, these products are highly-addictive. The food industry’s scientists have designed their formulas both to stimulate the pleasure receptors in the brain and to send signals from the stomach to the brain indicating a lack of satiety.

In other words, almost no matter how much junk food you eat, your stomach never tells your brain that it is “full.”

We ourselves know the addictive nature of these products. Our mother’s grocery list always included packaged cupcakes and similar products in boxes of 12 -- and we (four boys) would attack them like locusts.

As young adults ourselves, our shopping list at the wholesale clubs for our young families included bulk cartons of candy bars. (They were “for the kids,” wink, wink).

When we lost power during Hurricane Irene in 2011, we had to throw out a bunch of food from our downstairs freezer -- which included (no exaggeration) 43 pints of premium ice cream.

In short, we ourselves were lifelong junk-food junkies. And the cumulative result of our decades of a poor diet? A triple by-pass because of clogged arteries. Even though we ran marathons and triathlons for our entire lives, we learned first-hand that you can’t outrun an unhealthy diet.

It is ironic that the “N” in SNAP stands for “Nutrition” (the full acronym is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) when almost 25 percent of SNAP benefits reportedly are used to purchase sugary drinks, candy, and snack products. Soda is the top item bought with SNAP benefits.

Studies have shown that reducing consumption of junk food for just three weeks can reset both our palates and our mind-body connection to make healthier foods more appealing.

For too long the federal government has been subsidizing the purchase of foods that are a major contributor to chronic diseases.

We urge Massachusetts officials to take immediate advantage of a new regulation by the federal government that allows states to eliminate the use of SNAP benefits -- of which about 40% are used for children -- for the purchase of junk food products.

These addictive and unhealthy foods have no place in the diets of any American, especially our children.

### HEARIN (from pg. 1)

Nightlife Economy. Boston Police officials highlighted their ongoing work the past three years in addressing drink spiking incidents, sharing they've taken steps to combat the issue through training, tracking, public awareness, and partnerships. They also stressed the need for collaboration among government agencies, community advocates, and local colleges to improve awareness and ensure individuals know what steps to take if an incident occurs.

Representatives from the Boston Licensing Board and the Office of Nightlife Economy emphasized that their top priority is ensuring members of the public can enjoy Boston’s nightlife safely. The Licensing Board works to reinforce clear expectations for license holders, encouraging them to remain vigilant for suspicious behavior and to actively maintain safe environments within their establishments. The Board also shared that it provides reporting materials and training to help businesses respond appropriately when concerns arise. The Office of Nightlife Economy noted that it has distributed more than 33,000 drink covers to establishments and community members as a preventative measure.

Councilors cautioned that with several major events scheduled

across Boston over the next year, concerns about public safety, particularly the potential for increased risks, have emerged. Boston Police officials stated that the department has been actively preparing for the anticipated rise in activity. They emphasized that their focus will remain on maintaining strong public safety protections, pursuing grants to strengthen protective services, and ensuring the department is fully prepared to respond effectively during these events.

Survivors testified and shared their personal experiences of having their drinks drugged while in Boston, describing the lasting impact of these incidents and the challenges of coping with those memories. They also emphasized the need for the City to take stronger action to prevent similar experiences from happening to others.

Since joining the Boston City Council, Coletta Zapata has led conversations focused on addressing drink spiking in the City of Boston and making meaningful progress to combat contaminated drinks. Her work has included partnering with the Boston Police Department to improve internal reporting systems and strengthen resources to prevent predatory behavior. She also led a successful partnership with the Office of Nightlife to distribute drink covers

and help prevent drink spiking, and secured a commitment from the Massachusetts Restaurant Association to train servers to identify perpetrators and support potential victims. Most recently, Councilor Coletta Zapata testified at the State House in support of Senator Paul Feeney’s Bill S.1537, which would ensure accessible, reliable drug testing in hospitals and ERs across the Commonwealth.

“We must center our survivors in our conversations about-- and our responses to-- drink spiking, drug-facilitated sexual assault, and all forms of sexual violence. We best honor survivors when we prevent and respond to these forms of violence with urgency, and Boston’s efforts must reflect the gravity of these trespasses,” said Councilor At-Large Henry Santana, Chair of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee.

A recording of the hearing can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-V2u0jIcRY>. This docket will remain in the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee.

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

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## CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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# Healey highlights recent wave of business expansions bringing thousands of jobs to the state

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

During her address to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Forum last week, Governor Maura Healey will highlight a wave of recent business expansions and investments across Massachusetts that are bringing with them thousands of jobs and strengthening the state's leadership in innovation, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence and life sciences.

Recent announcements from global firms and homegrown companies across multiple industries show continued momentum in Massachusetts' innovation economy, with businesses choosing to expand and invest in the state's talent, research institutions and collaborative business environment.

"Massachusetts is where companies come to build the future," said Governor Maura Healey. "We have the best talent in the world, unmatched research institutions and an innovation ecosystem that helps businesses grow and compete. Companies are choosing Massachusetts because they know this is the place to innovate, create jobs and lead the next generation of industries. But we know that residents and businesses alike are facing headwinds driven by high costs and President Trump's policies, and that's why we're continuing to work every day to make Massachusetts more affordable and competitive."

"These announcements show that companies across industries continue to choose Massachusetts as the place to innovate, grow and create jobs," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're proud to partner with businesses, universities and workers across our state to support economic growth and ensure Massachusetts remains a global leader in innovation – and we're going to keep doing everything we can to maintain this positioning."

"These announcements show the breadth of Massachusetts' economy, from innovative technology and life science companies to businesses that serve our communities every day," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "Companies from across the globe are investing here because of our world-class talent, our strong business environment, and the partnerships that help businesses grow. We're focused on making sure companies of all sizes can continue to expand and create jobs across the state."

Governor Healey will highlight this momentum during her remarks to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, where she will discuss the state's economic competitiveness, investments in innovation and workforce development, and efforts to lower costs for residents and businesses.

