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FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Celtics honor Charlestown's Genesiz Gudiel as 'Hero Among Us'

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Celtics recently celebrated a local champion of inclusion, honoring Genesiz Gudiel as a "Hero Among Us" during the team's home game against the Charlotte Hornets on Tuesday, April 7. Gudiel, who serves as the Athletic Director and Unified Sports liaison at Charlestown High School, was recognized for her transformative impact on the school's athletic culture.

Recognizing a need for deeper belonging within the student body, Gudiel spearheaded efforts to elevate Unified Sports—programs

(GENESIZ GUDIEL, Pg. 2)



Genesiz Gudiel was honored as a Hero Among Us during the Celtics' April 7 game against the Charlotte Hornets for her work advancing inclusion and integrating Unified Sports at Charlestown High School.

City sets final public meeting for Rutherford Avenue redesign

Staff Report

The City of Boston is entering the final stages of the initial design phase for the Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square Redesign, a transformative project aimed at turning the busy corridor into a safe, multimodal thoroughfare. Officials are preparing to submit a "25% design" plan to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) by the end of May, a critical milestone that will trigger a formal state review and public hearing.

The redesign is intended to better align the corridor with local community needs while ensuring the infrastructure can handle

future regional growth. To gather final input before the state submission, the city has scheduled several engagement opportunities for residents to voice concerns and participate in design exercises.

Upcoming Community Engagement

Neighbors have two upcoming opportunities to meet with the project team and share feedback:

- Charlestown Library Workshop: Saturday, May 2, at the Boston Public Library Charlestown Branch from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Final Community Meeting:

(RUTHERFORD AVE. REDESIGN, Pg. 3)



The aerial view of the Rutherford Avenue tunnel as it currently exists.

Wu releases 2030 Climate Action Plan to strengthen Boston's climate resilience

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced this week the release of Boston's landmark 2030 Climate Action Plan alongside dozens of community and institutional partners at LoPresti Park in East Boston. This implementation plan provides a roadmap for how the City will achieve its carbon emissions reduction and climate resilience goals, including reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

"Fighting climate change provides a generational opportunity to create good-paying jobs, more affordable energy, cleaner air, and safer streets," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The 2030 Climate Action Plan outlines Boston's determination to deliver on our brightest future through citywide action. This year's update represents a clear transition from vision to implementation, and from a focus on city government goals to city-wide coordinated action. I am grateful for all the dedicated community partners whose years of collaboration set the foundation

to make this plan possible."

Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan marks a shift in focus from planning into the implementation phase of the City's climate action strategy, bringing City departments, local institutions, and community partners together to ensure that Boston can thrive for generations to come. The Plan provides concrete metrics and goals across key areas of climate action, including buildings, transportation, energy, workforce development, coastal resilience, and protection

(CLIMATE PLAN, Pg. 4)

CNC MEETING DATES

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 7 PM, Knights of Columbus

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 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 David Beane, D.C. Beane & Associates, and Katie Reilly, MPH, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, BPHC. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com

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

EDITORIAL

AT LAST, COMMON SENSE REGARDING MARIJUANA, PSYCHEDELICS

The recent actions by the Trump administration to reschedule marijuana and certain psychedelics has brought a measure of common-sense to the regulation of these substances.

Federal policy for more than 50 years has classified marijuana and psychedelics as Schedule I drugs, placing them into the same category as truly-dangerous drugs such as heroin and opioids, which never has made any sense.

Schedule I drugs are defined as substances with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse which have never been applicable to marijuana and psychedelics.

The placement of marijuana and psychedelics into Schedule I occurred during the Nixon administration, which did so with the express intent (as was revealed 10 years ago with the release of Nixon-era documentation) of using the drug laws as a weapon against minority communities and college students who opposed Nixon's policies.

The Nixon-era drug laws led to the "war on drugs," a battle that America has been fighting -- and losing -- for more than five decades.

And as with any war, the war on drugs has had numerous casualties, measured not only in the lives directly lost and the trillions of wasted dollars spent at the federal, state, and local levels on ill-conceived enforcement, but also in the damage to communities, families, and individuals throughout our country, as well as the destabilization our war on drugs wrought in foreign countries.

In addition, the war on drugs has altered the way in which our nation fights crime at a basic level. All too often, the methods employed by authorities in their zeal to enforce the drug laws have conflicted with the Fourth Amendment (which protects citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government) and has led to entrapment.

However, the biggest loss to our nation because of the ill-conceived war on drugs has been the decades lost to the potential for research into these substances. Both marijuana and psychedelics had been used for thousands of years by mankind for the treatment of maladies of all sorts.

Recently, psilocybin has been shown to be of benefit to veterans suffering from PTSD and marijuana has benefited patients undergoing cancer treatment. In addition, studies have shown that patients using marijuana for the treatment of pain have reduced their use of opioids significantly.

But the placement of these substances into Schedule I in the early 1970s effectively eliminated research into their potential uses for most of the past 50 years.

The recent actions by the Trump administration bring us a step closer to a day when these substances can be studied thoroughly and then regulated at the federal level (similar to alcohol), eventually allowing medical providers at long last to prescribe them to treat patients safely.

News BRIEFS

NEMPAC PRESENTS "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR." AT CHARLESTOWN HIGH

The NEMPAC Musical Theatre Troupe will perform "High School Musical Jr." from May 1 through May 3 in the Charlestown High School auditorium. This production features nearly 30 students from across Boston neighborhoods and showcases the culmination of their spring musical theatre training.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 2, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 3, at 2:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$15, and the auditorium entrance is located on Polk Street.

CHARLESTOWN "LOVE YOUR BLOCK" AND MAY DAY FESTIVITIES SET FOR MAY 2

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Civic Organizing invite residents to the annual "Love Your Block" spring cleanup on Saturday, May 2. This neighborhood-wide beautification effort encourages volunteers to host or join local sites for litter pickup, mulching, and flower planting. Centralized tool pickup is available from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., with all supplies provided by the city.

The cleanup coincides with "May Day" celebrations across the neighborhood. Highlights include a free outdoor Pilates Fusion class at the Bunker Hill Monument at 9:00 a.m., followed by a monument park cleanup hosted by Crate Escape from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. Local shops will also feature special events, such as the "Stuff the Bag" sale at Kaybea and the "Tour de Spritz" raffle at Prima, Waverly, and Monument.

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION TO HOST HISTORIC TROLLEY TOUR

The Bunker Hill Monument Association will commemorate the Siege of Boston with a special Historic Trolley Tour and Brunch on Sunday, May 3. The event begins with brunch at Blackmoor Bar & Kitchen from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., followed by a guided trolley tour of historic sites from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$75 per person, with proceeds supporting the association's ongoing preservation missions. Limited-edition 250th-anniversary commemorative coins will also be available for purchase at the event for \$30.

SUMMER FITNESS SERIES RETURNS TO THE TRAINING FIELD

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is bringing its free Summer Fitness Series back to Winthrop Square (the Training Field) starting the first week of May. Residents of all fitness levels can join "All Ages Yoga" every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. starting May 5, and "BCBS Line Dancing" every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. starting May 6. While classes are free, participants are encouraged to register online in advance.

USS CONSTITUTION MUSEUM UNVEILS NEW EXHIBITS AND SENSORY PROGRAMMING

The USS Constitution Museum will hold a "Collection Open House" on Thursday, May 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to preview

its newest acquisition: 34 historic sketches by Lieutenant John Blake Dale documenting the ship's 1844-1846 world tour. Later in the month, on Sunday, May 17, the museum will host a Sensory-Friendly Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., providing a quieter, adjusted environment for visitors with sensory sensitivities.

LIBRARY TALK FEATURES COURTROOM DRAWINGS OF JOE CONNOLLY

On Thursday, May 14, the Charlestown Branch Library will host "The Art of Crime," a visual presentation by Eve Griffin, the BPL's Curator of Painting and Sculpture. The talk focuses on the courtroom drawings of the late Charlestown-based artist Joe Connolly, who documented many of Boston's most famous organized crime trials from the 1970s to the 1990s. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. and is sponsored by the Friends of the Charlestown Branch Library.

WARREN-PRESCOTT "SPRING FLING" FUNDRAISER AT THE TALL SHIP

The Warren-Prescott Foundation will host its annual Spring Fling fundraiser on Friday, May 15, at a new waterfront venue: The Tall Ship Boston. This flagship event raises critical funds for school initiatives, including science supplies and the Spanish language program. The evening will feature food, signature cocktails, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are available for purchase online through the school's website.

