

**Are you an investor or landlord?  
Are you having a hard time  
finding quality tenants?**

*We will list, market, show your property. Check credit, income, background, references and draft the lease and hand off keys for a smooth process. **Contact us today!***

**JEFF@JEFFREYBOWEN.COM 781-201-9488**



eRealtyAdvisors

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025



FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## CITY OF BOSTON HOLDS FIRST NIGHT CELEBRATION



DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS

*The City Of Boston celebrated New Year's Eve with First Night events throughout Downtown. A parade marched from City Hall to the Public Garden culminating with a fireworks show on Boston Common. The city welcomes 2025. Above, The Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association marches in the parade. Right, Kara Casey marches with The Puppet Free Library. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.*



## Part One crime is up 23 percent in Charlestown

By Dan Murphy

With 2024 drawing to a close, Charlestown had seen a 23-percent increase in Part One crime from the previous year.

According to Boston Police,

267 incidents of Part One crime were reported in District A-15 between Jan. 1 and Dec. 29, 2024, compared to 217 during the same timeframe in 2023.

Part One crime in the district (CRIME Pg. 3)

## Charlestown man arraigned Monday in fatal shooting

Staff Report

A Charlestown man was arraigned Monday in Charlestown District Court and held without bail on a murder charge.

According to a press release issued by the Boston Police Department, on January 5, 2025, at about 10:41 PM, members of the Boston Police Homicide Unit, assisted by District D-4 Officers and Special Operations, arrested 45-year-old David Menezes, of

Charlestown, in Roxbury.

Menezes allegedly gunned down Joseph Donahue, 46, of Charlestown, whose body was found in the parking lot of the Main Street 7-Eleven on Saturday.

The Boston Police Department's Homicide Unit is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with information is strongly urged to contact the Boston Police Homicide Unit at 617-343-4470.

## Coletta Zapata reflects on third year in office

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata has released her third Annual Report, summarizing 2024 and marking her second term on the Boston City Council. The report underscores significant achievements for our neighborhoods, including transformative investments, key policy efforts and community initiatives, and outlining her priorities for the Council and the district in 2025.

"I am proud to share the progress we've made over the past year and initiatives I will continue to champion in the year ahead," said Coletta Zapata. "Through collective efforts, we've driven meaningful change, from policy actions to community-based efforts. I remain dedicated to being accessible,



City Councilor  
Gabriela Coletta Zapata

responsive, and actively engaged with every resident. Serving District One is an honor, and I look forward to building on our successes in 2025 to enhance the district's vibrancy."

The report highlights her work

collaborating with city departments to improve the delivery of constituent services and advocating for infrastructure investments, such as enhancing streets and shared spaces. Her commitment to responsive government aims to improve quality of life for all residents.

In 2024, the City Council had its third opportunity to influence the budget. Coletta Zapata hosted four town halls to gather input from constituents on priorities, such as youth programs, ESOL classes for parents, affordable housing, and upgrades to city services. For FY26, her budget priorities include investments in rodent mitigation, expanding housing vouchers, increasing pest con-

(REFLECT Pg. 3)

## DiDomenico sworn in for 8th term

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Sal DiDomenico was sworn in as Senator for the 8th time, marking 14 years serving the people of the Middlesex and Suffolk district in the State Senate. DiDomenico had the privilege of speaking during the ceremony and nominating his friend, Karen Spilka, to continue as Senate President.

"Thank you to the residents of Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea and Everett for your trust, confi-



Senator DiDomenico nominating Senator Karen Spilka to continue as Senate President this term.

(DIDOMENICO Pg. 8)



## Dan Ryan sworn-in as state representative

Charlestown resident Dan Ryan was sworn in as state representative for the Second Suffolk District during an impressive ceremony Jan. 1 in the House Chamber at the State House, Boston.

"It's an honor to be sworn-in to the House of Representatives for another two-year term," said Ryan. "I'm looking forward to another successful session as we continue to make Massachusetts a great place to live and work. I

want to thank the good people of the Second Suffolk District for giving me this opportunity and Speaker Mariano for his continued leadership."

Rep. Ryan's wife, Kara, and their daughters, Ella, 17, and Audrey, 15, attended the swearing-in ceremony which fell on New Year's Day. The Mass. Constitution states that the General Court must assemble on the first Wednesday in January.