While recognizing that the state faces headwinds, including high costs, Governor Healey will also highlight the many competitive strengths that Massachusetts has, starting with its world-class talent. Last year, Massachusetts students ranked number one among states on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) — often called the Nation's Report Card — and just recently, College Board announced that Massachusetts students earned the highest scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams last year and broke the all-time record for the highest percentage of graduates who scored 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis also shows that Massachusetts led the nation in real Gross Domestic Product (GD) growth on a percentage basis through the first three quarters of 2025, which is the most recent data available.

Several recent announcements represent significant new job growth in Massachusetts. Major global companies are also making substantial investments in advanced manufacturing and research in Massachusetts:

P&G Gillette recently announced plans to establish its Grooming Headquarters and Technical Innovation Center in South Boston, representing a \$1 billion investment. The facility will support 750 permanent jobs, while construction of the new campus is expected to generate hundreds of additional jobs for members of the building trades.

GE Aerospace announced a \$42 million investment in its Lynn facility to upgrade sites producing defense engines and components, strengthening the U.S. defense industrial base.

Global veterinary specialty care company Dechra will relocate its global headquarters from the United Kingdom to Boston.

Boston-based wearable technology company Whoop announced plans to add more than 600 new jobs, primarily in Boston, as it continues to expand its operations and workforce.

Massachusetts-based grocery chain Big Y announced plans to open six new stores across the

state, representing a \$50 million capital investment and creating approximately 750 full and part-time jobs.

The state continues to see strong growth in advanced manufacturing and life sciences as well:

VulcanForms, a metal additive manufacturing company founded at MIT, recently secured \$220 million in financing and plans to open a third factory in Devens, adding more than 100 new jobs.

Medical technology company TransMedics is expanding its presence at Assembly Innovation Park in Somerville, leasing nearly 500,000 square feet of lab space and acquiring additional land to support the company's continued growth.

Biotech company Stoke Therapeutics also recently signed a lease for 98,500 square feet in Waltham, where it will relocate and expand its headquarters later this year.

Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc., a leading RNAi therapeutics company, recently announced an expansion of its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Norton.

Massachusetts is also continuing to attract investment from companies developing the next generation of artificial intelligence technologies. Anthropic, Lovable and xAI have recently established a presence in Massachusetts and begun hiring locally, further strengthening the region's growing AI ecosystem.

Massachusetts companies are

also receiving global recognition for their innovation. A record number of Boston-area firms were recently named to the LexisNexis Top 100 Global Innovators list, including Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Moderna, Flagship Pioneering, Orna Therapeutics and SharkNinja.

Together, these recent announcements represent thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in private investment, reinforcing Massachusetts' position as a global hub for innovation, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies. Massachusetts continues to attract companies from around the country and the world that are looking to grow, innovate and access the state's highly skilled workforce.

## Kennedy Center announces 'A Night of Impact' in Charlestown

The John F. Kennedy Family Service Center will host its annual fundraiser, "A Night of Impact," on Thursday, May 28, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at D.C. Beane and Associates, located at 125 Baxter Rd. This event invites the Charlestown community to come together for an evening of connection, celebration, and giving back.

Guests will enjoy live music and a welcoming atmosphere, while supporting programs that help children, families, and older adults thrive in Charlestown.

For more than 60 years, the

Kennedy Center has been a steady presence in the neighborhood, offering early education, youth programming, family support, and services for older adults. Proceeds from this event will help sustain and expand these vital programs. "We are thrilled to bring the community together for A Night of Impact," said Board President Eileen Ward. "This event is about celebrating Charlestown, supporting families, and strengthening our community. Every dollar raised helps ensure our neighbors have the resources they need to grow

and thrive."

The Center expresses gratitude to D.C. Beane and Associates for generously hosting the event.

Tickets are priced at \$100 per person and include a drink ticket. Sponsorship opportunities are available for local businesses and community partners.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.kennedy-center.org/night-of-impact-2026/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/night-of-impact-2026/) or contact Crystal Galvin at [cgalvin@kennedycenter.org](mailto:cgalvin@kennedycenter.org).

## PORTAL TO HOPE (from pg. 1)

less of their spoken language, and guarantee that our neighbors of any immigration status feel safe talking to the police and going to court to seek justice.

"I am proud to fight for Portal to Hope's legislative priorities and support them and other fan-

tastic organizations and agencies like Jane Doe Inc. and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance as they face funding threats ahead," said DiDomenico. "I want to thank Deb Fallon and her team at Portal to Hope for organizing this meeting and for all they

do each day supporting victims of domestic violence in our communities."

Portal To Hope is an award-winning non-profit organization committed to helping victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with Portal to Hope's Founder, Deb Fallon (far left), as well as legislators, advocates, and Medford Police at the event.

# 150 BGCB teens receive laptops and celebrate 150th Anniversary of the first phone call

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

AT&T and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) provided 150 refurbished laptops to local students, marking the 150th anniversary of the First Phone Call.

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell successfully made the world's first successful telephone call at his attic laboratory right here in downtown Boston. Bell's startup, Bell Telephone Company, was created a year later, and eventually became American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T).

To celebrate this historic Boston tech milestone, AT&T and BGCB hosted a telephone-themed STEM activity day for BGCB's Ready to Work program. The Ready to Work teens were then surprised with 150 free laptops, provided by AT&T.

"Boston is where big ideas have always taken root, and our teens are the next great innovators, builders, and leaders," said Robert Lewis Jr., Nicholas President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. "When young people have access to the right tools, there is no limit to what they can contribute to this city and beyond. We are grateful to AT&T for investing not just in technology, but in our next generation."

BGCB's Ready to Work program supports skill building and job readiness for students pursuing career and college goals.

"The call that sparked it all happened right here in Boston, the hub of innovation and revolutionary ideas. One hundred and fifty years later, AT&T employees continue to find new ways to connect people to greater possibility," said John Emra, President of AT&T Northeast. "As AT&T invests in new technology and new ways to communicate, we're also investing in the next generation of thinkers and doers. With Alexander Graham Bell in mind, we're proud to help connect Ready to Work teens, so that they can carry on Boston's proud legacy of innovation. These are the leaders of tomorrow and we're grateful to Robert and his team at BGCB for their collaboration and relentless commitment to

Boston students."