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 3)



**CHARLESTOWN
PATRIOT-BRIDGE**

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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GENESIZ GUDIEL (from pg. 1)

where students with and without disabilities compete on the same team. Under her leadership, these programs have gained the same level of pride, support, and recognition as traditional varsity sports. By weaving Unified Sports into the core of Charlestown High's athletic identity, Gudiel has fostered an environment defined by teamwork, empowerment, and mutual respect.

The "Heroes Among Us" program was established by the Boston Celtics in 1997. Since its inception, the initiative has used every home game to pay tribute to outstanding citizens who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to their communities. Gudiel's commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to participate and excel stands as a premier example of the program's

mission.

Since its establishment in 1997 by the Boston Celtics, the Heroes Among Us program has recognized outstanding individuals who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to their communities. The award is presented at every Celtics home game and pays tribute to the heroic achievements of these outstanding citizens.

CHARLESTOWN'S LEGACY: CIVIL WAR STORIES AND IRISH AMERICAN PRIDE



Sal Giarratani, Kevin Roche, and Joe Zuffante.

By Sal Giarratani

The Charlestown Historical Society in partnership with Memorial Hall Abraham Lincoln Post 11, recently presented a public program "Charlestown in the Civil War" that explored the lives and legacy of the more than 2,500 men who served in the Civil War.

Over 40 residents packed the hall to hear stories of 19th century Charlestown and its inhabitants in the fight to keep America one nation.

Thanks go out to Ed Callahan for his presentation, so one can also understand the growth of Charlestown's and America's Irish community.



Michael Leonard, Eddie Callahan, holding uniform Joe Zuffante, Paul Lane, Julie Hall holding Civil War pistol, and Stan Leonard.

Sal Giarratani is both a member of Abraham Lincoln, Post 11, GAR and a lifetime member of the Charlestown Historical Society.

NEWS BRIEFS (from pg. 2)

COMMUNITY GARDENING WORKSHOPS AND STORYTIMES

Gardens for Charlestown has a busy May schedule at both the library and their main garden site. On Saturday, May 9, expert gardeners will lead a "Plant a Seed & Grow Something!" workshop at the Charlestown Branch Library from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. The following week, on Saturday, May 16, families are invited to the gardens at 499 Main Street for a community storytime at 9:30 a.m..

HARVEST ON VINE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SET FOR MAY 9

The Harvest on Vine Food Pantry will conduct its next grocery distribution on Saturday, May 9.

Residents of Charlestown in need of assistance are invited to attend the distribution, which runs from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at 49 Vine Street. Participants are asked to bring proof of Charlestown residency. Donations of canned goods and cereal are always welcome and can be dropped off at the pantry or the local library.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB TO HOST HOUSE PARTY, MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston will celebrate its 20th Annual House Party on Friday, May 15, at 6:00 p.m., bringing together civic leaders and supporters to invest in local youth development. Additionally, the Charlestown Club will host the Annual Dennis Borden Memorial Golf Tournament

on Friday, May 22, at the Windham Country Club. Proceeds from the tournament directly support the Grousbeck Club of Charlestown and its neighborhood programming.

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL 5K ROAD RACE

Registration for one of the neighborhood's oldest traditions, the Battle of Bunker Hill 5K Road Race, officially opens on May 1.

The race itself is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, at 10:30 a.m., taking participants past historic landmarks like the Freedom Trail. Proceeds from the race support the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club. Runners are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to 1,000 participants.

RUTHERFORD AVE. REDESIGN (from pg. 1)

Wednesday, May 6, at the Warren-Prescott School (50 W School St.) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The May 6 gathering will serve as the third and final formal community meeting before the plans are sent to MassDOT. The project team is expected to share the proposed design alternatives, the updated project timeline, and the next steps for moving toward a 75% design phase.

Project Background

The city has held a series of

workshops and meetings since early February to refine the plans. Previous sessions included an update to the Charlestown Neighborhood Council and a workshop in March specifically focused on the design of a proposed linear park. Residents who were unable to attend prior sessions can find meeting materials and sign up for the project newsletter at boston.gov/rutherford. Questions and ideas can also be sent directly to the project team at rutherford.ave@boston.gov.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

**Project Description: BOSTON- BRIDGE PRESERVATION,
B-16-066 (38D), CAMBRIDGE STREET OVER MBTA
Project File Number: 612989**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed bridge preservation project on Cambridge Street in Charlestown, Boston, MA.

WHEN: 7:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacement of the bridge deck carrying Cambridge Street over the MBTA railroad tracks in the neighborhood of Charlestown in Boston, MA. The project also includes minor repairs to the superstructure and substructure, along with replacement of a few of the support beams under the northern sidewalk. The project also includes safety improvements, including physical separation of bicycles and pedestrians from motor vehicles wherever feasible, bus stop improvements, utility relocations, bridge barrier and railing replacement, street lighting, and drainage improvements. Also included is roadway resurfacing on the bridge approaches.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Boston is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private

or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 612989. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the MassDOT website at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

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Edwards, Coletta-Zapata deliver remarks at climate change plan

By Cary Shuman

Sen. Lydia Edwards and City Council Vice President Gabriela Coletta, who are both considered legislative champions for the environment, credited Mayor Wu for her leadership on the issue of

climate change during remarks at the Mayor's announcement of the 2030 Climate Change Plan Monday at LoPresti Park.

"Welcome to East Boston, the best neighborhood in the City of Boston," began Edwards. "This

is my home, but also it's a beautiful diverse neighborhood that has been climate resilient and been fighting climate change before it was cool."

Edwards praised the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, the Maverick

Street Mothers, Air Inc., Tree Eastie, Eastie Farm, and the Piers Park Sailing Center for their efforts on environmental issues.

In praising Wu, Edwards told the large gathering, "She is the climate action mayor. I think to

this day, she is the only [Boston] mayor that actually came out to Belle Isle Marsh and saw that beautiful [site], the natural lungs of this area, and I want to thank you, Mayor Wu, for all of your

(REMARKS, Pg. 5)

CLIMATE PLAN (from pg. 1)

from extreme weather. Climate justice is a key component of this initiative, as underserved communities will disproportionately experience the greatest impacts of climate change. The City of Boston prioritized community engagement in its environmental justice communities, designed the Plan incorporating their current and future needs, and will implement strategies to ensure that every neighborhood receives the public health, economic, and resilience benefits of climate action.

Highlights of the Plan include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions: Boston is on track to reduce emissions by 48% by 2030 through full implementation of its existing programs and policies. The Plan builds on this trajectory, outlining additional actions needed to reach the City's 50% by 2030 reduction target while simultaneously reducing energy costs for Boston residents and businesses.

- Protecting Boston from sea-level rise and extreme weather: New England's regional prosperity depends on Boston's critical infrastructure, including world-class hospitals and universities, its highway and rail network, and local food systems. The Plan includes strategies to protect these regional assets and vulnerable neighborhoods alike, outlining steps to screen City capital projects for future climate risk; protect residents from flood pathways; reduce heat-related injuries; and ensure that every Boston neighborhood has certified Community Emergency Response Teams.

- Building a green workforce: The strategies outlined in this Plan are expected to support approximately 67,000 full-time jobs annually. The City will work to strengthen training pipelines and expand access to high-quality green jobs through leveraging City procurement policies, Project Labor Agreements, and programs like PowerCorps Boston.

- Tracking Boston's progress: The Plan includes 22 metrics that the City will track over the next five years through the Climate Action Plan Implementation Dashboard. These metrics measure progress towards the City's goals and how residents and businesses benefit from climate action. As implementation progresses and more data becomes available, additional metrics will be incorporated over time. These metrics include monitoring:

- Buildings that meet Net Zero Carbon Zoning, Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District, and Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) standards.

- Heat pumps installed and weatherization projects completed;

- Energy cost savings from residents and businesses enrolled in Boston Community Choice Electricity.

- Street and park tree plantings to provide cooling benefits;

- Public transit and Bluebikes ridership.

- Number of residents graduated from the City's climate job training programs, and more.

