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# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## BUNKER MONUMENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 200TH ANNIVERSARY

## Coletta re-elected as District 1 City Councilor

Staff Report

Gabriela Coletta, who represents Charlestown, East Boston, the North End and the Downtown Waterfront on the Boston City Council, was re-elected Tuesday.

Coletta, 31, had won a special election in May, 2022, to succeed now-State Sen. Lydia Edwards. Coletta was unopposed in her bid for re-election to a two-year term.

In a letter to the residents of District 1, Coletta stated: "I'm honored to have your confidence and support in my re-election to represent Charlestown, East Boston, the North End, and the Downtown Waterfront.

I understand many challenges that are unique to my district remain, but I know there is never an issue too large that we can't tackle together. I remain com-



COURTESY PHOTO

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

mitted to my promise to govern in partnership with you, to center your lived experiences, and to be ever-present in community.

The work continues. And I am so excited to continue working with you toward a healthy, thriving, and abundant District 1."

## City Council at-Large results

Staff Report

There will be a new face as Councilor at-Large this January.

Henry Santana, who previously worked in the office of former District 8 Councilor Bok and also served as the city's first Director of Civic Organizing under Mayor Michelle Wu, was the only newcomer elected to one of the four at-Large City Council seats.

Santana placed fourth in the eight-way race, garnering more than 15 percent of the ballot, or 32,902 votes out of a total of 76,397 ballots cast.

"Boston, tonight our city delivered a clear and resounding vote for progress. I'm honored to



COURTESY PHOTO

Henry Santana.

serve as your next City Councilor At-Large, and I'm ready to fight on

(ELECTION, Pg. 12)



Joe Zuffante, Tom Coots, Membership Chairman Larry Stevens, Bunker Hill Monument Association President Annette Tecce with VP Dan Kovacevic, and Kim Mahony.

Bunker Monument Association celebrated its 200th Anniversary at the Warren Tavern. Incorporated on June 17, 1823, the group that brought the Bunker Hill Monument into being has worked tirelessly to commemorate and preserve the history of the Battle Of Bunker Hill.



John Toto of the Joseph Warren Soley Masonic Lodge in Lincoln talks about his historic preservation efforts with attendees. See Pages 6-8 for more photos.

# Massport teams up with others to launch apprenticeship program

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Massport and Boston's electrical workers union and its highly-rated joint apprenticeship training center are teaming up to create more career pathways in the communities they serve.

On Friday, October 27, Massport CEO Lisa Wieland and Local 103 IBEW Business Manager Lou Antonellis toured the Greater Boston Joint Apprentice Training Center (JATC) together and observed new apprentices learning hands-on skills as they forge new careers. With an IBEW apprenticeship, students "earn while they learn," and are paid competitive wages and receive first class benefits as soon as their training begins.

One such apprentice is Alejandro Cardenas, an East Boston resident who always wanted to work with his hands. "I'm learning everything, from small outlets to part of the high voltage system. This is an amazing opportunity. Everyone is for you, nobody is against you, and that's one of the things about this place. If you ask something of a teacher, they will



PHOTO COURTESY CLARE KELLEY, 617MEDIAGROUP

Massport CEO Lisa Wieland and Local 103 IBEW Business Manager Lou Antonellis prepare to tour the JATC

go out of their way to find the answer for you," said Cardenas.

In April of 2023, Massport and Local 103 IBEW signed a three-year contract ensuring the highest standards of electric and technician services for Massport's infrastructure and facilities and

a shared commitment to creating good, family-sustaining jobs throughout Greater Boston.

"Massport is proud to partner with IBEW Local 103 and the Greater Boston Joint Apprentice Training Center (JATC) to hire East Boston resident and appren-

tice electrician Alejandro Cardenas at Boston Logan International Airport," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "Supporting programs like these ensure employment opportunities that are reflective and inclusive of Massport's surrounding communities. The hands-on experience Alejandro gains at the airport will be essential throughout his multi-year training program."

One of the highest-rated and most prestigious apprenticeship programs in the country, the JATC Training Program was created by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 103, and the Greater Boston Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) with one goal — to produce the most highly skilled and professional electricians and technicians in the industry. Each apprentice completes 10,000 hours of on-the-job training with experienced journeypersons, plus 1,000 hours of intensive classroom instruction with qualified instructors, leaving with a Journey level electrician or Systems Technician Commonwealth of Mass electrical license.

"We deeply value our partnership with Massport," said Lou Antonellis, Business Manager and Financial Secretary with Local 103 IBEW. "Workforce development and training are crucial to keep creating the kind of good, union jobs our communities need. We're very proud that our partnership will produce highly skilled workers capable of maintaining and expanding operational services at Logan Airport and other crucial transportation infrastructure overseen by Massport."

The mission of Local 103 IBEW is to provide Greater Boston's developers with the best-trained, most-efficient, safest electricians and telecommunications specialists, while fostering our Union's values of economic fairness, equal opportunity and charitable giving in the communities we work, live and raise our families.

Powering What's Possible. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport.

## City opens applications for Boston School Committee

Mayor Michelle Wu opened the application to fill two upcoming vacancies on the Boston School Committee, for a term starting January 4, 2024 and ending on January 1, 2028. The Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, composed of Boston Public Schools (BPS) families, educators, school leaders and representatives of the business and higher education communities, will receive and evaluate the applications and

share recommendations with the Mayor. The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the BPS.

Applications to fill the upcoming vacancies are due Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Interviews for selected candidates will be held on the week of November 27, 2023 in the late afternoon or early evening. Candidates must be Boston residents and should expect a significant

time commitment to connect with school departments and leaders and prepare for and attend biweekly and impromptu meetings that run into late hours in the evening.

The School Committee is responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- Setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

Please direct all questions and submit completed applications to [scnominatingpanel@boston.gov](mailto:scnominatingpanel@boston.gov) or to City Hall, Mayor's Office 5th floor Boston, MA. You can learn more about the Boston School Committee online.

## CHARLESTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALENDAR

**CNC General Meeting, Thursday, November 9, 2023,** The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person, public meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2023, 7-9 p.m. at the BPD Community Room, 20 Vine St., Charlestown. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at [cnc02129@gmail.com](mailto:cnc02129@gmail.com). Check [CNC02129.org](http://CNC02129.org) for calendar and updates.

### CNC Elections

All eight (8) of the CNC's at-large seats are subject to this election. To participate in the December 2, 2023 election, completed nomination papers must be hand delivered or postmarked (instructions below) by Friday, November 3, 2023. Please reach out to the Election Committee co-chairs, Mary Boucher and Jay Driscoll, at [CNC02129Election@gmail.com](mailto:CNC02129Election@gmail.com) with any election questions or contact any council member to learn more about our work.

### How to get nomination papers:

- The committee co-chair has dropped off copies at the library.
- Election page on the CNC website.
- 2023 Election CNC Nomination Forms

**2023 Fall General Meetings Schedule:** All meetings are in person - there is no hybrid option at this time. Guests and presentations will be announced closer to the meeting dates. CNC Committee meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis by the committee chairs and will be announced on [CNC02129.org](http://CNC02129.org), Facebook, Instagram, and in the Charlestown Patriot-Bridge.