During the STEM event, Ready to Work teens engaged with antique phones, historic photo selfie stations and soundwave experiments provided by the New Hampshire Telephone Museum.

"The New Hampshire Telephone Museum is proud to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first successful telephone call with AT&T and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston – a moment that forever changed the way people communicate. In the span of 150 years, the desire to communicate has inspired invention and technological progress," said Megan Hurley, Director of Education and Development at The New Hampshire Telephone Museum. "We are excited to bring part of the museum's collection and interactive exhibits to show the science and the evolution of the telephone, from hand-cranked wall phones to modern smartphones. The telephone's story is one of innovation that has shaped modern life."

AT&T has been a longstanding supporter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, collaborating in recent years on several initiatives to close the digital equity gap. In 2024, BGCB launched New England's first AT&T Connected Learning Center at its Edgerley Family South Boston Club. This CLC offers Ready to Work teens free access to digital resources, including computer stations, Wi-Fi, a smart screen for lessons and teleconferencing, a podcast and music production studio, and other equipment.

These efforts are part of AT&T's initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability and safe adoption. AT&T is committing \$5 billion to help 25 million people get and stay connected to high-speed internet by 2030.

Learn more at [att.com](http://att.com).

More information about the NH Telephone Museum can be found at: [www.nhtelephonomuseum.org](http://www.nhtelephonomuseum.org).

Since its founding in 1893, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB)

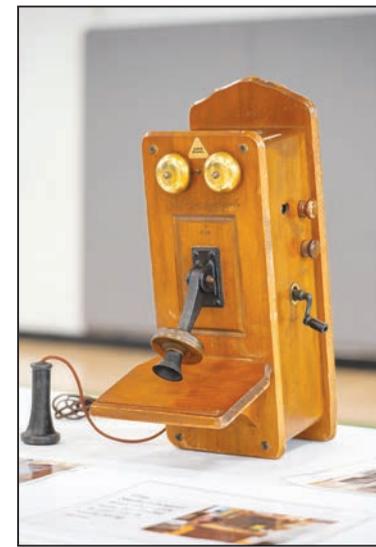
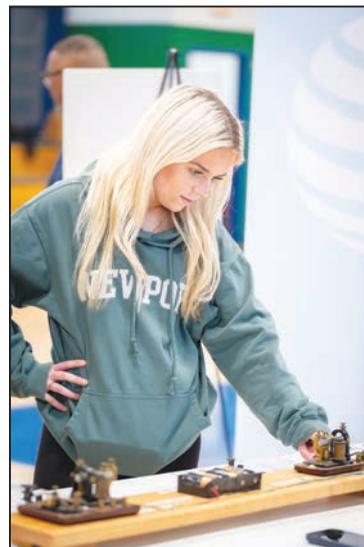
(AT&T, Pg. 5)



Shown are scenes from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's telephone-themed STEM activity day.



Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan participated in the AT&T and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston event where 150 refurbished laptops were provided to local students.



## Congratulations to Ready To Work Members on their free laptops!

BGCB's Ready to Work program supports skill building and job readiness for students pursuing career and college goals.



Thanks to AT&T for supporting the Boys and Girls Clubs in Boston

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE Dan Ryan

AT&T (from pg. 4)

has been helping young people, especially those who need us most, build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible

citizens and leaders. BGCB does this by providing a safe haven filled with hope and opportunity, ongoing relationships with caring

adults, and life-enhancing programs in six core program areas. The organization serves more than 15,000 individuals in 9 Clubs and

through its YouthConnect program in partnership with the Boston Police Department. BGCB is an affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit BGCB on the web at bgcb.org.

At AT&T, our corporate responsibility work is dedicated to bridging the digital divide across the country. We are committed to providing people of all ages and from every community with the essential resources they need

to thrive in the digital era. For generations, we have supported programs that impact millions of individuals nationwide, and since 2021, we have committed \$5 billion to initiatives that enhance connectivity, promote digital literacy, and improve access to high-speed internet. Our efforts particularly focus on uplifting underserved communities, including students, older adults, and those on tribal lands, ensuring everyone can participate in the digital world and benefit from its opportunities.



The Tall Ships are back for Sail Boston from July 11-16th. The USS Constitution will be leading the parade. We'll be out in the Navy Yard taking in the view and enjoying the festivities - hope to see you there!

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# Thousands to gather on Boston Common for 10<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Walk

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

This Sunday, March 22, the Boston Common will transform into a hub of advocacy and community as an estimated 4,000 participants gather for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Walk Boston. The milestone event, organized by Winter Walk Inc., aims to raise critical funds and awareness for 24 local nonprofit organizations dedicated to preventing homelessness and supporting those currently without permanent housing.

The two-mile walk is designed to foster a unique sense of solidarity, bringing together a diverse crowd of students, families, and professionals to walk shoulder-to-shoulder with individuals who have lived experience with homelessness.

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Charles and Beacon Streets, followed by a speaking program at 10:30 a.m. featuring Mayor Michelle Wu, former Mayor Marty Walsh, and Winter Walk founder Paul English.

“Homelessness will be solved when individuals come together to provide support human to human,” the organization stated, emphasizing that the event’s primary goal is to break down social stigmas while providing financial lifelines to frontline service providers.

Participants will contribute to



Volunteers during last years winter walk.

a broad network of 24 organizational partners, including the Pine Street Inn, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, and St. Francis House. Beyond the walk itself, the event will feature a pop-up art gallery showcasing works

by artists who have faced housing insecurity, as well as the “Why I Walk” tent, where marchers display personal stories and motivations for joining the cause.

Since its inception, the Winter Walk has grown into a national movement, though its roots

remain firmly planted in the Boston community. All proceeds from Sunday’s event will remain local, supporting a wide spectrum of services ranging from emergency shelter and medical care to youth-focused programs like Y2Y Harvard Square and Breaktime.

# Les Dames d’Escoffier presents Dame Delicious - An Evening of Culinary Adventures

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Les Dames d’Escoffier Boston presents Dame Delicious, taking place at Oakley Country Club on Friday, March 27, from 6-9 p.m. and featuring the best wom-

en-owned restaurants, artisan food makers, wine tastings, and cookbook author signings.