The community Climate Action Plan launch event included remarks from Mayor Wu, leadership from the City's Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet, and community and institutional partners. Hosted in partnership with Tree Eastie, a Climate Action Plan community partner, the gathering included a ceremonial planting of 10 trees in East Boston to improve the neighborhood's tree canopy and local resilience to extreme heat.

"With this Plan, Boston continues its critical national and global leadership on climate change with direct benefits for all Bostonians and as a model for the rest of the country," said Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett. "Our communities and our future generations depend on the actions we take today. That's why we are working with our community partners to collaboratively deliver on concrete strategies, measurable targets, and actionable timelines to reduce emissions and strengthen our

neighborhoods' resilience."

"The 2030 Climate Action plan distills our community's top priorities for climate, quality of life, and justice," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Environment Commissioner and Green New Deal Director. "We know that the effects of climate change are going to hit our most vulnerable communities hardest, so we are ensuring that every neighborhood of Boston can access the benefits of green jobs, energy bill savings, and cleaner air through this strategic path forward."

"In partnership with the community, the City developed thorough and thoughtful plans to lower the risks posed by extreme heat, coastal flooding, and stormwater flooding," said Chris Osgood, Senior Advisor to the Mayor for Infrastructure and Director of the Office of Climate Resilience. "With this plan, we shift from a focus on developing the strategy to delivering on many of the projects and policies that will best protect and enhance our neighborhoods for generations to come."

"This Plan is the most ambitious climate action agenda in our city's history," said Hessann Farooqi, Executive Director of the Boston Climate Action Network. "I am proud Mayor Wu is doubling down on climate action that not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also lowers

energy bills, creates jobs and business opportunities, and improves health. I am also grateful to the many organizations and residents who informed this plan, including the members of BCAN."

"Advancing affordable, climate-resilient housing and expanding access to quality jobs are central to our work," said Gustavo Quiroga, Executive Director of LISC Massachusetts. "The City's Climate Action Plan focuses on scaling critical decarbonization upgrades and will help lower energy costs for residents while protecting vulnerable communities from extreme heat and flooding. The City's commitment to growing Boston's green workforce is equally important and will ensure more residents can access and advance in these emerging careers. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City, working together to align the resources needed to bring these priorities to life."

"Boston is faced with the invisible threat of severe heat and the peril of rising tides," said Bill Masterson, Executive Director of Tree Eastie. "While there is no single solution, Boston's Climate Action Plan converts these challenges into actionable, measurable solutions."

Read the full Climate Action Plan online at www.boston.gov/departments/environment/boston-climate-action.



CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu joins State Sen. Lydia Edwards, City Council Vice President Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Tree Eastie Executive Director Bill Masterson (far right) city officials, and East Boston High School students for a photo following the announcement of Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan Monday at LoPresti Park.

**JOIN US
TOMORROW!**



State
Representative
**DAN
RYAN**

DAY AT THE RACES
Fundraiser

SATURDAY - MAY 2
5-7 p.m.

DERBY POST TIME 6:57PM

BLACKMOOR
— BAR & KITCHEN —

OR CONTRIBUTE ONLINE
ActBlue.com/donate/dr-raceday26



Paid by The Committee to Elect Dan Ryan

Rodney Marshall appointed as 45th Commissioner of Fire Department

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Rodney Marshall as the 45th Commissioner/Chief of Department of the Boston Fire Department (BFD).

Marshall, who joined the BFD in 1991 and currently serves as Chief of Operations - Support Services, brings more than three decades of experience in the Department to the position. He will begin serving in his new role when he is sworn in later this month.

"As a distinguished and deeply respected 35-year veteran of the Boston Fire Department, Deputy Chief Rodney Marshall is exceptionally qualified to lead the brave men and women of Boston Fire who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As a lifelong Bostonian, he knows our communities, has demonstrated his leadership on the job, and has devoted his career to serving and protecting our residents. It's my honor to appoint him as our next Fire Commissioner. I am deeply grateful for Commissioner Paul Burke's strong and steady lead-

ership over the past nearly four years, and know that his legacy in the Department and the City will continue to have an impact on our neighborhoods."



45th Boston Fire Department Commissioner Rodney Marshall.

"I want to thank Mayor Wu for the privilege of leading the Department that has shaped my life and career," said Rodney Marshall, incoming Boston Fire Department Commissioner. "As a proud son of Dorchester, I joined the Boston Fire Department because I wanted to give back to the communities where I grew up, and I'm committed to supporting the firefight-

ers and staff who work every day to keep Boston's neighborhoods safe."

"Deputy Chief Rodney Marshall and I have worked together side-by-side in the Commissioner's office for four years," said Paul Burke, current Boston Fire Department Commissioner. "He is a good choice by the Mayor—and he will be a great commissioner."

Marshall was first appointed to the Boston Fire Department in 1991, initially serving at Engine 56. He rose through the ranks to become a Fire Lieutenant in 1998, and that same year was awarded the Commissioner's Unit Citation for saving the lives of multiple residents during a six-alarm fire. He was promoted to Fire Captain in 2005 and in 2013, he received a second Commissioner's Unit Citation for his role in rescuing several individuals trapped in a bus with severe roof damage. His promotion to District Fire Chief came in 2014. Since his promotion to Deputy Fire Chief in 2022, he has served as Chief of Operations - Support Services.

One of Marshall's proudest accomplishments was designing

and overseeing the launch of the Department's Cadet Program, helping to create new pathways for young inner city residents to pursue a career as a firefighter.

Marshall was born and raised

in Grove Hall in Dorchester, where his parents were well-respected entrepreneurs within the community. He is a graduate of Boston College, where he earned a bachelor's degree.

REMARKS (from pg. 4)

work and to the many city officials for your hearts. I appreciate your guidance and your pushing the state to do more not for just for the City of Boston, but for all of our futures."

Coletta Zapata, who is expecting a child soon, said, "I'm so grateful to be here in my favorite park in the City of Boston, the best part in the city."

"I'm grateful to work with our state partners, Rep. Adrian Madaro, who is an environmental champion, and Sen. Lydia Edwards, who has been at the forefront of fighting for this environmental justice community her entire career, and of course, Mayor Wu, for being a true Green New Deal mayor. As you can tell, Baby Zapata is not here yet, but he's coming very soon, and I feel at ease about his future knowing that amid the uncertainty and hostile and regressive acts by the federal government, that we have local leadership here who is making this a priority."

The former chairperson of the Council's environmental justice committee, Coletta Zapata added, "I'm proud to stand here in this environmental justice community

that has long been on the front lines of combating the climate crisis. In East Boston, we know that climate change is not abstract. It shows up in extreme heat on our hottest days and in coastal flooding along our waterfront, and in the very air that our families breathe. And for too long, com-

munities like ours have carried a disproportionate share of those burdens, and that's why today matters. This climate action plan represents a shift from planning to action, and from siloed efforts to coordinated citywide strategies that center equity, public health, and accountability."



Boston Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett, Boston Environment Department Commissioner Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Sen. Lydia Edwards, and City Council Vice President Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION!

Save the date!

Saturday May 2nd 2026
11am-2pm

Bring the family! Refreshments
Games, Activities – Surprises

Free for all!

Pier 5 Harbor Park
Charlestown Navy Yard



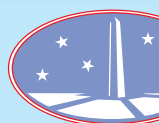
Colonel William Prescott A Patriot's Life

Don Ryan introduces his
new book on the
heroic commander
of the
Battle of Bunker Hill
with an illustrated talk

Saturday May 2 at 2:00 PM
Charlestown Library
179 Main Street
617 242 1248

Presented by Friends of the Charlestown Library
and the Charlestown Historical Society

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



MBTA, MassDOT celebrate Earth Day with station cleanup

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

In honor of Earth Day 2026, dozens of employees from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) volunteered to cleanup eight stations along the MBTA Blue Line: Maverick, Airport, Wood Island, Orient Heights, Suffolk Downs, Beachmont, Revere Beach and Wonderland Stations. This year's focus on the Blue Line reflects the MBTA's rotating, systemwide approach to Earth Day service efforts. Now in its fourth year, the employee-led cleanup initiative has previously focused on stations and corridors along the Orange Line, Red Line, and Fairmount Line, ensuring that communities across the network benefit each year.

"MBTA and MassDOT

employees take pride in the communities we serve, and these cleanup efforts along the Blue Line reflect our shared responsibility and desire to keep the environment clean and our system welcoming for all," said Interim Secretary General Manager Phillip Eng.