*State Rep. Dan Ryan of Charlestown and State Rep. Joseph McGonagle take their oaths of office for the 194th General Court at the swearing-in ceremony Jan. 1 at the State House in Boston.*



*Rep. Dan Ryan is pictured at the House of Representatives swearing-in ceremony Jan. 1 in the House Chamber with his wife, Kara Ryan (right) and their daughters, Ella Ryan and Audrey Ryan.*

## Flynn, Murphy file hearing order on White Stadium to address concerns

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn and City Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy have filed a hearing order to address the concerns with projected costs, community input, and transparency on the redevelopment of White Stadium. In addition, Councilors Flynn and Murphy also filed a resolution to support the use of project labor agreements (PLAs) at White Stadium and all city construction projects valued at or more than \$35 million. With significant pushback on the White Stadium project from the community, as well as the substantial risk involved at nearly \$100 million for the city thus far, it is critical that the Boston City Council does its due diligence in ensuring that residents' concerns are heard.

With projected construction

costs to the Stadium rising from \$50 million to \$91 million for the city- and \$100 million to \$182 million for the stadium overall when including the team's contribution- it would be wholly appropriate for the Boston City Council to hold a hearing to discuss the cost increases and inherent risk for the city, as well as serious concerns brought forward by residents regarding a lack of community process, transparency, and the use of public land for private organizations. The newly signed 30-year lease has effectively placed a private-public venture on public land, despite White Stadium being funded by the George Robert White Fund - a fund to be used for "public utility".

On account of these reasons and more, Councilor Flynn previously called for the current project to be

cancelled in favor of a White Stadium project geared towards student athletes and residents instead, which economists reportedly indicated would cost approximately \$20 million. Moreover, Councilor Flynn called for the city and BOS Nation FC to instead explore other options such as Nickerson Field at Boston University.

If the White Stadium project continues to move forward, it is important that the construction workers are protected by a project labor agreement (PLA). A PLA is a project-specific collective bargaining agreement on large scale development projects. This signed document establishes employment terms and conditions for a construction project. Project labor agreements often include hiring regulations that require contractors to hire local workers,

apprentices, and underrepresented groups. Furthermore, they often include wage floors, ensuring the fair and equitable payment for all employed on the site.

President Biden declared that it is the policy of the Federal Government for agencies to use project labor agreements in connection with large-scale construction projects valued at \$35 million or more. Additionally, Governor Healey signed an economic development bill late last year, including language about the positive impact that PLAs have on construction sites, not only for workers, but also small businesses and the owners of projects. PLAs are often set in place in private developments, however it is crucial that the agreements are more widely utilized in Boston and the Commonwealth and follow in the direction of the

State and Federal governments.

"I am deeply concerned with the risk of investing nearly \$100 million for a private organization at White Stadium instead of a project geared specifically towards Boston students and families, and that the concerns from residents on the escalating cost, transportation, and quality of life issues have not been taken seriously," said Councilor Flynn. "If this controversial project continues to move forward, we must do everything we can to protect the workers with project labor agreements to ensure equal employment opportunities and set an important precedent for future developments valued at or more than \$35 million."

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

## State Fire Marshal offers cold snap heating safety tips

With temperatures expected to dip into the teens overnight this week, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents to stay warm safely and protect their loved ones from some of the most common home heating fires.

"We're expecting very cold weather in the nights ahead, and home heating appliances will be working overtime," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "Heating equipment is the leading cause of carbon monoxide at home and the second leading cause of residential fires. Whether you're using gas, oil, solid fuel, or space heaters to keep warm, be sure you keep safe, too."

State Fire Marshal Davine said there were nearly 6,000 heating fires in Massachusetts from 2019 to 2023. These fires claimed eight

lives, caused 139 injuries to firefighters and residents, and contributed to over \$42 million in damage. And in 2023 alone, Massachusetts fire departments reported finding carbon monoxide at nearly 5,000 non-fire incidents.

### Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Every household needs working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of their home. Check the manufacturing date on the back of your alarms so you know when to replace them: smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after 5 to 10 years depending on the model. If your alarms take alkaline batteries, put in fresh batteries twice a year when you change your clocks. If it's time to

replace your alarms, choose new ones from a well-known, national brand. Select smoke alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature.

### Natural Gas and Oil Heat

If you have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner, have it professionally checked and serviced each year. This will help it run more efficiently, which will save you money and could save your life. Always keep a three-foot "circle of safety" around the appliance clear of anything that could catch fire. Never store painting supplies, aerosol cans, or other flammable items near these appliances. If you smell gas, don't use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

Residents struggling to pay for heating bills or maintenance may

be eligible for assistance through the Massachusetts home energy assistance program (HEAP). No matter what type of heating equipment you use, HEAP may be able to help you pay your winter heating bills or maintain your heating system. All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

### Solid Fuel Heating

If you use a fireplace or a stove that burns wood, pellets, or coal, always keep the area around it clear for three feet in all directions. This circle of safety should be free of furniture, drapery, rugs, books and papers, fuel, and any other flammable items. To prevent sparks and embers from escaping, use a fireplace screen or keep the stove door closed while burning.