Les Dames d’Escoffier Boston is thrilled to bring Dame Delicious - An Evening of Culinary Adventures to Oakley Country

Club on March 27 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Dame Delicious promises attendees an exciting night to sample, sip, learn, and shop. This showcase event features all women-owned businesses providing a platform for them to showcase their products and expertise.

Over 300 hundred guests are expected to attend this exciting gala event featuring gourmet samples from top women-owned restaurants and food artisans. Sample dishes from award-winning women-owned restaurants including: Gustazo (Patricia Estorino), Daily Catch (Maria Freddura), Town Meeting Bistro (Trisha Pérez Kennealy), Hangry Kitchen (Stacey Deetz), and more.

Discover new delights and hidden culinary gems from culinary crafters including Curio Spice Company, Portoula, Salty Mam-

ina Garlic Salts, Ginger Gems, Drink Ellevate and more local delights. Sample wine, beer from Boston Harbor Distillery!

Feast from a stunning 16’ Grand Grazing Board featuring products from New England companies and farms. Taste and learn about wines and speak to the authors of award winning cookbooks and meet guides for culinary travel adventures. Chef demos include a featured recipe from Elle Simone’s Food Gifts, Indian Cuisine, Italian Cuisinine, Induction Cooking, and more.

Mary Ann Esposito, host of PBS Ciao Italia, television’s longest running cooking show, will be signing copies of her newest book, Ciao Italia-Plant Harvest Cook!

Tickets are on sale at: <https://bit.ly/damedelicious26>. Purchase an

individual ticket for \$50 or a VIP ticket for \$75 (includes a pack of raffle tickets!).

The evening also features raffle and silent auction prizes including professional kitchen equipment, getaways, dinners, a private wine tasting party, golf at great courses, and many delicious food and wine packages.

Proceeds from the event go to the Les Dames Boston Culinary Adventure Awards, which helps promising culinary students fulfill their career dreams. A donation will also be made to Food Link in Arlington, MA. Food Link rescues surplus nutritious food to distribute to low-income individuals experiencing food insecurity.

Les Dames d’Escoffier Boston is a professional organization for women in food, beverage, and hospitality. In 1991, Les Dames Boston was incorporated into Les Dames d’Escoffier International (LDEI), an international organization of women leaders in food, beverage and hospitality. The Boston chapter of Les Dames has a rich history going back to 1959 when its predecessor organization, Les Dames des Amis d’Escoffier Society, was founded by Eda Saccone. Les Dames des Amis d’Escoffier, Boston Chapter, was the first all-female society dedicated to the art of fine dining in the Escoffier tradition. In keeping with its history and mission, Les Dames Boston today is a thriving professional organization supporting women in the hospitality industry with a shared love of fine dining, networking, and philanthropic activities.



The Artists’ Group of Charlestown  
Spring 2026 Exhibition

Exhibition Dates: April 17 - May 3, 2026

Submissions: Open through March 31, 2026

To Submit: [ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com](http://ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com)

StoveFactory  
Gallery



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Detail of "What Shall We Say  
About Hope" © Sioux Gerow



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# Healey takes action to bring in 10 GW of new energy, save \$10 billion

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey is setting strong new targets for bringing more energy into Massachusetts and lowering energy bills. The Executive Order she has signed outlines her all-of-the-above approach to energy supply and directs her administration to secure 10 new gigawatts (GW) of energy resources for Massachusetts by 2035, as well as 5 GW of new energy storage.

Governor Healey's directive requires agencies to pursue a range of energy resources and ensure adequate supplies in place to meet growing demand and lower bills. The Executive Order outlines directives for state agencies related to solar, storage, wind, load management, gas, nuclear, and geothermal, leading to an estimated savings of \$10 billion for Massachusetts residents and businesses. Governor Healey signed the Executive Order at Lynch Elementary School in Winchester, which is powered entirely from

roof-mounted and ground-mounted solar.

Governor Healey laid out her energy supply plan amidst a dramatic spike in oil and gas prices due to President Trump's costly war and his failed energy policies that have taken American sources of energy like wind and solar off the table.

"The American people are now paying the price as oil and gas bills go through the roof because of President Trump's costly war," said Governor Healey. "I believe in an all-of-the-above approach to energy – that means solar, wind, gas, nuclear and hydro. While the President is taking American-built energy sources off the table, in Massachusetts, we are saying yes to more supply from more sources of energy. We are saying yes to American jobs and American energy independence. And we are saying yes to lowering energy bills for all."

"When we invest in Massachusetts energy, we invest in Massachusetts energy jobs," said Lieu-

tenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "It's Massachusetts gas, solar, offshore wind and electric workers that are keeping our lights on, homes warm and businesses moving. For many, these are 24/7, 365-day jobs. We need to support our in-state energy supply and the workforce that makes it possible."

"Setting firm targets and laying out a clear energy supply strategy will provide certainty and stability as we work to lower energy bills," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "And by building more energy resources with a fixed price, we can give Massachusetts a competitive edge. We're going to work as a region to power our communities and ensure more affordable, reliable service."

## More Energy for Massachusetts

ISO New England projects that electricity consumption could rise by nearly 15 percent by 2035 and 50 percent by 2045, with peak electricity demand in the winter

growing even faster. This is true across the country, as demand for electricity climbs and the cost to update the aging American electrical grid rises.

The Executive Order establishes a target of 10 GW of new energy supply-side and demand-side resources over the next 10 years, as well as a separate target for 5 GW of energy storage. 10 GW is roughly the equivalent of enough power for 2 million households. The 10 GW target includes 4 GW of new in-state solar and 3.5 GW of new electric demand reduction to be achieved through load management strategies such as energy efficiency, virtual power plants, and electric vehicle charging management. This builds on Massachusetts' successful strategy of demand management over the past 20 years, during which electricity demand has declined while the economy has grown, increasing our overall energy productivity. Because of these past investments, all customers are saving \$800 million every year – or on average, \$20 each month – due to utilities not needing to spend on transmission and distribution infrastructure or buy electricity for their customers.