Sustainability is a core priority for the MBTA. Initiatives like the annual Earth Day cleanup support broader efforts to reduce environmental impact and build a more resilient transit network. Through its strategic planning and climate work, the MBTA is focused on modernizing infrastructure, improving sustainability, and supporting mode shift to public transportation. In September 2024, the MBTA released its Climate Assessment, which outlines progress to date and identifies next steps to advance sustainability and resilience across the system.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Shown (above and below) are some of the employees from the MBTA and MassDOT who volunteered to cleanup eight stations along the MBTA Blue Line



In addition to its climate planning work, the MBTA is advancing sustainability through major fleet modernization and mode shift investments across bus and commuter rail. The agency continues to deploy hybrid and battery-electric buses and invested in supporting infrastructure like the fully funded Arborway battery-electric bus facility.

The MBTA is in the midst of the Better Bus Project, which will help to make riding the bus a first choice for more riders by improving accessibility, reliability, safety, and the overall experience.

The MBTA is also moving forward with Regional Rail modernization, including a new joint procurement for battery-electric and Tier-4 low-emissions locomotives that will support quieter, cleaner, and more reliable service, building on investments already underway such as battery-electric service on the Fairmount Line.

The MBTA also thanks its riders for doing their part. Whether



choosing the bus, subway, commuter rail, ferry, or paratransit, public transportation helps to reduce traffic congestion and lowers greenhouse gas emissions. Public transportation in the region produces significantly fewer emissions per passenger mile than single-occupancy vehicles, and as ridership increases, the environmental and sustainability benefits are anticipated to grow.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)

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

Bunker Hill Associates announce the 2nd Annual

GERARD F. DOHERTY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Awarding 2 Scholarships of \$2000 for 2026/27
Renewable annually through Senior year

Open to Charlestown residents or students with a parent or grandparent currently living in or originally from Charlestown, and are entering freshman year of a private or parochial school.

To Apply for Freshman Scholarship:

On a 3x5 index card please include the following:

1. Full Name
2. Address, email address, and phone number
3. Your relation to Charlestown
4. Name and address of the private or parochial high school you are entering
5. Enclose your one-page essay describing your relationship with Charlestown and how receiving this scholarship will assist you in reaching your educational goals described above.

Please mail the index card and essay to:

Gerard F. Doherty Memorial Scholarship, c/o Pauline O'Brien
50 Franklin Street, Suite 3A, Boston, MA 02110

For 2026, all applications must be submitted by May 8, 2026, with recipients being notified via telephone on May 29, 2026.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY REGISTRATION!

for our 2026/2027 season

Saturday May 9th

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Special Townies - 314 Main Street - Charlestown

We are looking for players 5 to 10 years old.

Anyone who turns 11 years old before 1/1/2027 is too old to play. Any 3 or 4 year old who is interested in playing is welcome to register But will be placed on a waiting list until a spot becomes available. Players from last season who missed Trophy Day can come and get their Trophy during registration.

'JOYWALK' offers free stroll of select Fenway art galleries

By Dan Murphy

'JOYWALK: A Fenway Cultural District Art Crawl' returns Thursday, May 7, from 4 to 8 p.m., again offering guests a unique opportunity to visit a selection of the neighborhood's diverse art galleries free of charge, including a couple of spots rarely open to the public.

"The ethos of the event is to highlight Fenway's art community," said Genevieve Day, co-executive director of Fenway Alliance, which, together with Mass Cultural Council and City of Boston's Planning Department, is sponsoring JOYWALK. "We have some wonderful art galleries in the neighborhood. The MFA and the Gardner Museum are the two anchors, but we want to shine a light on some of the smaller galleries as well."

For this year's event, the public will receive free admission to Fenway Studios; The Fenway Gallery at Fenway Studios; Massachusetts Historic Society; The First Church of Christ, Scientist; Berklee Art Windows; New Edgerly Plaza Art Market; Kaji Aso Studio; Huntington Avenue YMCA; MFA, Boston; MassArt Art Museum (MAAM); the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; and Trustman Art Gallery at Simmons University.

The inaugural JOYWALK, which took place on the first Thursday in May in 2024, was a great success, with strong participation and a sizeable turnout, said Day, but the event didn't return last year for a variety of reasons.

Like the inaugural event, this year's JOYWALK again takes place on the first Thursday of May because many of the neigh-



Scenes from the inaugural 'JOYWALK' event in '24.

ANNIELLY CAMARGO



borhood's museums, including the Museum Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) and MAAM, are traditionally open late on the first Thursday of each month. Admission to the Gardner Museum is free on the first Thursday of each month as

well.

While the MFA will still be charging its usual admittance fee on the day of the event, 25 free tickets to the museum will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis at the JOYWALK informa-

tion booth at New Edgerly Plaza.

This year's JOYWALK also offers a unique opportunity to visit Kaji Aso Studio and Fenway Studios, both of which are rarely open to the public.

"This is actually one of the

coolest things to see these studios - the first purpose built artist live/work studios based on Parisian Ateliers in the country," said Day of Fenway Studios. "The studios are quite spectacular, each two stories high with an intricate double staircase situation in the back to maximize north-facing light."

As part of this year's JOYWALK, Ed Ballo, a Fenway resident, historian, and 'urban sleuth' is also leading two public art walking tours of the Fenway. (Online registration via the JOYWALK webpage below is required for these tours.)

For this year's event, Fenway Alliance will also be collaborating with two other local organizations (Junkyard + Carcas, respectively) to offer an Art Market, including handmade goods, including trinkets, ceramics, prints, paintings, and jewelry, among other items, along with free live music.

And in collaboration with the Berklee Art Windows on Mass Ave, the art windows at 171 Massachusetts Ave. will be activated with the installation of works created by students from the nearby Windsor School, an all-girls private day school for Grades 5-12.

In anticipation of JOYWALK, Day said she hopes this year's event will ultimately serve to introduce the Fenway's rich art offerings to an even wider audience.

"We want to welcome people into the Fenway to explore hidden gems and the iconic 'anchors,'" said day. "We're excited to see people explore the galleries and see some they might not see on a regular basis."

Visit www.fenwayculture.org/joywalk for more information.

Massachusetts named newest member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has announced Massachusetts is now an official member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a global network of more than 1,400 governments and organizations working together to protect biodiversity. This milestone places Massachusetts within the world's leading coalition focused on advancing the conservation of nature and addressing environmental challenges at a global scale.

"In Massachusetts, we are tak-

ing proactive steps to protect the natural resources people rely on, from clean water and open spaces to healthy wildlife," said Governor Maura Healey. "Joining this global network puts Massachusetts at the table with leaders from around the world and gives us access to proven tools and practical solutions we can use here at home. It strengthens our ability to protect our environment, support communities and continue leading by example."

"Protecting our environment is directly tied to economic growth," said Lieutenant Governor Kim

Driscoll. "Our coastlines, forests and open spaces bring in visitors, support local jobs and support industries like fishing and outdoor recreation. As part of the IUCN, we can better promote and manage these resources, helping communities grow while ensuring our natural resources remain healthy and accessible for future generations."

"We are thrilled that Massachusetts has joined IUCN as the first U.S. state to do so alongside California. States, cities and other subnational governments play a critical role in protecting and

restoring the world's biodiversity, and contributing to a more stable, healthier, safer future for us all," said IUCN Director General, Dr. Gretel Aguilar. "Massachusetts is implementing a 25-year biodiversity initiative that aims to conserve 30% of state land and water by 2030, and 40% by 2050, and is addressing development and climate change challenges to ensure greater resilience going forward. As an IUCN Member, Massachusetts is now part of a growing group of subnational governments who are contributing to crucial action on the ground, knowledge

exchange, and progress towards achieving conservation targets of global significance."

Massachusetts and California are the first U.S. states to become members of the IUCN, marking a significant step forward in Massachusetts' environmental leadership. Membership will strengthen the state's commitment to biodiversity and climate action and build on the state's nation-leading Biodiversity Conservation Goals. This ambitious 25-year plan defines a whole-of-government

(IUCN, Pg. 8)



If plants will be within reach of your animals, begin planning your garden selections with information on which plants are toxic to pets.