- December 5, 2023, Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford St. Charlestown MA 02129.

### Charlestown Neighborhood Council

#### 2023 Election - At-Large seats

The CNC will hold elections for all eight (8) at-large council seats on December 2, 2023. Election information, nomination papers, and important deadlines can be found on our website:



# East Boston Neighborhood Health Center expands rolls of two executive leaders

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) announced the promotion of two current executive leadership team members to expanded roles within the organization. Ernani J. DeAraujo, Esq., former Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, will assume the role of EBNHC's Chief Administrative Officer, and Amanda McGee, former Vice President and Deputy General Counsel will take the helm as EBNHC's General Counsel.

"The healthcare needs of our community are complex and require sophisticated leadership able to drive our health equity agenda," said EBNHC president and CEO Greg Wilmot. "Both Ernani DeAraujo and Amanda McGee have demonstrated their ability to skillfully guide our organization as we actively work to reduce health disparities among those we serve. With their expanded roles, they will be well positioned to advance our mission and shape the continued success of our organization."

In his new role as Chief Administrative Officer, DeAraujo will oversee EBNHC's government affairs and regulatory work at the federal, state, and local levels. In collaboration with the organization's Chief Operations Officer and Chief Medical Officer, DeAraujo will shepherd operational projects and expand the organization's presence in other business areas. He will also assist in developing existing and new external partnerships.

"As a lifelong resident of East Boston and patient of EBNHC,



Amanda McGee.

I've been fortunate to grow my career over the past 10 years at an organization that directly impacts my community," said DeAraujo. "I am excited to pass the baton to my trusted colleague and successor, Amanda McGee, who will serve our organization well as General Counsel. In my new role, I look forward to helping our organization and patients through an operational lens and to deepen my work on advocacy and government affairs while continuing to serve my community."

As General Counsel, McGee will focus on providing broader legal and strategic advice on the overall activities of the health center, as well as providing counsel and training to staff around legal and compliance matters.

"It is an honor to be recognized by my colleagues and peers as I take on a larger role within EBNHC," said McGee. "I will continue to carry out the vision of my predecessor, Ernani DeAraujo, in creating a department



Ernani J. DeAraujo.

of engaged creative legal minds, energized by the community-driven and multi-layered nature of our work. As one of a handful of women General Counsels in the Commonwealth, I appreciate this unique opportunity to encourage other women lawyers to follow their passion and pursue leadership at the highest levels of an organization."

One of few Latino general counsels in the state, DeAraujo previously served as the East Boston Liaison for the late Boston Mayor Tom Menino; as an attorney at Foley Hoag LLP; and as an investment banker at JPMorgan Chase. DeAraujo is a Colombian-Brazilian American and lifelong East Boston resident and continues to stay engaged in the community organizations and committees including the John William Ward Fellowship and the Boston Latin School Association. He graduated from Harvard College and the Washington and Lee

School of Law.

McGee's practice spans all aspects of legal and corporate compliance for the health center, including regulatory compliance, litigation, and general corporate matters such as contract management, mergers and acquisitions, employment and labor issues, immigration, real estate, and tax matters. Previously, McGee was a senior litigation associate at the international law firm Morgan Lewis & Bockius. She graduated

from Amherst College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and earned her J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law.

EBNHC is dedicated to diversifying its workforce, including their leadership team which is now 50% women, 40% who identify as racial and ethnic minority, and about 30% who are active clinicians. The health center has been recognized by The Boston Globe as a Top Place to Work eight times since 2014.

## 2 BEDROOM RENTAL WANTED

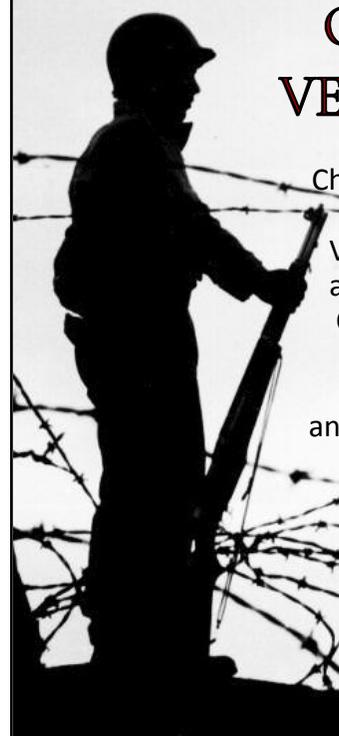
**Young retired senior couple desires to rent here in town. Nautica, Armory, 30 Monument Sq., Orchard Hill would be perfect. 700's credit, ample income and assets. Very clean & neat. No pets. Ready to move!! Longtime Charlestown resident. Please text 617-275-6826**



## CHARLESTOWN VETERANS EXHIBIT

On display will be exhibits of Charlestown Veterans who served in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Come visit the exhibit and pay honor to the Heroes of Charlestown. This year we pay special tribute to our Korean Veterans to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of that war.

**Sunday  
November 12<sup>th</sup>  
12-3p.m.  
Knights of Columbus  
545 Medford St**



Sponsored by the  
Charlestown Veterans History Project  
American Legion JW Conway Bunker Hill Post 26  
Abraham Lincoln Post #11 G.A.R



For more information email  
Bill Durette at bill5195@hotmail.com

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Stutman, Sarah	Bodnar, Steven	10 Prospect St #2	\$885,000
46 High St Residences LLC	Hafferty, Christopher	46 High St	\$5,100,000
Shoor, Blaire A	Richardson, William	62 Sullivan St #3	\$929,000
Cole, Alexander P	Amy Chorzempa RET	114 Elm St #2	\$975,000
Charlestown Invs LLC	Charlestown Prop LLC	374-398 Bunker Hill St #115	\$750,000



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# EDITORIAL

## "THANK YOU" TO OUR VETERANS

This Saturday, November 11, will mark the 104th observance of Veterans Day in the United States, a day marked by solemnity and reverence to honor those who have served in our nation's military. Veteran's Day initially was known as Armistice Day when it was enacted in 1919 in observance of the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

World War I was marked by trench warfare in which neither the German-allied nations (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire) nor the alliance among England, France, Russia, and the United States, accomplished anything. Historians to this day cannot even pinpoint a rational reason for why it began. The trench lines did not meaningfully shift for the entire four-year period of the war. In the meantime, the European continent was ravaged, with 10 million soldiers and another 10 million civilians losing their lives.

More significantly, the "war to end all wars" only set the stage for an even bloodier world-wide conflagration 20 years later with WWII. Indeed, the roots of today's conflict in the Middle East can be traced to the shift in control of the Middle East after WWI from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) to England, which eventually led to the so-called British Mandate for Palestine after the end of WWII.

In the aftermath of the Korean War in 1954, Armistice Day officially became known as Veterans Day to include veterans of all of our wars. There are many ways that each of us can honor our veterans, including attending parades and ceremonies in our communities, visiting veterans memorials and cemeteries, volunteering with veterans organizations, donating to veterans causes, flying the U.S. flag, thanking a veteran for their service, or simply taking a moment to reflect on the great sacrifice made by so many who have put their lives on the line to ensure that all of us can enjoy the freedoms that we hold as Americans today.