## How We Get There

Governor Healey is directing agencies to take a number of immediate steps to get more affordable energy built in the near future, including to:

Ramp up efforts to build more solar projects before President Trump ends federal support;

Expand opportunities for wind, nuclear power, and fusion energy;

Explore natural gas and other fuel storage and delivery strategies to ensure reliability, avoid unnecessary spending and charges, and reduce reliance on imported liquefied natural gas.

Lower the cost of geothermal for heating and cooling; and,

Allow for flexible interconnection to make better use of the energy grid we already have and get more energy connected faster and cheaper.

Governor Healey filed the Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act to lower energy bills and bring more supply into Massachusetts. The legislation includes a key provision that would give the state more flexibility in procuring a range of energy resources when costs are at their lowest, rather than on a rigid schedule that locks ratepayers into high costs.

## Healey demands \$1,745 refund for Massachusetts residents harmed by President Trump's tariffs

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Bessent demanding a \$1,745 refund to every Massachusetts household for the financial harm caused by President Trump's unconstitutional tariffs. Data from the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee estimates that the Trump Administration's tariff actions cost American consumers approximately \$1,745 per household between February 2025 and January 2026.

"With approximately 2.8 million households in Massachusetts, my office estimates that \$4,886,000,000 is owed to consumers in our state who shouldered the burden of increased

costs. I call on the Trump Administration to immediately formulate a plan to refund tariff proceeds and put money back in the pockets of the hardworking people of Massachusetts," wrote Governor Healey. "From groceries and household goods to construction materials and consumer products, Massachusetts residents paid more at the register and businesses absorbed higher operating costs. Having unlawfully seized over \$100 billion dollars from American people and businesses, the federal government must immediately take steps to pay full restitution."

In the letter, she also continues to urge the President to reconsider his new global tariffs, as they will once again raise costs on

consumers and businesses.

Since President Trump began imposing tariffs on our trading partners, Governor Healey has spoken out against them. In an effort to curb the impact in Massachusetts, her administration launched the Massachusetts Tariff Response and Business Operations Support Initiative to align state resources to aid Massachusetts businesses, convened Massachusetts business leaders to discuss how tariffs were impacting them, and invited six Northeastern Governors and six Canadian Premiers to the State House to discuss regional collaboration.

The full letter can be read online at [www.mass.gov/doc/tariff-refund-letter/download](http://www.mass.gov/doc/tariff-refund-letter/download).

## Will you take the Plunge? Revere Beach sets the stage for Special Olympics fundraiser

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston-area residents are trading their winter coats for swimsuits this month as they head to the historic sands of Revere Beach. Boston-area residents are trading their winter coats for swimsuits this month as they head to the historic sands of Revere Beach. On Saturday, March 21, the 2026 Revere Polar Plunge—a staple of the North Shore winter season—will see hundreds of participants dive into the Atlantic to support Special Olympics Massachusetts. This high-energy event, formerly known as the Nahant Polar Plunge, invites community members to take a chilly dip in the Atlantic Ocean to raise vital funds and awareness for Special Olympics Massachusetts.

The festivities will take place at the Reinstein Bandstand (350 Revere Beach Boulevard). Registration and check-in begin at 10 a.m., followed by the official Plunge at 12:00 PM. After the splash, an awards program will be held at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate the top fundraisers and most spirited participants.

The Polar Plunge is about more than just cold water; it's about

going to the extreme to support the 20,000+ Special Olympics athletes across the Commonwealth. Every dollar raised helps provide year-round sports training, competition, and a sense of belonging for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Registration: Participants can sign up as individuals or teams at [fundraise.specialolympicsma.org/events/979](http://fundraise.specialolympicsma.org/events/979).

To participate, Plungers are encouraged to raise a minimum of \$100. Those who reach this goal will receive a limited-edition 2026 Polar Plunge long-sleeve shirt or crewneck sweatshirt.

Current top fundraising teams include GE Aerospace - Lynn and South High & Friends, but there is still plenty of time for new teams to join the leaderboard. Whether you are plunging with a corporate team, a school group, or as an individual, your bravery helps build a more inclusive world on and off the playing field.

For those taking public transportation, the event is conveniently located near the Revere Beach MBTA stop on the Blue Line. Parking is also available along Ocean Avenue.

## Opening day at Fenway: Lansdowne Street bars kick off the season with live music and Red Sox Ticket Easter egg hunt

Opening Day at Fenway Park returns on Friday, April 3, and Lansdowne Street's most iconic venues are celebrating with a full day of live music, DJs, and pre- and post-game parties. Loretta's Last Call, Lansdowne Pub, Bill's Bar, Bleacher Bar, and Game On! will open early to welcome fans heading to Fenway Park for the first home game of the season and

one of Boston's most anticipated spring traditions.

To add to the excitement leading into Easter Weekend, the Lansdowne Street venues are launching a citywide Fenway Opening Weekend Easter Egg Hunt. On Friday, April 3, Easter eggs will be hidden around Boston containing pairs of Red Sox tickets for the Sunday or Mon-

day home games. Each egg will include instructions on how winners can claim their tickets via the MLB Ballpark App. Clues will be posted through the venues' Instagram accounts with minimal hints about the egg locations. Fans are encouraged to follow along for clues: @gameonfenway | @lorettaslastcall | @bleacherbar | @lansdownepub

# ANNUAL ST PATRICK'S DAY SENIOR LUNCHEON AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Annual St Patrick's Day Senior Luncheon was held at the Knights Of Columbus Hall. Hosted by Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, and the Age Strong Commission guests from Age Strong were treated to a St Patrick's Day meal courtesy of The David Whelan Foundation and entertained by Warren Tavern's Mick Carr.



Susan Zimmerle and her Dad Bill Burke with Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.



Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.



Judy Evers from Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata's office (center) with Shirley Lanahan and Jo Donahue.



Massachusetts State Rep. Dan Ryan



Nancy Martinez (center) with Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (left) and Mayor Michelle Wu.



Age Strong employees Meg Thomas, Kim Cruciola, and Alycia Joyner.



Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy.



Massachusetts State Rep. Dan Ryan, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea.



Massachusetts State Rep. Dan Ryan helps hand out green carnations to guests.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu accepts a gift from Cynthia Steg.