Use only dry, seasoned hardwood and don't use flammable liquids to start the fire. To dispose of ashes, wait until they are cool and shovel them into a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside at least 10 feet away from the building.

Have your chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year. Most chimney fires are caused by burning creosote, a tarry substance that builds up as the fireplace, wood stove, or pellet stove is used. If burning creosote, sparks, embers, or hot gases escape through cracks in the flue or chimney, they can cause a fire that spreads to the rest of the structure. Annual cleaning and inspection can minimize this risk. Contact the Massachusetts Chimney Sweep Guild or Chimney Safe-

# Stepfather and son facing larceny and conspiracy charges

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

A stepfather and son were arraigned in BMC Central Friday on larceny and conspiracy charges after staging an armed robbery at CAVA in Downtown Crossing last month, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Nickolas Lao, 19, of Charlestown was charged with larceny over \$1,200 and conspiracy. Judge Richard Sinnott ordered Lao held on \$5,000 bail with GPS monitoring upon release.

Scott Douglas, 37, also of Charlestown, was charged with larceny over \$1,200, conspiracy, and false reporting of a crime. Sinnott ordered Douglas held on \$10,000 bail with GPS monitoring upon release.

Both will return to court January 31 for pre-trial hearings.

At about 10:34 p.m. on December 29, Boston police responded to an armed robbery in progress at CAVA, located at 125 Summer Street. Officers met with a store employee, later identified as Douglas, who reported he had been robbed at gunpoint while closing the restaurant for the night.

Douglas initially stated he felt a hard metal object being pressed against the back of his head and noticed a black AR-15 style rifle being held by an unknown male.

Douglas stated the man led him to the safe located in the back of

the store. Douglas gave the man all the cash in the drawers, a black deposit bag full of cash, and several rolls of coins from the safe, totaling approximately \$1,800. Douglas then said the man ordered him to face away while he ran out of the store.

Douglas provided officers with a description of the suspect. While reviewing nearby video footage, officers observed a man with a completely different description as that provided by Douglas enter the restaurant as Douglas simultaneously opens the door. At 10:31 p.m. the man is observed leaving the restaurant and fleeing toward the MBTA Chinatown Station at Washington and Boylston streets. Based on video footage, the suspect was the only other person inside the restaurant or around the immediate area at the time of the robbery.

Meeting with officers several days after the purported robbery, Douglas provided statements inconsistent with his initial statement and video footage from inside the restaurant.

Still images of the unknown male were distributed to officers in the area. Officers identified the man as Nickolas Lao. Investigators found that both Lao and Douglas are listed at the same address in Charlestown. Further investigation revealed that Lao is the son of Douglas' ex-wife, with

whom Douglas still resides.

Police sought and obtained arrest warrants for Douglas and Lao.

"We too often see employees who think they can fool police and their employers for their own illicit gain but end up fooling only themselves. This concocted incident instilled fear in our community and used up police time and resources that could have been dedicated elsewhere," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

*Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.*

## CRIME (from pg. 1)

was down more than 8 percent in '24 from the five-year average of 291, though.

No homicides were reported in either 2024 or '23 while the five-year average in this crime category for the district was one.

Two rapes and attempted rapes were reported in the district in '24, compared to one the previous year. Two was the five-year average for this category in the district.

Robberies and attempted robberies were up almost 42 percent as the number climbed to 17 from 12 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 11.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were down 50 percent as the number fell to eight in '24 from 16 the previous year. The five-year average for this category

in the district was 19.

In contrast, incidents of non-domestic aggravated assault saw a nearly 56-percent increase as the number climbed to 28 from 18 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 24.

The rate of commercial burglaries increased three-fold, with the number climbing to six in '24 from only two the previous year. Five was the five-year average for this category in the district.

Residential burglaries saw a slight uptick as the number climbed to 17 from 16 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 21.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle dipped slightly, with the number falling to 46 in '24 from 48 the previous year. Both

years marked a drastic reduction of the five-year average of 91 from this category in the district.

Conversely, other larcenies saw an approximately 43-percent spike as the number climbed to 123 from 86 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 115.

Auto theft was up around 11 percent, with the number climbing to 20 in '24 from 18 the previous year. The five-year average for this category in the district was 19.

Citywide, Part One crime was up 1 percent in '24, with 16,653 incidents, compared to 16,413 in 2023.

Part One crime was also up citywide around 3 percent in '24 from the five-year average of 16,153 incidents.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### MASSDOT TO HOST SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING FOR TOBIN BRIDGE PLANNING STUDY

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the second Working Group meeting for the Tobin Bridge Planning Study, to be held on Wednesday, January 15, at 2:00 p.m. This meeting will take place in person at the Charlestown Public Library and will also be accessible online via Zoom. The meeting is open to the public, and community participation is encouraged.