If nothing else, Veterans Day should remind us that freedom isn't free and that maintaining our freedom since our nation's founding has required the personal sacrifice of millions of our fellow Americans.

## THE UKRAINIANS AND ISRAELIS ARE FIGHTING FOR FREE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

There are two "hot wars" in the world right now, in Europe and the Middle East, in which two democratic nations, Ukraine and Israel, are standing up against two of the great forces of fascism in the world today: Russia under Vladimir Putin and Hamas terrorist fighters under the direction of Iran.

Both Putin and Hamas launched unprovoked attacks on civilian populations that were marked by their cruelty, inhumanity, and outright sadism. Russia seeks to eliminate Ukraine as a sovereign nation and Hamas wants to wipe Israel off the map. The efforts by the Ukrainians and the Israelis to fight these monsters of sheer evil have served as a wake-up call to free people everywhere -- and that includes Americans -- to recognize the simple but profound truth that we cannot take our freedom for granted.

Right now, Israel and Ukraine are bearing the burden for the free world of standing up to these fascist regimes. Although it goes without saying that America should support their efforts with as much military and financial aid as possible, we must realize that it is wishful thinking to imagine that we can remain above the fray. History has taught us that it is inevitable that when the enemies of democracy threaten free people, the United States will be drawn into the battle -- and Americans should be ready for that eventuality.

If we in the United States don't support the forces of freedom and democracy, who will?

## HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, GOV. DUKAKIS

We wish to extend our best wishes for a "Happy Birthday" to former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who turned 90 last week.

Mike Dukakis served as governor of our state from 1975-79 and then again for two terms from 1983-91. He was the Democratic nominee for President in 1988, losing to Republican George H.W. Bush in a contentious election that was marked by immense distortions of Dukakis's record, including the infamous Willie Horton ad that invoked racial stereotypes and played to the worst instincts of white voters.

For those too young to know about Mike Dukakis, we will mention three things about a man whose honesty, integrity, competence, and dedication to serving the people of our state stand as the benchmark for all office-holders: First, Gov. Dukakis turned around our state's economic fortunes with the "Massachusetts Miracle" in which the high-tech and biotech industries set Massachusetts on a path to prosperity that carries through to this day. Second, he reinvigorated our state's aging inner cities, including Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, and Lynn, and invested in public transportation, which Dukakis himself rode from his home in Brookline to Beacon Hill. Third, he established Massachusetts as a national leader in education, criminal justice reform, drug policy, and countless other areas.

Similar to former President Jimmy Carter, Mike Dukakis has led a low-profile, yet prolific post-government career in which he has continued with his lifetime of dedication to public service. We know we join with all of our fellow citizens in wishing Gov. Dukakis a "Happy Birthday," and many more to come.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### COMPASSION AND COMMON SENSE

To the Editor,

Charlestown has been my home for over 30 years. I belong to the YMCA, and served on their board. After studying the latest proposal for the Independence, a combination of affordable and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). I am strongly opposed.

Michael Coughlin's article (October 26, Charlestown Patriot Bridge), the BPD's zoom call, and its' chat thread, were part of the process. Speaking with the YMCA CEO, David Shapiro, reading "Rough Sleepers" -- (a profile of Dr. Jim O'Connell-a homeless advocate)- and meeting his counterpart, Dr. Gerry Angoff—all of this information has been invaluable. Equally important are the heart-wrenching stories from Charlestown residents who are in recovery from substance use. Public police records document crime statistics at current PSH homes and the related shelter. Two Boylston street

addresses are managed by the proponents-- the Saint Francis House and Public Office of Urban Affairs.

Embracing a data-driven approach has produced some clarity on this subject. More importantly, it has deepened my compassion for the homeless; providing some understanding of their complex medical needs.

The public comment stage of the Article 80 process ended October 30. As Michael Coughlin stated; the Independence proposal is "polarizing." In the minority are kind-hearted people who want to provide "low threshold" housing for the homeless. They believe that substance users and those suffering from trauma are likely to accept optional treatment services. Some supporters' live miles away from Charlestown, so their position will not personally affect them.

Other equally kind-hearted people disagree with this approach. Based upon two recent surveys, an average of 80% are opposed to the

(LETTERS, Pg. 5)



# CHARLESTOWN

## PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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**LETTERS** (from pg. 4)

Independence, or skeptical at the very least. It is notable that the BPDA call attendance would have exceeded the 200+ mark had there been more notice of the date; showing the intense interest in our community. Treating substance users prior to housing sets a higher standard, and is gaining traction. Dorchester Councilor Frank Baker, during last week's meeting on Mass and Cass, stated "It has to be treatment first" before receiving housing. Many neighbors agree. And we all agree that homeless people deserve a chance.

There are 850+ signatures in opposition on a Change.org petition, and numerous public officials calling for a return to the drawing board, or to "Treatment first.". Others are dismissive, branding their neighbors as "NIMBY". That label hinders productive dialog, which would result in better outcomes. Even with the revised, lowered resident count and shift to women and veterans, the Independence concept is poorly suited to Charlestown, and vice-versa.

In PSH, the lack of required treatment perpetuates ongoing substance use: from 50% (Source: The Saint Francis House Knights of Columbus meeting) to 90% (Source: a published study by Dr. O'Connell). The publically available police incident reports for PSH only housing, and PSH plus shelter housing, are alarming. The amount of disruption, drug use, and crime impacts Boylston Street residents and its' businesses. In fact, police calls are exponentially higher there than in Charlestown. Even excluding the shelter's continual activity, there are frequent incidents; some minor, more are dangerous. Past performance of PSH locations predicts future conditions. The number of police incident reports in PSH housing is incompatible with a tightly managed facility.

The proponents have yet to communicate their drug policies. By definition, PSH allows substance use; but it is unknown which drugs are allowed or how they will be acquired or distributed. Dan Linskey, Managing Director of Boston's Kroll Security and former Superintendent-in-Chief in the Boston police, stated that there would be "No allowed drug use in the building", and no smoking either. When asked for clarification, he responded he would make certain he had the right information. After a year of evolving proposals, these policies should be readily available. Charlestown neighbors are connected to one or more of our 300 overdose victims. Medically assisted treatment or

harm reduction strategies belong in medical facilities., not the Independence. Not in Charlestown.

We are all for affordable housing without PSH. Charlestown has a 25% penetration of income restricted housing —one of Boston's highest. Affordable housing is a tool to fight homelessness. Other Boston neighborhoods need to step up.

We are a tourist driven, historic neighborhood, now charged with the unpopular and mind-blowing over-development of Plan Charlestown. While the BPDA mission of inclusion feels disingenuous at this time; the aggressive growth plan necessitates a hotel and workforce lodging. A reissued RFP may source a hotel, or workforce housing for those being priced out of Charlestown. Either would generate revenue for addiction treatment, veteran and trauma services. It is time for the BPDA to be accountable to our community, and not the developers.

There is much at stake here. We understand what Charlestown can, and cannot support. It's not about accepting the Independence; it is the wrong concept. Homeless people need more, and they need it in a medically supportive location, with a robust infrastructure. Accomplishing that goal would combine compassion with common sense.