CITY PAWS

Garden Safety for Pets

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

City dwellers without outdoor space may think they don't have to worry about plants that might harm their dogs. However, most of us walk our dogs past front yard gardens, in parks, and take them on hikes in the woods where dangers may be right before our eyes and their mouths.

We bring flowers and houseplants into our home and receive the same as gifts. We may not give much thought to where we place them or whether our cat or dog might eat them.

Avoiding Poisons

As with so many dangers, plants are only harmful to your companion animals if those dogs and cats ingest them. Often, it takes a large amount to do any damage. Melissa Marshall, DVM, a critical care veterinarian, offered this reassurance in a magazine interview, "Most poisonous plants are distasteful. Most of the time, an animal will take one bite and spit it out."

Knowing your pal's habits and being watchful is as important as knowing which plants are most harmful. Some will only cause mild GI upset, while others can be dangerous even in small amounts. For example, if you have cats, lilies are a real danger and should be kept totally out of your cat's reach or not brought into your home at all.

(CITY PAWS, Pg. 9)

IUCN (from pg. 7)

approach to rebuild biodiversity and invest in nature to sustain our health and well-being, food security, and economy. Joining the union also aligns with the investments proposed in Governor Healey's Mass Ready Act, which helps protect the state's natural resources and prepare for extreme weather.

"Our membership in the IUCN strengthens the work already underway to protect what makes Massachusetts unique. Our wetlands, forests, and coastlines support local food systems, outdoor recreation, and the health and well-being of our residents," said Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "Being part of

this global network gives us added support to move this work forward, so we can better protect these resources and keep them accessible for the people who rely on them."

"From the global to the regional to the local, action at all scales is needed to protect our state's irreplaceable biodiversity. Biodiversity—the abundance and variety of life—is the foundation for our health and well-being, economy, food security, and future," said DFG Commissioner Tom O'Shea. "In joining the IUCN, Massachusetts is proud to build on our long legacy of environmental leadership, champion our nation-leading Biodiversity Conservation Goals, contribute our expertise at the global level, and accelerate our work here at home. We are stronger together, and through partnership and collaboration, we can steward a future where both people and wildlife thrive."

Massachusetts is home to globally rare habitats and threatened coastal shorebirds and sea turtles, whales, salamanders, and dragonflies. It is known for its coastline and fishing communities, rivers and cranberry bogs, farms and orchards, and forests and quiet mountain glens. Today, these species and landscapes face growing pressures from climate change, including flooding and drought that threaten both ecosystems and livelihoods.

By joining IUCN, Massachusetts will strengthen its ability to respond, gaining access to a global network of conservation expertise and resources, and bring our own

experience protecting and restoring species and their habitats to the table. Led by the Department of Fish & Game for Massachusetts, this partnership will support ongoing work to protect and restore biodiversity and natural areas, build resilience, and connect the state to broader international efforts focused on the protection of nature and community well-being.

"Massachusetts joining the IUCN sends a powerful signal. By becoming one of the first U.S. states to join this global network, Massachusetts is showing that safeguarding biodiversity is a responsibility we all share," said Kris Sarri, State Director of the Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. IUCN's unparalleled expertise and partnerships will strengthen our efforts to protect the lands, waters and wildlife that make this state so extraordinary."

"As a fellow member of the IUCN, the New England Aquarium commends Massachusetts for becoming one of the first two states in the country to join the IUCN network as a subnational member, stepping up as a global leader in advancing conservation and biodiversity," said Dr. Letise LaFeir, Chief of Conservation and Stewardship at the New England Aquarium. "We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with the Commonwealth and other IUCN members to solve ocean challenges, advance policy action, and implement conservation projects worldwide."

RUTHERFORD
AVENUE
REDESIGN
PUBLIC MEETING #3

Join the City at our third and final community meeting before we submit the 25% design to MassDOT.

Learn more at boston.gov/rutherford.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 AT 6-8 P.M.

THE WARREN-PRESCOTT SCHOOL
50 W SCHOOL ST
CHARLESTOWN, MA 02129

CITY of BOSTON

Transportation

Boston Parks launch free summer sports clinics for 2026

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has announced that registration is now open for its 2026 Summer Sports Clinics. This popular program provides Boston youth with a free opportunity to develop athletic skills and enjoy the city's outdoor spaces in a fun, supportive environment.

Program Schedule and Logistics

The clinics are scheduled to run from July 6 through August 14, 2026. Sessions will take place Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., hosted at the Carter Playground. The program is open to Boston residents between the ages of 8 and 14.

Weekly Sports Lineup

Participants can register for specific weeks based on their interests:

- July 6–10: Baseball Series
- July 13–17: Volleyball Series
- July 20–24: Soccer Series
- July 27–31: Lacrosse Series
- August 3–7: Softball Series
- August 10–14: BUDA Ultimate Frisbee Series

CITY PAWS (from pg. 8)

The ASPCA lists the most common plants that are dangerous to pets as: Lilies, Marijuana, Sago Palm, Tulip/Narcissus bulbs, Azalea/Rhododendron, Oleander, Castor Bean, Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Yew, Amaryllis, Autumn Crocus, Chrysanthemum, English Ivy, Pothos, and Schefflera.

Note the inclusion of marijuana. Veterinary emergency rooms and pet poison control centers have seen an uptick in pets poisoned by marijuana since laws against the drug were relaxed. Vets who treat these cases urge pet owners to be candid about whether their cat or dog may have ingested this substance so that proper treatment can begin quickly.

Pesticides, herbicides, weed killers, antifungals, and other garden chemicals are also pet dangers in a garden. For those, read the "Mate-

rial Safety Data Sheets" available with each and decide what you find safe to use around your pets. Use care in storing these products in a pet-proof manner.

A Verbal Stop

One of the first commands you should teach any dog is "Leave it." It's useful when your pup is showing interest in the lilies popping through a fence under his nose. It's also useful when your chowhound is pulling you towards food litter in the park. Or, when a little nose is sniffing out your sandwich on the coffee table.

We've heard pet guardians who extend the command to an aggressive dog, telling it to "leave it" when another dog approaches. It's great when a single command works in many situations. With cats, removing temptation is the

only thing that really works.

Have This Number Ready

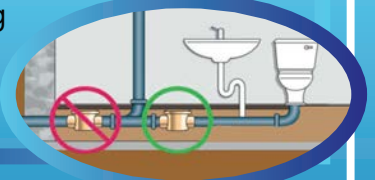
The ASPCA maintains a list of toxic and non-toxic plants, and they operate a 24-hour emergency poison hotline at 1-888-426-4435. Reminders if you use this service are to have the container for any product you think might have been eaten and a credit card ready, because there is a consulting fee. The center is staffed by veterinarians and has assisted with five million cases since the service began nearly five decades ago. We keep this number on our cell phones.

The good news is that, while dangerous, plants and lawn-and-garden products ranked 9th among the top 10 poison-related calls the referral service handled last year. The number one problem was human medications!

SEWAGE BACKUPS ARE PREVENTABLE

No Valve = No Protection

If your home has plumbing fixtures in the basement, like a toilet or sink, a backwater valve will prevent sewage from flowing into your home during heavy rains or sewer backups.



Maintenance Matters!

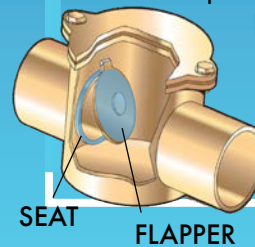
Without a properly installed and maintained valve your basement is vulnerable to costly and hazardous sewage backups.

Simple Maintenance Requirements:

Inspect regularly, especially before storms.

Wear protective gloves and eyewear.

Remove debris from valve seat and flapper with water and gentle scrubbing.



SEAT FLAPPER



Boston Water and
Sewer Commission

Note: PSA for informational purposes. Backwater valve must be installed by a licensed plumber. BWSC does not install valves.

Historic Trolley Tour & Brunch!

Hosted by Bunker Hill Monument Association | Commemorating the Siege of Boston

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Brunch 10:00-11:45 AM at Blackmoor Bar & Kitchen
Trolley Tour noon-2:00 PM, ending at Charlestown Navy Yard

\$75 per ticket

Tickets at bunkerhillmonumentassn.org

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper. Includes photo. No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

Gov. Healey announces \$25,000 in interest-free downpayment assistance now available for more first-time homebuyers

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey and MassHousing announced that starting this week, more Massachusetts residents are now eligible for \$25,000 in interest-free downpayment and homebuyer assistance to help them afford to buy their first home. Earlier this year, Governor Healey announced a \$25 million investment to expand MassHousing's homebuyer assistance program so that more people than ever before can lower their upfront costs and afford to become homeowners.