# ANNUAL ST PATRICK'S DAY SENIOR LUNCHEON AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



The Knights Of Columbus Hall was filled with celebration for St Patrick's Day.



Moe Gillen with Jane Nolan.



Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox meets with guests.



Warren Tavern provided music with Mick Carr playing contemporary songs and traditional Irish music.



Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox with members of the BPD A1 CSO team and members of Walk The Beat.



Boston Police Officers Frank Wong and John Canty (right) with Meg Murray Kim Crucioli and Meg Murray (2nd from right) from Age Strong and Jim Henry with Senator Sal DiDomenico's office.



Boston Police A1 CSO team: Officers Frank Wong and Michael Mustacchio with Chrissy Vraibel (center).

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CITY PAWS

License your animal now!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Did you receive your dog license renewal package in the mail? If not, it's time to pick up an application or download one from your local Animal Control Department. Under Massachusetts state law, all dogs must be licensed by April 1st of each year. You may also be required to license and provide proof of rabies vaccinations for cats in some places.

Gather What You Need

You'll need a valid rabies certificate. Proof of spaying or neutering may lower the cost of an annual license from your city or town. There are potential fines for non-compliance.

Some veterinarians include confirmation that the animal is spayed or neutered on their rabies certificates. You can also ask your current veterinarian to issue a confirmation that your dog is not intact if you have lost your original paperwork.

If you or someone you know is age 70 or is licensing a service dog, you should check whether your city or town has adopted a

provision of state law. Chapter 140 Section 139 of the Massachusetts laws says, "No fee shall be charged for a license issued under this section for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder. No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 years or over in a city or town that accepts this provision."

Why License Your Animal?

Aside from the fact that it is required by law, we see licensing dogs as a form of dog advocacy. Adding to the list of homes with animals supports organizations fighting for services for those who share their lives with dogs and cats.

It's easy for politicians to ignore the wishes of people when setting funds for recreational space and services, when the official number of dogs is vastly decreased by those who don't get a license. In addition, dog walkers, kennels, dog parks, and some residential buildings require licensing.

Should you ever face an animal control officer or a lawsuit,



We waited in line in Boston to experience a low-cost rabies vaccine and license clinic in Boston's South End.

the fact that your animal is not licensed will work against you. A current license on a dog's collar also serves as proof that they have been vaccinated. It will allow those who might have to assist in caring for him in an emergency to

interact with your pet securely.

In addition to a dog emergency, your pets might need assistance if something happens to you. First responders often have to call animal control when caring for a person. If that happens, you will want your dog licensed.

Should you have any incident involving a person or another dog, the license will provide immediate proof that your dog is vaccinated and legal. That can sometimes be enough to keep stress levels from escalating.

rabies/editors/clinics.aspx

Those in the Greater Boston area should note that the Boston clinics listed there are available to residents of other cities and towns at a slightly higher price. At many of these clinics, you can also obtain a dog or cat license. We have attended these events in the past to ensure we can recommend them. We found the staff and other animal guardians warm and friendly, and while we did wait in line, we walked away with the job completed.

Save Money at Rabies Clinics Statewide

The state provides a list of low-cost rabies clinics at this web address. <https://massnrc.org/>

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# Healey-Driscoll administration awards more than \$28 million in second year of Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced 194 grants totaling \$28.8 million through the Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program, funded by the state's Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund and administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED). The program supports Massachusetts cannabis entrepreneurs from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and is designed to expand equitable participation in the Commonwealth's regulated cannabis industry.

"The Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program is about turning policy into real economic opportunity," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "These investments support small busi-

nesses at critical stages of growth while helping communities across the Commonwealth benefit from a rapidly evolving industry."

"EOED in partnership with the Cannabis Social Equity Advisory Board has put in a lot of effort to positively influence social equity in cannabis for Massachusetts," said Cannabis Social Equity Advisory Board Chair Keisha Brice. "As the industry continues to evolve, we look forward to continuing the work and staying true to our commitment in helping minority operators and entrepreneurs."

"The Social Equity Grant Program represents our continued commitment to building a cannabis industry in Massachusetts that is equitable, inclusive, and reflective of the communities most harmed by the war on drugs," said Senator Adam Gómez (D-Spring-

field), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy. "With these grants, we are not only supporting entrepreneurs at every stage of the licensing process—we are investing in economic opportunity, generational wealth creation, and fair participation in this growing industry. I am proud to see the Commonwealth take meaningful action to ensure that equity is not just a promise, but a practice."

The Executive Office of Economic Development received 223 applications requesting more than \$32 million in grant funding. Grant awards are distributed across four tiers based on an applicant's licensure status with the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC):

Tier 1: Entry into the regulated cannabis industry – maximum award of \$25,000

Tier 2: Support for expenses essential to obtaining provisional licensure – maximum award of \$50,000

Tier 3: Support for final licensure and commencement of operations – maximum award of \$200,000

Tier 4: Funds to continue, improve, or expand licensed operations – maximum award of \$300,000

In this round, EOED awarded: Tier 1: 72 grants totaling \$1.8 million

Tier 2: 19 grants totaling \$950,000

Tier 3: 44 grants totaling \$8.75 million

Tier 4: 59 grants totaling \$17.31 million

A full list of FY26 grant award recipients is available on the EOED website.

The Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund was established by Section 14A of Chapter 94G of the General Laws to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants and encourage full participation in the Commonwealth's regulated marijuana industry by entrepreneurs from communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement.

In April 2024, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$2.3 million in grant funding from the Trust Fund to support eligible cannabis social equity license holders with urgent financial needs, followed by an additional \$26 million awarded in Fiscal Year 2025 through the Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program. For more information, visit the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund website.

## Markey calls for FCC Chairman Carr to resign following threats to revoke broadcast licenses over Iran War coverage

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, sent a letter to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Brendan Carr, urging him to resign over his latest social media post threatening to revoke broadcasters' licenses if they do not cover the illegal war with Iran with Donald Trump's preferred narrative. Senator Markey highlights this post as an extraordinary abuse of FCC authority and a clear violation of the First Amendment, as well as the Trump administration's latest authoritarian attempt to weaponize the FCC's statutory authority to censor the media.