Tracy Iannelli

## HALLOWEEN 2023 THANK YOU

To the Editor,

With appreciation to the Charlestown Community for a safe, fun and memorable 38th Annual Monument Square Halloween Parade & Trick or Treat. We are grateful to all the generous supporters, partners, donors and volunteers: National Park Service, Superintendent Michael Creasey, Commanding Officer USS Constitution - BJ Farrell, City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, NPS Supervisor Ranger Ethan Beeler, City of Boston Police, City of Boston Transportation, City of Boston Special Events, City of Boston Mayor Liason-Sean Breen, Ann Kelleher, Arthur Colpack, Bunker Hill Associates, Cambridge Savings Bank, Charlestown Dental Care, Charlestown Marina, Charlestown Mothers Association, Christ Church Charlestown, Dana Hefner, Diversified Auto, Dominic Doyle, Duncan Donahue, DUNKIN, Ed and Marcia Katz, Elissa Ladd, Frank Celeste, George Georges, Harvest on Vine, Kathy & Michale Litel,

James Duane, The Monument Square Wizard, Jay Farragher, Jen & Paul Hughes, John Conforti and Alex Cook, John Lee, Larry Rinaldi, Logan Condo Association, Love Dog Band, Lydia Jane Anderson, Marjorie Wallens, Mary Byrne, MASSPORT, MGH Filene Nurses, Michelle Duane, Mitch Mirabito and Brooke Hartman, Molly Nolan, New England Development/ Bunker Hill Mall, Paul Revere, Michael LePage, Richard Johnston, Rosemary Kverek/Mother Goose, Rosemary Macero, Ryan Murphy- DJ, Tatte, Toby Goldstein, Tom Fortier, Tom Mosel, Tony Barrie Marching Band, USS Constitution Sailors, Whole Foods.

May all enjoy the magic of Halloween in Charlestown for another year,

Diane Valle, Chair  
38th Annual Monument Square  
Halloween Parade &  
Trick or Treat

## AN INSTRUMENTAL PART OF CHARLESTOWN

To the Editor,

In the last issue of the Charlestown Coalition newsletter, we acknowledged that our previous Director, Sarah Coughlin, LICSW, was appointed to the Massachusetts Parole Board. It is with mixed emotions that I announce that Sarah will be leaving her position at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her last day of employment is on Friday, November 3, 2023.

Many of you know firsthand of Sarah's dedication and tireless commitment to the Charlestown community. She served Charlestown for 12 years as the Youth Prevention Director, and then the Charlestown Coalition Director. During that time, Sarah created the Turn It Around youth program, supported people in recovery and advocated for initiatives such as the Charlestown Recovery Court, MGH Recovery Coaches, and the Alternative to Suspension Program at Charlestown High School. She continued to support youth and their families in the community while supervising the Family Support Circle initiative, which ensures that families gain access to mental health services.

In the face of tragedy, Sarah has shown up for the Charlestown community with empathy and without judgment, while responding to the communities' needs in the moment. As a result, the Charlestown Trauma Response team was formed and continues to provide support throughout the

community. Sarah's contributions to Charlestown have been remarkable and her impact has touched the lives of so many.

Sarah is best known for her compassion, her sense of fairness, her conviction, and her ability to get things done in a pinch. She has been an instrumental part of the Charlestown community. Although her presence will be missed, her impact and essence are still felt within the Coalition. We wish Sarah all the best as she embarks on her new role at the Massachusetts Parole Board and we look forward to what she accomplishes in this next stage of her career.

Sincerely,

Phenice Zawatsky, LICSW  
Charlestown Coalition Director

## WE ARE NOT ALONE

To the Editor,

Having recently attended a hearing called by City Councilor Julia Mejia at City Hall regarding neighborhood satisfaction with their various interactions with the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), we were taken aback with the attendance of many city-wide constituents who brought their concerns to be heard in the City Hall chambers. The main complaints were that the BPDA does not listen to Boston residents, and then votes to approve massive projects in favor of developers, without infrastructure improvements, and despite the negative impacts on the environment and the residents, despite overwhelming community opposition, in each neighborhood.

In the Charlestown community, Mayor Wu and the BPDA have tuned us out. We learned at this City Hall meeting that other neighborhoods are also ignored. Our complaints that "no one is listening" was echoed and validated by community leaders across the city who share our experience. We are not alone.

We share with other neighborhoods the common refrain "We want in person meetings so the community can have true public meetings" so that we are not muted, cut off, cut short, or intimidated by those who do not live in our community or have been solicited to support the developer. Each neighborhood is opposed to spot zoning, of massive, out of scale multi-unit buildings which transform the fabric of the neighborhoods.

Across the city, residents call for

the preservation, protection, and enhancement of their environment yet tree canopies are destroyed, greenspace is reduced, and heat islands are expanded with massive buildings, creating more heat islands. We are all acutely aware that the climate crisis is now. Is the BPDA aware?

Increased density is approved by the BPDA with no plan for infrastructure improvements, as they make false promises that the MBTA (which the BPDA has no control over) will accommodate the doubling size of communities.

Ford Cavallari who represents the Alliance of Downtown Civic Organizations stated that the BPDA rams through projects, "to do what the BPDA does best, which is to create more billionaires rather than creating more affordable housing." He stated "The BRA cannot reform itself. It should not control the Article 80 Steering Committee or the two consulting teams that are engaged to "reform." He stated "it makes no sense at all." He said "we must be mindful of Zoning cheats and lavish tax giveaways" to 10 times the amount in tax abatements to developers.

City Councilor Gabriella Coletta testified the BPDA process is "Death by a 1000 paper cuts" and recently opposed Plan Charlestown, after the BPDA and Zoning Commission approval of Plan Charlestown, despite four and half years of sustained community opposition to it.

Mayor Wu said she will abolish the BPDA and she is doing the exact opposite. BPDA Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison and Deputy Chief Devin Quirk did not appear to defend their "plans." Instead, Aimee Chambers, Director of Planning, who is a Boston resident of 10 months, along with Kristiana Lachiusa, Deputy Director of Community Engagement who is a Boston resident of 4 months, attempted to justify what the communities oppose.

It is time the residents of Charlestown and Boston are heard. We are not alone, the meeting validated our concerns and now working with all of Boston is the next step in this ongoing endeavor to right what has been wronged.

Call 617.635.6500, email Mayor@Boston.gov and voice your support of community members across the city who stand for the well-being of each of us. We all matter.

Diane Valle  
Ann Kelleher

# BUNKER MONUMENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 200TH ANNIVERSARY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Bunker Monument Association celebrated its 200th Anniversary at the Warren Tavern. Incorporated on June 17, 1823, the group that brought the Bunker Hill Monument into being has worked tirelessly to commemorate and

preserve the history of the Battle Of Bunker Hill. The Association had a special guest from the Warren Soley Masonic Lodge. John Toto presented a Bible dating from 1613 that owned by Joseph Warren and had recently been restored.



John Toto of the Joseph Warren Soley Masonic Lodge in Lincoln holds a photo depicting the portrait of General Warren that hangs in the Lodge before and after restoration in 2019.



Jack Alves (center) with his wife Marie and Moe Gillen.



Jack Alves was presented with a birthday cake celebrating his 92nd birthday. More photos on Pages 7 and 8.



Bunker Hill Monument Association President Annette Tecce addresses the gathering.

## CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

### Weekly Standings Week of 11/4/2023

	W	L	T
Massport's Finest	5	1	2
A-1 Convenience	4	2	2
Halligan Club	2	4	2
Duce 2	1	5	2

### Players of the week for 11/4/2023

- A-1 Convenience -J.C. Toboni, Isabel Santoro
- Duce 2 -Robert Doucette, Jacob Martino
- Halligan Club -Quinlan Getchel, Ryleigh McDonald
- Massport's Finest -Wyatt Schultz, Nico Costa

### call to ARTISTS

SMALL WORKS sale & exhibition  
*a celebration of small artwork*

submissions accepted through november 12  
exhibition dates december 2&3, and 9 & 10  
entry details on website

### free ART LECTURE - november 16th, 5pm

*Imagine Me and You: Dutch & Flemish Encounters with the Islamic World, 1450-1750.* The 2nd in a Speaker Series with Talitha Maria G. Schepers.

Tickets and information:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-lecture-tickets-744632143787?aff=oddtcreator>

### annual open studios - december 2&3



stovefactory gallery  
523 medford street

visit [artistsgroupofcharlestown.com](http://artistsgroupofcharlestown.com) for information on any of our upcoming and continuing events



The visiting speaker was John Toto of the Joseph Warren Soley Masonic Lodge in Lincoln who spoke of "History worth saving."

# BUNKER MONUMENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 200TH ANNIVERSARY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Sheryl Cutler, Bob Donahue, Dan Jaffe, and Rosemary Macero.



John Toto of the Joseph Warren Soley Masonic Lodge in Lincoln with his award presented to him for speaking and Bunker Hill Monument Association President Annette Tecce with her gift of a pin depicting Joseph Warren.



Jack Alves with wife Marie and daughter Dawn.



The Alves Family and friends.

The Parish Families of St. Mary – St. Catherine of Siena & St. Francis de Sales

## Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

**NOVEMBER**

Friday Nov. 10 - 3PM Set up  
 Saturday Nov. 11 - 10AM distribution  
 Tuesday Nov 21  
 11:30 set up 1PM distribution



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# Harvest Fair

St John's Episcopal Church

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 Turkey Dinner 12–2 pm

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 www.stjohns02129.org/fair/

## BUNKER MONUMENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 200TH ANNIVERSARY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Revolution 250 Jonathan Lane, historian Chris Donovan, and Tom Coots.



Jon Sweet and Diane Valle.



John Toto of the Joseph Warren Soley Masonic Lodge in Lincoln holds the Bible that belonged to Joseph Warren that days to 1613.

## DPH officials urge residents to get vaccinated ahead of the holiday season

As the weather gets colder and with holiday gatherings just around the corner, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) urges residents to get vaccinated.

“With Thanksgiving just two weeks away, now is a great time for those preparing to celebrate with friends and loved ones to get vaccinated for flu, COVID-19, and RSV, if eligible. Getting vaccinated now will maximize protection against these respiratory viruses,” said Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD. “We want Massachusetts residents to have a safe, healthy, and fun holiday season and part of that is getting vaccinated to protect yourself and those around you.”

Everyone 6 months and older should get a seasonal flu vaccine and an updated COVID-19 vaccine, both of which can take up to two weeks to take full effect to protect against infection, serious illness and hospitalization, and reduce the chances of suffering the effects of Long COVID. The updated COVID-19 vaccine is effective against current variants and wide-

ly available for little or no cost to Massachusetts residents. Vaccine location information is available at [mass.gov/CovidVaccine](https://mass.gov/CovidVaccine). Residents who cannot get to a vaccination location can schedule an appointment for in-home COVID and flu vaccination by going to [mass.gov/VaccinesAtHome](https://mass.gov/VaccinesAtHome) or calling 833-983-0485.

DPH is working with hospitals and providers to encourage vaccination of staff and patients. Through its Vaccine Equity Initiative, DPH is working closely with communities of color and other populations and communities hardest-hit by COVID-19 to improve access to vaccination. Through partnerships with community organizations, DPH will hold COVID-19 and flu clinics in many community locations and at upcoming cultural events. A listing of these community clinics that are accepting appointments and, in some locations, walk-ins, is updated weekly and can be found at [mass.gov/MobileVax](https://mass.gov/MobileVax).

In addition to flu and COVID-19 vaccination, many people are eligible for respiratory syncytial

virus (RSV) vaccination this year, including pregnant people, newborns, and many people 60 and older. COVID-19, flu, and RSV are the three viruses that are most likely to cause severe disease resulting in hospitalization and sometimes death.

While the holidays are a time for gathering, public health officials advise that if you are feeling unwell, you should stay home, get tested, and, if you test positive for flu or COVID-19, get treatment to prevent the spread of illness.

“Adding vaccinations to your holiday season to-do list is one of the best gifts you can give yourself and people you’ll gather with, especially older adults, people who are immunocompromised, and pregnant people, who are at higher risk for severe complications,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. “While it’s never too late to get your COVID or flu shots, getting vaccinated sooner rather than later will provide increased protection ahead of holiday celebrations, the start of winter, and peak respiratory disease season.”

## ‘Wings for Autism’ event held at Logan Airport

The “Wings for Autism” program was held on November 4, at Logan Airport, and designed for families with children on the autism spectrum to help ease the stress of flying. Attendees had access to Boston Logan’s Sensory/Calming Room for the first time ever during this event.

Launched in 2011, the program was developed by Massport in partnership with Charles River Center, JetBlue Airways, TSA, Massachusetts State Police and the Logan airline community to offer a dress rehearsal of an authentic travel experience for neurodivergent children and their families. Massport has hosted more than 9,000 children and family members at the prior events, including three at Worcester Regional Airport. The program is now followed and modeled at nearly 70 airports. JetBlue and Delta are providing aircraft for this event.

Attendees will also be able to tour our new Sensory/Calming Room in Terminal E. Boston Logan is one of the few major airports in the U.S. to provide this type of experience to passengers of all ages. The space has various interactive stations that focus on balance, light therapy and cognitive/memory improvement,

including a room that replicates an airplane cabin to help passengers acclimate themselves with the often-stressful experience of flying.

Families are able to navigate the travel process by practicing the different steps from airline check in, to security clearance, waiting at the gate, and finally boarding the plane. Not only is this a benefit to the families who participate, but it also provides a valuable training opportunity for airport, airline and TSA personnel to learn how to accommodate children with special needs.

The Charles River Center is a private, nonprofit human service agency in Needham, Massachusetts that has been providing programs and services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities since 1956. Founded by a group of parents with children with special needs, the mission of Charles River Center is to empower and support people with developmental disabilities and their families by offering high-quality, individualized opportunities that foster independence and community inclusion.

## OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.

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or call 781-485-0588

## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Build a bowl

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

There are many ways that “Bowl Meals” can be a lifesaver for busy cooks. Whether you order bowls for takeout or prepare them at home, they fit into a busy life and the hectic holiday season.

With some preparation, you can have the ingredients for a tasty bowl ready to layer for dining at home or take with you for a meal away from home. You can make bowls for breakfast, lunch, or dinner for yourself or the whole family.