"We are focused every day on lowering the cost of housing for people," said Governor Healey. "This program lowers families' upfront costs and their monthly payments so that more people can afford to buy a home and build their future right here in Massa-

chusetts. Today, we're bringing this assistance to a wider cross-section of the middle class who are being priced out of homeownership right now. We encourage any eligible first-time homebuyers to apply for this expanded assistance, and we're going to keep using every tool at our disposal to lower costs for everyone."

"Making homeownership more affordable takes action on multiple fronts, and that is exactly what we are doing," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "By expanding homebuyer assistance and supporting other tools that lower costs, we are helping more working families and middle-class residents take the first step toward buying a home of their own."

This program provides eligible buyers with up to \$25,000 at 0 percent interest with deferred repayment terms to help cover a

down payment, closing costs, pre-paid mortgage insurance or reduce their interest rate. The program is available to first-time homebuyers who lock in their MassHousing mortgage between April 27 and July 31, 2026 and earn up to 135 percent of area median income, which includes many middle-class borrowers across the state. This assistance is available to people earning up to 135% of area median income – ranging from \$205,335 in eastern Massachusetts, to \$165,645 in Worcester County, to \$137,565 in the Berkshires and \$129,870 in Hampden County.

Interested homebuyers can visit masshousing.com to learn more about eligibility criteria and application instructions.

"For many families, the biggest obstacle to buying a first home is saving enough for a down pay-

ment," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Juana Matias. "This expansion will help more Massachusetts residents become homeowners by tackling that barrier head-on."

"MassHousing is committed to expanding sustainable homeownership opportunities across Massachusetts and ensuring that homebuying opportunities remain within reach for working families," said MassHousing CEO Chrystal Kornegay. "Homebuyer assistance, including down payment assistance, is critical to removing barriers to homeownership and ensuring that first-time homebuyers are positioned for long-term success. The Healey-Driscoll Administration's investment in Massachusetts families will deepen the impact of MassHousing's homebuyer assistance program and accelerate the path

to homeownership for middle-income families."

"We see owning our home like an investment for the future. We hope to grow our family and now we have something for us," said Ilse Bellido, who with her fiancé, used MassHousing financing with down payment assistance to purchase their home in Lowell. "When I first walked into my house, honestly, it's so beautiful, it's new, and it's mine."

MassHousing already offers up to \$25,000 in down payment and homebuyer assistance loans to moderate- and middle-income households purchasing a first home in any Massachusetts community. Prior to the Governor's investment, this assistance was offered in the form of a 15-year second mortgage with interest

(HOMEBUYING, Pg. 11)



DCR News & Updates

DCR advises the public on fire safety as camping season kicks off

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

As camping season gets underway across the state park system, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is urging residents and visitors to take precautions to prevent wildfires, as new data shows a continuing trend of longer periods of time each year when fires are likely to occur. DCR's 2025 wildfire data also shows wildfire activity has returned to more typical levels following unusually high numbers of wildfires in late 2024.

"As more people head outdoors this time of year, it's important to understand that the risk of wildfires in Massachusetts is increasing and we're having longer fire sea-

sons than in the past," said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle. "The vast majority of these fires are caused by human activity -- and it's on all of us to help prevent them. By taking simple steps, we can protect our parks, forests and communities from damage."

In 2025, Massachusetts experienced 1,161 wildfires burning a total 925 acres. Those numbers are down from 2024, when 1,300 fires burned 4,623 acres – a spike driven by an extended drought, dry soils and dry windy conditions. Late in 2024, several factors made fires more likely, including multi-day wind events, low humidity, and fallen leaves that added more fuel for fires.

Despite the year-over-year decline in wildfires, the data continues to show a broader trend of fires occurring earlier in the year, extending Massachusetts' wildfire season. In the past decade, Massachusetts has continued to see consistent fire activity in earlier months of the year, when winter snowpack has historically helped reduce the chance of fires. Shorter winters with less snow have allowed for dryer conditions, which have contributed to longer windows of wildfire risk across the state.

"Since nearly all of the wildfires we are experiencing are caused by some form of human behavior, we can have a good chance of bringing our numbers down through educating the public," said Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino. "We want the public to understand that wildfires indeed happen in Massachusetts and that humans are the main cause. If we all take responsibility, we can prevent a lot of damage and potential injury."

Less than 11 percent of last year's wildfires were due to natural or undetermined causes. More than 89 percent were caused by human activity, the vast majority of which were accidental. Improper brush burning, open burns, illegal debris burning and failure to fully extinguish fires are among the most common causes of accidental wildfires.

Below are tips for preventing some of the most common causes of wildfires:

- Always fully extinguish a fire by pouring water on the site and stirring the burned materials until there is no sound of hissing and they feel cool to the touch.
 - Clear fallen leaves, dry grass or any other flammable vegetation or material within a radius of at least 10 feet of the fire prior to lighting it.
 - Avoid lighting fires during stretches of dry weather, or on particularly windy days.
 - During burning season, obtain a permit from your local fire department.
 - Have extinguishing materials on hand at all times, including water, shovels and rakes.
 - Burn one small pile of material at a time and add to it slowly.
 - When using a charcoal grill, properly dispose of coals using a metal container with a lid once they have fully cooled. Do not dispose of coals outside.
 - When using a propane grill, check tanks for leaks months ahead of use.
 - All grills should be positioned away from structures and deck railings, and out from under building eaves or overhanging branches.
- To reduce the risk of fire damage to your house, homeowners are recommended to:

• Regularly clear leaves and pine needles from roofs and gutters.

• Clear leaves from under decks and stairs, as well as within a 5-foot radius of all structures.

• Maintain lawns and native grasses to a height no higher than four inches.

Additional guidance for fire safety, as well as a list of requirements enforced by the state's open burn law, can be found online.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees nearly half a million acres of land, making up one of the largest and most diverse state park systems in the country. Our work focuses on nurturing the vital connection between people and the environment by protecting, promoting, and enhancing our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all. DCR infrastructure connects people to and through the beautiful landscapes and accessible recreational facilities we care for – strengthening our communities and driving our economy. Our staff strive to build a healthier, more resilient Massachusetts where all residents and visitors can relax, reflect, and feel a sense of belonging in our open spaces and public lands. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr or contact us at mass.parks@mass.gov.

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IG: **YAWKEY_WAY_REPORT**



SCENES FROM THE GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN BOSTON



On April 26 the City of Boston came to life with celebrations for Greek Independence Day. Beginning with a parade in the Back Bay, and continuing on to the Greek Independence Day festival on Boston Common. Shown below residents from the City and the Greater Boston area shown on the Boston Common wearing their best for the occasion.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

HOMEBUYING (from pg. 10)

rates ranging from 2 to 3 percent, depending on household income. With the new funding, that assistance is now available at 0 percent interest with deferred repayment, significantly lowering upfront costs for buyers.

Since the beginning of 2023, MassHousing has delivered more than \$1.9 billion in mortgage financing, helping over 5,900 households become homeowners. During that time, the agency has issued 4,757 down payment assistance loans, with four out of five mortgages supported by this tool. Over the past 18 months, nearly all first-time homebuyers using MassHousing have relied on down payment assistance to purchase a home.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is also advancing the Massachusetts Homeownership Tax Credit (HTC), created under the Affordable Homes Act and administered by MassHousing, to increase homeownership opportunities for moderate-income house-

holds through the development of new homeownership units. The HTC provides up to \$10 million a year for five years through calendar year 2029 to support the production of new homeownership units. It is the first program of its kind in Massachusetts and one of only three programs nationally to use state tax credits to support homeownership production.

These initiatives complement existing programs that help expand access to homeownership through Massachusetts Housing Partnership's (MHP) homeownership programs, including ONE Mortgage, ONE+ and ONE+Boston, which help eligible first-time buyers lower borrowing costs and access financial assistance. Since 1991, MHP has provided over \$5.3 billion in below-market bank financing and made it possible for more than 26,000 low- and moderate-income families in Massachusetts to purchase their first home.





EMERGENCY
ALL BLOOD
TYPES NEEDED.

Give now.