In the letter, Senator Markey wrote, "Your post on Saturday demonstrated your continued effort to turn the FCC into Trump's personal speech police. ... Your Saturday post is not an aberration. It is the latest and most dangerous

step in a sustained campaign to use the FCC's licensing authority as a weapon against broadcasters and journalists whose coverage displeases the Trump administration. ... The FCC's credibility depends on its willingness to exercise its authority on the merits, not at the direction of the President, and not as an instrument of retribution against journalism. You have once again shown that you are unwilling to maintain that independence and uphold your sworn oath to defend the U.S. Constitution, and I once again call on you to resign."

Senator Markey has aggressively pushed back on the Trump administration's efforts to attack news organizations and intimidate the media. In November 2025, Senator Markey asked unanimous consent to pass a resolution condemning President Trump's suggestion that criticism of him is "illegal" and recognizing Americans' constitutional right to criticize the president. Republicans blocked it. In September 2025, Senator

Markey, Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), and Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.) led seven of their colleagues in writing to Chairman Carr urging the FCC to cease its censorship of media organizations. Senator Markey then went to the Senate floor to ask unanimous consent to pass a resolution condemning Chairman Carr for his censorship of Jimmy Kimmel. Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) objected without any explanation. In March 2025, Senators Markey and Lujan, along with Senator Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) introduced the Broadcast Freedom and Independence Act, legislation that would prohibit the FCC from revoking broadcast licenses or taking action against broadcasters based on the viewpoints they broadcast.

Read the full text of Sen. Ed Markey's letter online at: [www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_to\\_carr\\_on\\_iran\\_war\\_censorship.pdf](http://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_carr_on_iran_war_censorship.pdf)



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# SCENES FROM THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVITIES

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



For over 100 years, Boston has celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a parade through the streets of South Boston. Up to a million people attend the parade every year.

This year, the parade started at Andrew Square on Sunday, March 15.



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# SCENES FROM THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVITIES

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



In honor of Women's History Month  
 Charlestown Historical Society presents

## Women of Charlestown

The history of famous women  
 in Charlestown through the centuries

The history of famous women in Charlestown  
 through the centuries

Bunker Hill Museum Community Room  
 Tuesday, March 31st at 6 p.m.

Join us to learn about and celebrate the women of Charlestown

## Charlestown Patriot-Bridge Pick-Up Locations

Basilica.....	106 13th St.
Anchorage Apartment.....	103 13th Ave.
Ace Hardware .....	Bunker Hill Mall
CVS .....	Bunker Hill Mall
Citizens Bank.....	Bunker Hill Mall
Whole Food Market.....	Bunker Hill Mall
Waverly Café .....	229 Bunker Hill St.
Bunker Hill Liquors.....	200 Bunker Hill St.
Kennedy Center.....	55 Bunker Hill St.
Foundation Kitchen.....	32 Cambridge St.
Constellation Wharf Condos	1 Constellation Wharf
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.
Harborview .....	250 First Ave.
MGH Institute.....	26 First Ave.
7/11 Store .....	1 First Ave.
MGH Health Care Center.....	73 High St.
Hood Park (Tradesman).....	50 Hood Park Dr.
Boston Public Library (Charlestown)	..179 Main St.
Schrafft's.....	529 Main St.
7/11 Store .....	269 Main St.
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.
McCarthy's Liquors.....	9 Moulton St.
Bunker Hill Cleaners .....	Moulton St.
Warren Tavern.....	2 Pleasant St. & Main St.
Santander Bank .....	437 Rutherford Ave.
Hood Park.....	500 Rutherford Ave.
Zelma Lacey House.....	9 W School St.
Gatehouse Apartment.....	75 W School St.
7/11 Store .....	Thompson Sq.
Charlestown Liquors.....	Thompson Sq.
Starbucks.....	Thompson Sq.
Cambridge Savings .....	Thompson Sq.
Police Station.....	20 Vine St. Hayes Sq.
Tatte Bakery .....	40 Warren St.

## North Station Commuter Rail service suspended for additional days in March and April

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services, the T's operations and maintenance partner for Commuter Rail, have announced that Commuter Rail trains will not service North Station on three upcoming Fridays for planned signal upgrades. Work has been ongoing on the project since January, and was scheduled to continue on weekends in March and April, with a final four day period from Friday, April 24 through Monday, April 27. The additional Friday work has been added to the schedule to make up for lost time during recent winter storms and ensure that the project is able to be completed on time.

This diversion allows for necessary signal improvement work just outside of North Station.

The work will continue on the following dates: Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22; Friday, March 27 through Sun-

day, March 29; Friday, April 10 through Sunday, April 12; and Friday, April 24 through Monday, April 27. Regular service will operate the weekend of the Boston Marathon.

The following changes will be in place on these dates. Schedules are available at [mbta.com/cr](http://mbta.com/cr).

- On the Newburyport/Rockport Line, local and express shuttle buses will replace regular train service between North Station and Swampscott. Local buses will service Wonderland for a Blue Line connection. On April 11 and 12 only, busing will be extended to Beverly Depot instead of Swampscott.

- On the Haverhill Line, Orange Line service will replace regular train service between North Station and Oak Grove.

- On the Lowell Line, local and express shuttle buses will replace regular train service between North Station and Anderson/Woburn Station.

- On the Fitchburg Line, Red Line to Green Line service will replace regular train service between North Station and Porter.

This critical project will modernize the signal system at Tower A, which controls all train movements into and out of North Station. It also prepares for the replacement of the North Station drawbridges in the coming years.

Keolis Commuter Services has operated and maintained the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's commuter rail system, the sixth largest commuter rail operation in North America, for over ten years. KCS is a subsidiary of Keolis North America (KNA), both headquartered in Boston, and employs approximately 2,500 people throughout the region. KCS and KNA are part of Keolis Group, an innovative global leader in transit services with more than a century of passenger transportation experience and operations in 13 countries.

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SU26P0407EA  
Estate of:  
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Also Known As:  
Nora Ann Donahue

Date of Death:  
12/29/2025

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sheila Donahue-Walsh of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Sheila Donahue-Walsh of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.