You can make all components from scratch or stock your pantry with healthy products to create your masterpieces. Our pantry has prepared grains and cans of tuna and salmon with vegetables. Sometimes, our bowl meal is simply a grain or legume with one of those cans of protein and vegetables on top.

### Growing Popularity

The catering firm Maison Culinaire explained the 30% growth of the bowl in chain and fast food restaurants. Among their reasons for adding bowls to their menu is the ability to substitute gluten-free or low-carb ingredients for simple high-carb ones for the health-conscious or those with restricted diets. They can also offer options for nutritionally balanced meals,

indulgent or decadent bowls, or pure comfort food.

This meal staple is prevalent across Asia. You can adapt yours to the flavors of many cuisines. Burrito bowls are among the most popular takeout items these days.

### Bowl Basics

There have been cookbooks written on the basics of building a meal bowl. Your public library should have a few in both physical and ebook forms. The Internet is a treasure trove of ideas to brainstorm what you want in your bowl.

We start with a base layer like pasta, noodles, grains, legumes, or beans. We tend to choose something filling. Top this with colorful vegetables in easy-to-eat forms, for example, shredded carrots or chopped cabbage. Add some bites of a protein source. Salmon, chicken, shrimp, sausages, and cheese are among our favorites to star on the top of our bowls.

Once your layers are in place, it’s time to add some moisture and crunch. Keep the crunch and sauce on the side if you’re packing the bowl to go. The saucy note could be a salad dressing, yogurt, raita, or dip like the nuoc cham we love on Vietnamese noodle salad. Crunch can come from nuts, croutons, sliced chilies, or pickled vegetables.



*This Vietnamese noodle salad is one of our favorite bowl meals.*

### Holiday Bowls

There are two ways bowls fit into holiday meal planning. First is to feed various friends and family from prepared bowl ingredients. Putting out a table of options and encouraging everyone to make their personal bowl allows a host to enjoy the gathering.

The second is to make bowls with the leftovers from a holiday meal or party. Let’s take the traditional Thanksgiving meal as an

example. The base layer could be stuffing, mashed potatoes, or roasted root vegetables.

Those roasted vegetables could also be the colorful second layer. You could lighten the bowl by using vegetable sides, like Brussels sprouts, green beans, or even peas and carrots from your freezer. The turkey is the protein, and the gravy is the sauce.

Just as the traditional meal needs the brightness and tart notes

of cranberry sauce to wake the palate, we put this on the side to add to the bites you eat. Many times, nuts are on the holiday table or on hand for seasonal baking. We suggest pecans for a Thanksgiving bowl.

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

## NEWS FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

As we enter the busy, happy days of November and December, please keep in mind the many happenings here in the Charlestown Catholic Collaborative!

A reminder that Daily Mass is offered at St. Catherine’s Chapel at St. Mary’s Church

Monday through Friday at 8 am and Saturdays and holidays at 9 am.

Weekend schedule

Saturday

4pm St. Mary’s

4 pm St. Francis

Sunday

8 am St. Mary’s

9:30 am St. Francis

11 am St. Mary’s

6 pm St. Mary’s

On Friday, Nov. 10, we will remember our Veterans at 9 am Mass at St. Catherine’s Chapel at St. Mary’s. Our offices will be

closed that day.

Harvest on Vine will hold food distributions at St. Catherine’s rectory on Saturday mornings, Nov. 11 & Dec. 9 at 10 am and Tuesday afternoons, Nov. 21 at 1 pm and Dec. 26 at 2 pm.

Turkeys will be distributed on Tuesday, Nov. 21 beginning at 1 pm at St. Catherine’s Rectory parking lot at 49 Vine St.

During this season of giving, our fourth grade Faith Formation kids will reach out to kids with gifts of cereal for our Harvest on Vine Food Pantry.

On Thanksgiving Day, we will offer 9 am Masses at both churches as we give thanks to God for all we’ve been given. Please join us.

Please note that the Parish Offices will be closed Thanksgiving weekend and morning Mass on Friday will be at 9 am at St. Catherine’s Chapel

We get a jump on the season of Hope and Peace with a Collaborative Advent Mission beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 6:30 pm at St. Francis - on Gratitude

The Giving Tree will soon go up, and we’ll have a wonderful opportunity to make this season happier and warmer for others in need.

We begin our journey to Bethlehem on the weekend of Dec. 2-3.

The deep violet color of Advent reflects our waiting for the Christ child.

We also mark the beginning of the Church’s year!

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# World's largest franchise operator acquires a Planet Fitness franchise

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Flynn Restaurant Group LP (“Flynn”), the largest franchise operator in the world, announced it has acquired a highly-successful Planet Fitness franchise from Alder Partners, LLC, which operates 37 locations in two major markets in the United States. A significant investment for Flynn, it is the operator’s first foray into an adjacent sector outside of the restaurant space since its founding in 1999. Fifth Third Securities facilitated on both sides of the transaction, serving as both the sell-side advisor for Alder Partners and left lead arranger and administrative agent for Flynn. Coinciding

with its entry into fitness, Flynn Restaurant Group also announced its rebranding to Flynn Group, a change which reflects its evolved vision to be the premier franchise operator in the world, spanning multiple industries and countries.

With leading positions in some of the most recognized consumer brands, Flynn Group has an unrivaled track record of successfully scaling multi-unit consumer concepts. Its focus has been on building a portfolio of dominant and distinct, valuebased brands and supporting them with a unique structure and culture to deliver superior and sustained risk-adjusted returns. With its rebranding to Flynn Group, the operator

is now in a unique position to tap into new, complimentary markets at scale, with no distraction to its core restaurant businesses. The Planet Fitness acquisition is Flynn Group’s third major move in 2023, which was highlighted by significant international deals including Wendy’s and Pizza Hut in Australia.

“We’re incredibly excited to enter a new sector and, with it, our third chapter of growth at Flynn,” said Greg Flynn, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Flynn Group. “For over a decade, our focus was exclusively on building our Applebee’s business, and establishing best practices in structure, culture and

systems. Chapter two was about diversification across the restaurant industry to mirror its composition, welcoming new brands such as Taco Bell, Panera, Arby’s, Wendy’s and Pizza Hut to the Flynn family. Chapter three will layer on two new growth channels – international restaurants and adjacent, consumer-facing franchised businesses – such as fitness – to our core domestic restaurant business. We are eager to accelerate growth across all channels and to bring our full capabilities to bear to drive even more value for our franchise systems and customers alike.”

When evaluating potential complementary segments for expansion, the fast-growing consumer

fitness category was a primary target for Flynn Group. With an investment thesis built on concepts that offer consumers a substantial value proposition and expertise in operating multi-unit and multi-state consumer facing franchised businesses, the Planet Fitness brand aligned seamlessly with Flynn Group, leading it ultimately to Alder Partners. One of Planet Fitness’ original and most respected franchisees, Alder Partners’ footprint spans two markets – Atlanta and Boston – with 37 clubs. With Flynn Group’s acquisition, the portfolio is now positioned for substantial growth via new club development and follow-on acquisitions.