American
Red Cross

DiDomenico talks local issues and state policy at community office hours

Senator DiDomenico and his team hosted local office hour events in each community he represents throughout April. DiDomenico met with many constituents, heard their concerns, shared his legislative and budget goals for the year, and supported people having issues accessing various government services. The Senator will continue to host office hours both in the district and virtually periodically throughout the year. “Meeting with constituents is



Shown above and below, Senator DiDomenico and his team meeting with constituents at office hours.

The Art of Crime:

Courtroom Drawings of Charlestown-based Artist Joe Connolly



Presentation by Eve Griffin
Boston Public Library's Curator of Fine Arts
Thursday May 14th,
6 pm sharp (doors at 5:45 pm),
Charlestown Branch Library
Free and open to all; sponsored by the Friends of the Charlestown Branch of the BPL, with a reception following in Memorial Hall, where examples of Connolly's work will be on display, including copies of his unique map of Charlestown, available for sale.

always important because it gives us the opportunity to meet residents where they are to support them, and we also hear about what issues are important to them so we can ensure our legislative priorities reflect their top concerns,” said Senator DiDomenico. “Making myself and my team accessible is a top priority so we will be having many more of these office hour events, but if anyone ever has questions or thoughts they want to share with us, please do not hesitate to reach out. I want to thank everyone who came out and spent time with our team.”

Senator DiDomenico's office can be reached by phone at 617-722-1650 or by email at Sal.DiDomenico@masenate.gov.





FREEDOM IS []

The Artists' Group of Charlestown
Spring 2026 Exhibition
April 17 - May 3, 2026

FINAL WEEKEND
Gallery Hours
Saturday & Sunday 12 Noon - 5 pm

StoveFactory Gallery

 523 Medford Street,
Charlestown

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



This Mother's Day, don't just hope for business—*guarantee* that local shoppers find you!

Reach thousands of motivated customers across our trusted community network as they plan for the big day! (Mother's Day is May 10th!)



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SINGLE-PAPER IMPACT:
Feature your business for just **\$125 for 1 Week.**

ANY 3 PAPERS

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EXTENDED LOCAL LOCAL REACH:
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DOUBLE THE EXPOSURE:
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The Boston Sun
Charlestown Patriot-Bridge
North End Regional Review

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Red Sox Foundation goes to bat for Project Bread's 58th Walk for Hunger

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

For the first time, the Red Sox Foundation — the official non-profit of the Boston Red Sox — will serve as a sponsor of Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger. The Foundation's generous support has backed Project Bread's Healthcare Partnerships program and The Walk for Hunger itself — reinforcing a shared commitment to ensuring every Massachusetts family has reliable access to nutritious food.

This year's Walk, set for Sunday, May 3, is expected to raise over \$1 million to fund Project Bread's proven statewide programs. Participants can join the 3-mile loop on the Boston Common or walk virtually in their own neighborhoods. The event begins at 9 a.m. with food, entertainment, and family-friendly activities. The fully accessible route accommodates walkers with mobility devices, young children, and those with special needs. ASL interpreters and multilingual staff will be on hand to ensure everyone can participate.

Now in its 58th year, The Walk for Hunger remains Project Bread's flagship community event, bringing together families, friends, and neighbors in a celebration of compassion and action. Launched in 1969 as the first pledge walk in the nation, the event has grown into one of New England's most beloved traditions for combating food insecurity.

"Every step we take at The Walk for Hunger is a step toward a future where no family has to worry about their next meal," says Erin McAleer, President & CEO of Project Bread. "Our walkers and supporters are turning their compassion into action. Together, we're not just walking — we're building a stronger, more food-secure Massachusetts."

The Red Sox Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of youth, families, veterans, and communities across New England by expanding access to health, education, and recreational opportunities. Since 2002, the Foundation has leveraged the team's iconic brand and fan base to deliver year-round direct-service programs—such as Red Sox Scholars, the Fenway Park Learning Lab, and Nike RBI leagues—while also supporting mission-aligned nonprofit organizations through grantmaking and strategic partnerships. Since 2025, the Foundation has deepened its commitment and partnership with Project Bread, supporting both its Healthcare

Partnerships program and The Walk for Hunger. Through this thoughtful collaboration, Project Bread and its FoodSource Hotline program have also provided compassionate support and counsel to communities served by the Red Sox Foundation who have experienced food insecurity.

"Consistent access to nutritious food is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve," says Bekah Salwasser, Red Sox Foundation Executive Director and EVP, Social Impact, Boston Red Sox. "Our mission is rooted in expanding opportunity—whether through education, recreation, or health—and food security is critically important. We are proud to support Project Bread in addressing both immediate hunger needs and long-term systemic change."

Project Bread launched the joint-fundraising Commonwealth Program in 2019. Participating organizations receive 60% of the funds they raise to support their own hunger relief programs, with the remaining 40% contributing to Project Bread's broader statewide efforts. In 2025, 51 nonprofits raised more than \$200,000 through the Commonwealth Program.

These four Boston-based nonprofits are just some of the organizations participating in the Commonwealth Program this year.

- The American Red Cross - Boston Food Pantry (ARC - BFP) operates a high-volume, barrier-free food access system centered at its onsite pantry at 1033 Massachusetts Avenue in Boston. Programs include onsite and mobile food distributions, school-based pantry partnerships with Boston Public Schools, a satellite pantry partnership with NeighborHealth in East Boston, Food is Medicine initiatives with healthcare partners, home delivery for seniors and homebound clients, monthly USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program distributions, and an onsite Department of Transitional Assistance Benefits Kiosk supporting SNAP enrollment. The organization utilizes research, data and statewide insights from Project Bread to inform its programming and regularly connects clients to the nonprofit's FoodSource Hotline for food assistance navigation. The American Red Cross Boston Food Pantry is a member of the Make Hunger History Coalition, led by Project Bread, helping to advance solutions to end hunger permanently in Massachusetts.

A founding participant of the Commonwealth Program with more than 30 years of continuous involvement in the annual community fundraiser, the organization will use funds raised to support ongoing pantry operations, emergency food distribution and high-volume service delivery. This year, a team of 10 to 20 walkers will lace up for The Walk for Hunger on the Boston Common with a goal of raising \$1,000 to support hunger relief efforts.

"Food insecurity remains a persistent and growing challenge across the communities we serve, particularly among seniors and working families facing rising housing and healthcare costs," says David Andre, Director of the American Red Cross Boston Food Pantry. "Participating in The Walk for Hunger reflects our commitment to collective action, shared learning, and strengthening statewide efforts to ensure equitable food access for all Massachusetts residents."

- At Boston Latin Academy, addressing food insecurity is a critical part of supporting students' ability to learn, grow, and

succeed both inside and outside the classroom. For the past four years, the school's Fresh Food Pick Up initiative has provided consistent access to fresh, healthy food for students and families, helping to remove barriers faced by many in their diverse and underserved community. Through their continued partnership with Project Bread, Boston Latin Academy has expanded this work while engaging students, staff, and families in meaningful service. This year, led by Family Liaison Ms. Medina, a team of 25 to 40 participants will walk in person on Boston Common, proudly representing their school in coordinated black and gold, with a goal of raising \$5,000 to further expand food access programs, emergency grocery support, and essential resources for their community.

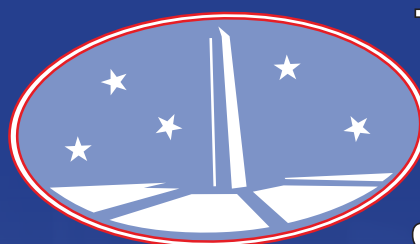
"Participating in The Walk for Hunger allows us to bring our entire school community together around a shared purpose," says Ms. Medina. "It's about raising awareness, taking action, and ensuring our students and families have the resources they need to thrive."

- For more than 50 years, The Paulist Center's Wednesday Night Supper Club has provided a welcoming space in Boston where neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity can gather for a nutritious meal, companionship, and dignity. As the founding team of Project Bread's Walk for Hunger in 1969, The Paulist Center has remained deeply rooted in the event's mission, raising thousands of dollars annually to sustain its weekly meal program and related services, including distribution of hygiene items and seasonal clothing. This year, led by Sarah Branciforti, a team of 50 to 75 walkers will once again take to Boston Common in person, aiming to raise \$60,000 to support food purchases and essential supplies that keep their operations running while continuing to foster a strong sense of community among volunteers and guests alike.