You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/22/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an

unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 11, 2026  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.  
Register of Probate

3/20  
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# Ruthzee Louijeune to deliver keynote address at BHCC 2026 Commencement

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilor At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune will deliver the keynote address at Bunker Hill Community College's 52nd Commencement exercises on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the MGM Fenway Music Hall in Boston.

"I am honored to serve as Bunker Hill Community College's 2026 commencement speaker," said Louijeune. "Education, and specifically public education, has shaped my life in profound ways, and it continues to shape the communities I serve. I am excited to celebrate this milestone with BHCC's graduates and the families and supporters who lifted them through every challenge. Whether they go on to earn a bachelor's degree, or they enter the workforce, the success of the Class of 2026 strengthens the future of Boston itself."

"Like the Class of 2026, Councilor Louijeune represents the vibrancy of Boston's present and the bright promise of its future," said Bunker Hill Community College President Pam Eddinger. "As the first Haitian American elected to the Boston City Council, as an advocate for fair and affordable housing, and as a champion for critical investments in education, Councilor Louijeune's vision of a Boston that offers economic opportunity and inclusion for all is one we at BHCC share. We are so happy that she will be our 2026 Commencement speaker."

BHCC graduates approximately 1,000 students each year from associate degree and certificate programs. Most BHCC alums go on to complete a bachelor's degree at four-year colleges and universities in the Boston area and across the country. The five largest institutions where BHCC alumni complete their degrees are UMass Boston, UMass Lowell, UMass Amherst, Salem State University, and Lesley University.

Ruthzee Louijeune is serving her third term as Boston City Councilor At-Large. Born and raised in Mattapan and Hyde Park to working-class Haitian immigrants, Councilor Louijeune's journey is deeply rooted in the fabric of Boston.

As a lawyer, Councilor Louijeune fought for families facing eviction and foreclosure in Boston Housing Court. She defended voting rights in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, helped elect progressive prosecutors nationwide, and served as the senior attorney on Senator Elizabeth Warren's presidential campaign. A fierce housing advocate, she drafted agreements that secured millions of dollars for first-generation homeowners as a member of Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA).

As Chair of the Boston City Council's Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement, she expanded the Office of Returning Citizens, secured support for immigrants and new arrivals, defended LGBTQ+

rights, and convened a citywide civil rights forum. She also led the Council through the redistricting process after a federal court order, successfully passing a new district map. In her second term, Councilor Louijeune served as the City Council President where she worked to deliver citywide results and lead a Council grounded in equity and accountability. She has continued to champion public education through investments in student mental health, school facilities, fair wages for educators, and language access for families. She has advanced racial justice and public safety through community-centered violence prevention, survivor support, protections for returning citizens, and supporting the declaration of Boston as an LGBTQIA+ Sanctuary City.

Councilor Louijeune made history as the first Haitian American elected to Boston municipal government, the U.S. city with the second largest Haitian population per capita, and the first Haitian American to serve as President of the council. An alumna of Boston Public Schools, Columbia University, Harvard Law School, and Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Councilor Louijeune is trilingual, fluent in Haitian Creole and French, with conversational proficiency in Spanish.

In addition to Councilor Louijeune, Bunker Hill's commencement will feature student and faculty speakers. For more information on BHCC's commencement, visit bhcc.edu/commencement.

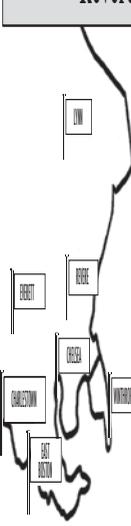
## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Wakeman, Charlotte E	Sullivan, Patrick R	19 Charles St	\$1,875,000
Fleming, Caleb	Halpin, Daniel	19 N Mead St	\$1,465,000
Rodiger, Albert A	197 8th St Unit 807 Rt	197 Eighth St	\$1,667,000
Williams, Ashley E	Beauchesne, Mark R	254-256 Medford St #2	\$400,000
Cavallaro, Lisa	5316 Parris LLC	42 Eighth St #5316	\$532,500
Sci Nautica Prk LLC	Gerfman Global LLC	88 Constitution Rd #COM	\$12,850,000
Nicholls, Jay	Lakus, Steven J	9 Short St	\$2,075,000



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### ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AT THE WARREN TAVERN

It may have been a Tuesday but not a typical one as St Patrick's Day was celebrated in Charlestown at the Warren Tavern.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Sinead Sheehan and Charlotte Lacey of the Goulding School Of Irish Dance in Medford preformed to an enthusiastic crowd.



Michael D'Elia is dressed for St Patrick's Day.



Goulding School Of Irish Dance in Medford students Giorgi Anselmi, Katie Leahy, Lil Longo, and Kallie McHugh will be competing in The World Irish Dance Championship in Chicago later this year.



The historic Warren Tavern was filled with At Patrick's Day revelry.



Nancy MacDonald and Mike Burke.



Warren Tavern was filled with At Patrick's Day revelry.

### Holy Week and Easter at Saint John's Episcopal Church

- Palm Sunday            March 29 10am
- Maundy Thursday    April 2    6pm
- Good Friday            April 3    7pm
- Holy Saturday        April 4    12pm
- Easter Vigil            April 4    7pm
  
- Easter Sunday        April 5    10am

followed by an Easter Egg Hunt!

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Whoever you are, and wherever you are  
on your journey with God, you are welcome!



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Charlestown, Massachusetts



Brita Gaeddert and Beka Amaral wore matching pants to celebrate St Patrick's Day.



Celebrating with her "Kelly Clan" Mary Alice Kelley enjoys her 90th Patrick's Day.



### FRIENDS OF RYAN "DUCE" MORRISSEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND



We are pleased to announce the availability of 2026 scholarships. This year, we are offering \$10,000 to two college freshmen, \$2,000 to three college upperclassmen and \$1,500 to four high school students.

Applications may be obtained from our website

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

Our annual Awards Presentation Dinner will take place Saturday, June 6th at the Knights of Columbus. Please mark your calendar.

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



Steven, Sol, and Nicky.