“You’d be hard pressed to find a more respected and dedicated franchisee in the Planet Fitness system than Alder,” added Greg Flynn. “Under Stan DeMartinis’ leadership, Alder grew its Planet Fitness portfolio to 37 clubs, and did so without wavering from its core values, which are lock step with our own. We are excited to have found such a great partner to enter the Planet Fitness brand and we are looking forward to an outstanding partnership.” The Alder management team will continue to run the business under the Flynn Group umbrella, with its founder, Stan DeMartinis, Jr., leading the team as Brand President.

Alder Partners has been part of the Planet Fitness system since 2007, when the family run business converted its World Gym location in East Boston, MA to Planet Fitness. Alder Partners saw rapid growth over the next several years after signing an Area Development Agreement (ADA) in 2010 with Planet Fitness to develop the Atlanta DMA. Over the past 12 years, Alder has organically developed 31 additional clubs in Massachusetts and Georgia. In 2020, it acquired six additional locations from the PollyDot Corp. in MA.

“It was a very emotional decision to weigh the benefits of selling my family’s business to an outside party,” said Stan DeMartinis, Jr., Managing Partner, Alder Partners. “After a series of conversations with Greg and his team, it became evident that they would allow us to grow on many different levels. I am thrilled to have found a partner who aligns with our core values, investment horizon, and that’s dedicated to helping accelerate our growth and bring an affordable health and wellness experience to more and more people. We believe we have the foundation of a uniquely differentiated platform

(FRANCHISE Pg. 12)

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT FLYNN APPOINTED TO THE GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON VETERANS SERVICES



Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago (at podium) welcomes Council President Edward Flynn as the new member of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services. The following is Edward Flynn statement: I’m honored to be sworn in today as a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services. Along with the other members, we will be advising the Governor on issues impacting veterans across the Commonwealth. The Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services was re-established earlier this year by Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, and will work closely with Secretary Jon Santiago to provide recommendations on veterans issues to the Governor. The Advisory Council will also review federal and state laws and existing veterans programs, as we support our veterans and their families. It is also important to acknowledge the service of women veterans, veterans of color, and LGBTQ+ veterans and ensure they are heard and treated with dignity. I will continue this advocacy on the Advisory Council, and work closely with my colleagues and Secretary Santiago to enhance the lives of our military families. I look forward to getting to work in this important role. Edward M. Flynn served in the U.S. Navy & U.S. Navy Reserve, and is a Veteran of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

# National Grid encourages customers to prepare homes, businesses for the winter season

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

With colder weather and storm season on the horizon, National Grid is encouraging customers to proactively prepare their homes and businesses for the winter season and take advantage of energy and cost-saving measures available through National Grid and our partners at Mass Save. As the weather gets colder, and with more frequent and more powerful storms becoming the norm, it is important for customers to be prepared, stay connected, and take action in advance of the upcoming winter heating season.

At National Grid, our teams work day in and day out to ensure that our customers receive the safest and most reliable energy service possible. The company is continu-

ously inspecting, investing in, and upgrading critical infrastructure, performing vegetation management services to keep power lines clear of obstructions, and preparing our crews to respond to significant weather events.

In 2022, National Grid upgraded and modernized infrastructure across Massachusetts, including work that made our critical facilities that help power and heat homes and businesses more resilient and more secure, added more automation to our system to be able to identify issues before they happen and more quickly restore power if an event occurs, and clear vegetation that is near our infrastructure to avoid outages.

These investments, along with other efforts, have resulted in National Grid having strong sys-

tem performance in 2023, with our Massachusetts electric network operating at 99.95 availability, providing customers with reliable electric service. In support of our storm preparation and restoration efforts, National Grid routinely conducts training drills and tabletop exercises and is in regular contact with local public safety and emergency response officials. Additionally, National Grid has community liaisons assigned to every city and town the company serves. We make outbound calls to critical care customers and undertake robust communication efforts to keep our customers informed.

“As we head into the fall and winter months, the chance for harsh weather to potentially impact our customers in Massachusetts is greatly increased,”

said Tim Moore, Vice President of New England Electric Operations. “Ahead of these more unpredictable seasons, we recommend all our customers ensure they are prepared in case of outages in their area. National Grid takes steps throughout the year to make our system more resilient, but major storms can cause significant damage. In the event of a power outage, our crews and support teams will be ready and working for as long as needed to safely restore service as quickly as possible.”

National Grid is offering customers the following tips and reminders to help keep them prepared for the months ahead:

Prepare your home:

- Customers with generators are encouraged to conduct regular maintenance checks to ensure the generator is operating safely.

- If applicable, schedule a home’s furnace tune-up to ensure it is in proper working order, and ensure it and any water heaters are properly vented.

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries every year.

- Remove dead or rotting branches on trees.

- Schedule a free Mass Save home energy assessment to learn ways to reduce winter energy use. Call 888-774-3167 to schedule an appointment.

Prepare a winter emergency kit in the event of a major storm with the following items:

- Water – the American Red Cross recommends one gallon of water per person per day.

- Food – at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food,

plus a can opener.

- Battery-powered or hand crank radio.

- Flashlight and extra batteries.

- First-aid kit.

- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation.

- Personal hygiene supplies.

- Extra cash.

- Cell phone with chargers.

- Emergency contact numbers.

Winter also means increased energy usage. Our Customer Savings Initiative is designed to help customers reduce their energy use and lower energy costs, manage their energy bills and payments, and help them secure available energy assistance. More information can be found at [ngrid.com/heretohelp](http://ngrid.com/heretohelp). Additionally, National Grid is continuing to meet customers in the communities where they live and work to offer assistance through our Customer Saving Events across Massachusetts.

Stay Safe:

- People who depend on electric-powered life support equipment, such as a respirator, should let National Grid know. To register as a life support customer, call the company’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-322-3223.

Customers Should Stay Connected:

- Report power outages at [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com) or call 1-800-465-1212.

- Use a mobile device to track outage information and storm-related safety tips through National Grid’s mobile site, accessible at [www.ngrid.com/mobile](http://www.ngrid.com/mobile).

- Like National Grid on Face-

(NATIONAL GRID Pg. 12)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS ON BOSTON’S HISTORIC FREEDOM TRAIL

The Freedom Trail® Foundation invites revelers to celebrate this holiday season on the annual Historic Holiday Strolls. The festive atmosphere of the city, set against the unique backdrop of Boston’s historic sites and centuries of history, makes these merry 90-minute tours a perfect way to celebrate the holidays. Walk the Freedom Trail and discover how Boston’s holiday traditions evolved on the Strolls offered Fridays and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. from November 18 through December 30.

Led by 19th-century Dickensian costumed guides departing from the Visitor Information Center on Boston Common, the Strolls are complete with a tour of holiday lights and Christmas trees along the Freedom Trail while learning about 19th-century holiday traditions. Following the Stroll, guests receive discounts off museum store purchases at Freedom Trail sites, including the Old South Meeting House, Old State House, Paul Revere House, and Old North Church’s Heritage and Gift Shops (valid with any Historic Holiday Stroll receipt from November through December).

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children for public tours. The Strolls may also be scheduled as private group tours pending availability. For more information and to purchase tickets for the Historic Holiday Strolls and Freedom Trail Tours, please visit

[TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org), and for group tour reservations, please call 617.357.8300.