"The Walk for Hunger is not only essential to sustaining our program, it's a meaningful way for our entire community to come together," says Branciforti.

(WALK FOR HUNGER, Pg. 16)

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Gov. Healey urges local businesses to apply for refunds for tariffs, renews calls for consumer relief

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey is today encouraging Massachusetts businesses to apply for refunds from the federal government if they were charged for President Trump’s illegal tariffs. The Supreme Court struck down the

tariffs earlier this year. Governor Healey is also renewing her call for the Trump Administration to refund every Massachusetts household \$1,745 for the costs they’ve faces because of the tariffs.

“President Trump’s illegal tar-

(TARIFF REFUNDS, Pg. 15)

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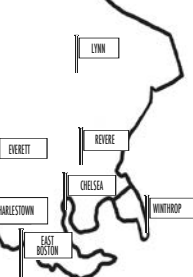
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TARIFF REFUNDS (from pg. 14)

iffs have increased costs for every Massachusetts business and resident. It's important some that refunds are now available, and I encourage eligible businesses to apply. But this isn't enough," said Governor Healey. "The people of Massachusetts have faced more expensive groceries, household goods, construction materials and more because of these tariffs. The Trump Administration must also issue refunds to American house-

holds – and the President needs to actually focus on making life more affordable and abandon his costly tariff plans for good."

Businesses can now submit claims through an online federal portal to recover costs paid under the policy.

Governor Healey has consistently pushed for accountability and relief for Massachusetts residents and businesses impacted by these tariffs. In March, she formal-

ly called on the U.S. Department of the Treasury to provide direct refunds to households, estimating that Massachusetts families paid an average of \$1,745 as a result of the tariffs, totaling nearly \$4.9 billion statewide. She has also urged the federal government to rescind ongoing tariff policies that continue to drive up costs and to ensure that both businesses and consumers are made whole.

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LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT
Docket No. SU22P1780EA
In the matter of:
Alfred Barry Dingwell
Date of Death:
11/27/2021

To all interested Persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Karen J Kearns of Cambridge, MA requesting allowance of the 1st and Final SPR account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition. 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 05/14/2026.
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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 16, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

5/1
CT

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No.SU26P0816EA
Estate of: William F Coady, III
Also known as: William F Coady
Date of Death:10/27/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lauren von Fabrice 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: Lauren von Fabrice 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 06/02/2026.

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 date, 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: April 28, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

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LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU26P0565EA
Estate of:Frank Fortunato Magarace
Also Known As: Frank F. Magarace
Date of Death: 01/17/2026
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Nancy-Jean Mara-Aldrich of Bloomfield, CT
A will has been admitted to informal probate.
Nancy-Jean Mara-Aldrich of Bloomfield, CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the Estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court.
Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure.
A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the

Petitioner.

5/1
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LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. SU22P1780EA
Estate of:
Alfred Barry Dingwell
Date of Death:
11/27/2021

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Karen J Kearns of Cambridge, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of the final account 1st and Final, and Conservator's Surety Bond #1001186482, for a total penal sum of \$2,820,000.00, is released and discharged and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
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 05/14/2026.
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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 16, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

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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.

Local leaders visit center to learn about severe flooding threats

Staff Report

State legislators visited the New England Produce Center in Chelsea last Friday to learn more about increasingly severe flooding that threatens the food supply for more than nine million people in New England and beyond.

The New England Produce Center is the largest wholesale produce market in the region and a cornerstone of the food supply chain, distributing fresh food to grocery stores, restaurants, schools, hospitals, and institutions across Greater Boston and throughout New England and the Canadian Maritime provinces.

The produce center sits in the floodplain of Island End River, a tidal tributary of the Mystic River that frequently overtops its banks. Flooding is growing more severe each year and will become catastrophic as sea levels rise.

Disruption to the produce center due to flooding would have consequences far beyond Chelsea and Everett, threatening regional food access, economic activity, and supply chain stability.

Officials used the visit to highlight the importance of the Island End River Flood Resilience Project, which has been under development by the Cities of Chelsea and Everett for more than a decade to

address this critical vulnerability. Developed in response to growing risks from storm surge and sea level rise, the project is designed to protect the produce center, thousands of residents in surrounding neighborhoods, and interconnected transportation and utility infrastructure.

The project includes a linear flood barrier, underground tidal gates to prevent and manage storm surge, and new public access improvements, including an elevated riverwalk, a new Island End Park, and restored wetland habitat.

The tour gave legislators an opportunity to hear directly from Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, Everett Mayor Robert J. Van Campen, and other local leaders about the urgency of advancing the project and the importance of sustained state and federal support to protect this critical regional asset.

"This visit made clear that protecting the New England Produce Center is not just a local priority, but a regional imperative," said Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez. "For more than a decade, Chelsea and Everett have been advancing the Island End River Flood Resilience Project because we understand what is at stake. This project protects critical food



COURTESY PHOTO

Local legislators and city leaders visiting the New England Produce Center last Friday, April 24

infrastructure, strengthens supply chain resilience, safeguards surrounding communities, and represents the kind of forward-looking investment we need to meet the challenges of climate change."

Everett Mayor Robert Van Campen said the flooding we see along the Island End River is not just a future threat.

"It is happening now, and it is getting worse," Van Campen said. "Residents, businesses, and critical regional infrastructure like the New England Produce Center are all at risk. Chelsea and Everett have been driving this project for-

ward for more than a decade, and we are grateful for the opportunity to show our state partners firsthand why this investment matters so much to our communities and the region."

Participants in the tour included Senator Sal DiDomenico and members of the Massachusetts

Joint Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management and the Joint Committee on Federal Funding and Accountability. Committee members in attendance included Representatives Kathy LaNatra, Kate Donaghue, Steve Ultrino, Estela Reyes, and Jeffrey Turco.

DiDomenico discusses public health policy at BU

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator DiDomenico and his Chief of Staff, Christie Getto Young, recently visited a Boston University health policy class to talk about their paths getting into public service, advocacy skills,

and public health bills in the state house like the Healthy Youth Act which he champions.

"It is inspiring to hear from young people who are so passionate about making our world a better place and ensuring all our

neighbors are safe and healthy," said Senator DiDomenico. "I also want to thank Professor Jamie Klufts for inviting us to speak and for all her advocacy on the Healthy Youth Act and other public health legislation."



Senator DiDomenico (middle) and his Chief of Staff, Christie Getto Young (left of Senator DiDomenico), with the Boston University class of students and their professor, Jamie Klufts (right of Senator DiDomenico).

WALK FOR HUNGER (from pg. 13)

"It reflects our commitment to ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors is met with nourishment, dignity, and connection."

• Friday Night Supper Program, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving a hot, nutritious meal in a safe and dignified environment every Friday to anyone who wants one. Based in Boston, the organization provides a restaurant-style dinner alongside access to a clothing and toiletry closet and pantry table, supporting individuals experiencing low income, homelessness and food insecurity. Through its weekly meal service, Friday Night Supper Program not only addresses immediate hunger but also fosters community, connection and dignity for all who attend, aligning with broader efforts to combat food insecurity across Massachusetts. This year, more than 20 walkers will participate in The Walk for Hunger at Boston Common. The team's goal is to raise \$8,333 to support weekly meal service, including the cost of food, kitchen supplies and essential equipment needed to serve guests consistently and with care.

"Our partnership with Project

Bread has been both meaningful and impactful," says Aaidaliz Perez, Executive Director of Friday Night Supper Program. "Through The Walk for Hunger and The Commonwealth Program, we are able to raise critical funds while staying connected to a broader network committed to ending hunger. One of our most memorable experiences was walking alongside members of our community and even inviting guests to join us and cross the finish line together. It was a powerful reminder that this work is about more than meals—it's about community, dignity and shared purpose. This year, we look forward to building on that spirit and continuing to walk together in support of our mission."

To register as a participant for Project Bread's Walk for Hunger, or to support a walker or team with a donation, visit give.projectbread.org/walk. All individual walkers are encouraged to fundraise a minimum of \$25 and teams \$250. Participants who raise \$500 or more are recognized as Heart & Sole walkers and receive access to personalized fundraising support, exclusive event gear, free breakfast on Walk Day, and invitations to exclusive events.