### SECOND ANNUAL “NAME A SNOWPLOW” CONTEST FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the second annual, “Name A Snowplow,” contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts. The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 vehicles. MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2023/2024 winter season. The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season. Winning applicants will be announced by December 22.

“This contest is a great way to celebrate the winter season in New England, encourage the creativity of our young people, and to thank all the dedicated members of our crews who keep our roads and bridges cleared during severe weather,” said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “We truly appreciate all the people who work on the front lines regardless of the weather in all sectors of the economy and this is one gesture of thanks.”

“This contest was well received last winter and we know there are many good suggestions out there once again for naming our plows

this season,” said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, “We want to use the contest as a way to recognize our dedicated workforce and at the same time give students an opportunity to have some fun naming plows as it helps connect young people with the public servants who do the work.”

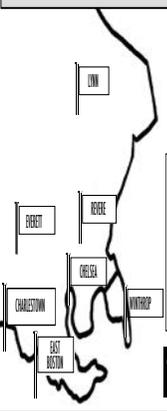
Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 1, and can be submitted by using an online portal: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission>. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school. The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: 1) kindergarten through fourth grade; and 2) fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the first snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flurry Fighter, Luke Snowwalker, Plower Ranger, Sherlock Snowmes, Snowdrop, Arctic Beast, Sled Zeppelin, Snow day No Way, Blizzard Wizard, Snow Big Deal, Snow Time to Lose, and Blizzard of Oz. These names which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago remain on those vehicles.

For more information on the contest, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2023-24>.

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**ELECTION** (from pg. 1)

behalf of every neighborhood and every resident of this city. Let's get to work," Santana posted on X after declaring victory in the election.

Other top candidates in the



City Councilor-At-Large  
Ruthzee Louijeune.



City Councilor-At-Large  
Erin Murphy.



City Councilor-At-Large  
Julia Mejia.

at-large race included three incumbents who earned the top three slots and secured their respective reelection bids - Ruthzee Louijeune, who garnered more than just 20 percent of the ballot, or

43,127 votes cast; Erin Murphy, who received just under 20 percent of the ballot, or 42,476 votes cast; and Julia Mejia, who garnered more than 18 percent of the ballot, or 38,529 votes cast.

**FRANCHISE** (from pg. 10)

that does not exist in the Planet Fitness ecosystem today and are excited about the future with Flynn Group."

Under the Flynn Group umbrella, the business will continue with growth in its current ADA with plans to open three additional Planet Fitness clubs within the coming four months. One of the earliest franchisees in the Planet Fitness system, Alder has deep connections to the Planet Fitness corporate team and is a trusted advisor to other franchisees as Stan DeMartinis is an active, founding board member of the Planet Fitness Independent Franchisee Council (PFIFC), an organization in which he has held various leadership roles including a multi-year term as President. Flynn Group will rely heavily on those relationships and Alder's expertise in this sector, including an unmatched team of dedicated fitness operators, to execute on the growth strategy and to ensure the established culture of success established by the DeMartinis Family, continues.

Flynn Group LP (formerly Flynn Restaurant Group) is the largest franchise operator in the world. Founded by Chairman & CEO Greg Flynn in 1999, Flynn Restaurant Group currently owns and operates 2,600 restaurants and fitness clubs in 44 states and two countries, generating \$4.5 billion in sales and employing 75,000

people. It's affiliate, Flynn Properties Inc., owns 121 hotels in the United States and Mexico, including 109 franchised hotels. More information is available at [www.flynn.com](http://www.flynn.com).

Alder Partners, LLC (Alder) is a privately held multi-unit franchisee of Planet Fitness. Alder Partners is a family run business that currently owns and operates a total of 37 Planet Fitness clubs in Georgia and Massachusetts. As an independent franchise the company was built on core values. Those values include having a customer centric mindset, unwavering perseverance, integrity, loyalty, gratitude and being family oriented.

Founded in 1992 in Dover, NH, Planet Fitness is one of the largest and fastest-growing franchisors and operators of fitness centers in the world by number of members and locations. As of June 30, 2023, Planet Fitness had more than 18.4 million members and 2,472 stores in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, Panama, Mexico and Australia. The Company's mission is to enhance people's lives by providing a high-quality fitness experience in a welcoming, non-intimidating environment, which we call the Judgement Free Zone®. More than 90% of Planet Fitness stores are owned and operated by independent business men and women.

**NATIONAL GRID** (from pg. 11)

book and follow on Twitter and Instagram; National Grid posts all the latest storm and restoration updates.

- Track outages and estimated restoration times at [www.nationalgridus.com/outage-central](http://www.nationalgridus.com/outage-central).

- Make sure National Grid has updated email addresses and phone numbers on file. Update contact information at [ngrid.com](http://ngrid.com). Click on sign in/register.

- To stay connected during storms and outages, text to 64743 using any of the below commands.

- o REG to sign up for text alerts
- o OUT to report an outage
- o SUM followed by your town, county, or state to get a summary of outages in your area
- o HELP for the full list of commands

Additional safety information may be found at <https://www.nationalgridus.com/MA-Home/Storm-Safety/>

National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million peo-

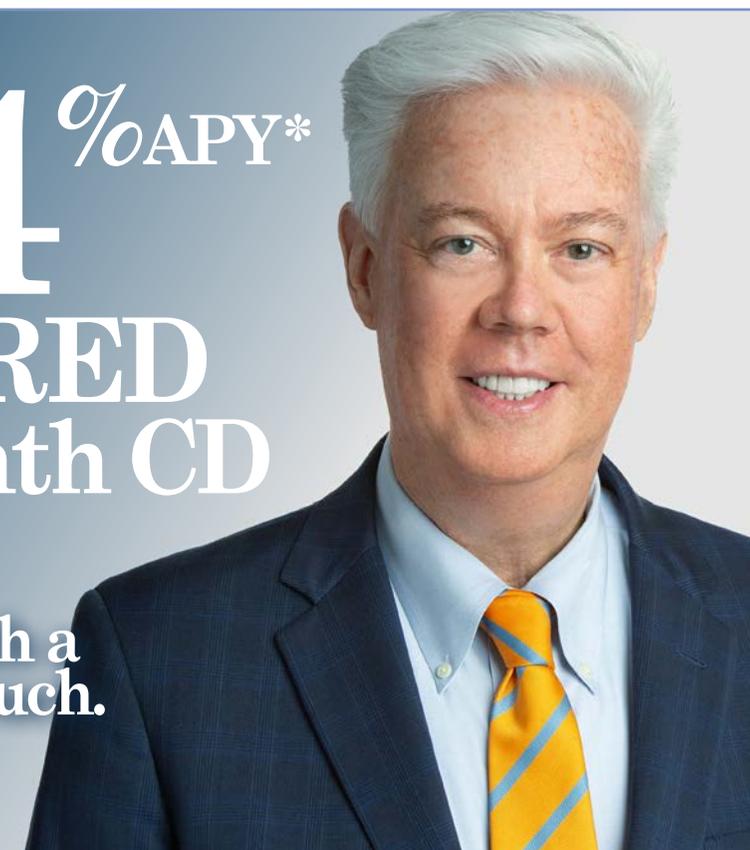
ple through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on building a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy future — transforming our networks with more reliable and resilient energy solutions to meet state climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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