The Tobin Bridge Planning Study aims to explore and assess long-term alternatives for the eventual replacement of the Tobin Bridge, which spans Chelsea and Charlestown.

During this meeting, the study team will present an overview of existing conditions and engage in future conditions scenario planning with the Working Group. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insights into the study process and contribute to the discussion.

For additional information about the Tobin Bridge Planning

### REFLECT (from pg. 1)

trol inspections, and expanding resources for law enforcement and public health.

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

- The exploration of a municipal Climate Bank to stimulate economic development, create green jobs, and address climate challenges.

- Establishing the Office of Climate Resilience to accelerate waterfront fortification efforts.

- Launching a Food Cart Pilot Program to support food vendors in establishing businesses without the costs of brick-and-mortar locations.

- Advocating for the expansion of affordable housing, including right-to-counsel measures and increasing housing inspectors.

- Introducing a Home Rule Petition to address public safety personnel shortages by raising the Boston Police Department's maximum age for candidates.

Study or to submit comments or questions, please visit the study webpage at: <https://www.mass.gov/maurice-j-tobin-bridge-long-term-strategic-planning-study>

### DISCOVER MGH'S BLUM CENTER ON TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Discover the Blum Center, in Partnership with the Slavin Academy, on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Blum Center, White 110, on the MGH main campus.

At this time, information on upcoming programs, a Q&A sessions to answer your questions, and insights into the educational resources will be available to patients, families, and the community. A clinicians will also be available to educate attendees on checking their blood pressure at home and understanding how it relates to their heart health, as well as on monitoring their health at home.

All are welcome at this event where light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact the Blum Center at 617-724-7352 or via email at [PFLC@partners.org](mailto:PFLC@partners.org).

Additionally, Coletta Zapata served as Chair of both the Government Operations Committee and the Environmental Justice, Resiliency & Parks Committee. Under her leadership, the City Council passed several critical ordinances, including the creation of a Planning Department, measures to promote safe and healthy hotels, and the establishment of an Office of Labor Compliance and Worker Protections.

In the new year, Councilor Coletta Zapata is excited to continue advocating for District 1 with a robust policy agenda. Coletta Zapata encourages residents to contact her office for a meeting to discuss suggestions and ideas for solving the most persistent issues. To see her 2024 Annual Report in full, please visit [bit.ly/GCZ\\_Report](http://bit.ly/GCZ_Report) for English and [bit.ly/GCZ\\_Reporte](http://bit.ly/GCZ_Reporte) for Spanish.

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

Visit [www.charlestownbridge.com](http://www.charlestownbridge.com)



# EDITORIAL

## JIMMY CARTER PRACTICED WHAT HE PREACHED

The passing of former President Jimmy Carter at the age of 100 brings to an end the extraordinary life of a man who ascended from the small town of Plains, Georgia (population 552) to the highest office in the world.

Carter's life-story is the political equivalent of a rags-to-riches Horatio Alger novel. He never gave up on anything he attempted, despite long odds and failure. As a boy he aspired to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, which he eventually did (after initially attending the Georgia Technology Institute) and from which he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class.

After completing his military service, he went into peanut-farming (something he had done as a youngster) and almost went bankrupt. However, thanks to hard work and determination, he and his wife Rosalynn eventually turned the farm into a successful enterprise.

Carter served as a state senator in Georgia before running for governor. He lost his first campaign, but won the second, serving from 1971-75 before launching his long-shot bid for president despite being a virtual unknown on the national scene.

Jimmy Carter first came to our attention in an interview in a national magazine just as he was launching his bid for the presidency. Carter's straight talk (in a press conference he described his ideology as, "Conservative, moderate, liberal, and middle-of-the-road") impressed us as being just what the country needed in the immediate aftermath of the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War, two events in which our nation's leaders had lied to us about everything.

Carter was an unconventional president in almost everything he did right from the start. On his second day in office, Carter pardoned all Vietnam War draft evaders. He immediately jump-started peace negotiations in the Mideast that culminated in 1978 when he invited Anwar Sadat, the president of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, the president of Israel, to Camp David and personally shuttled between their compounds for 13 days to work out a peace plan.

He created a national energy policy that included conservation and renewable energy in an effort to wean the U.S. off our dependence on foreign oil. He also undertook the second round of strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union.

However, Jimmy Carter had the misfortune of beginning his presidency during a period of perceived decline in our nation. Our major cities were crime-ridden. New York City was bankrupt. Things went from bad to worse in the second half of his term with the disaster at Three Mile Island, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Nicaraguan Revolution in which avowed Communists took control of the country, and the Iranian Revolution, which not only saw our embassy workers be taken hostage, but which also resulted in another oil price shock, leading to long lines at gas stations all across the country.

Jimmy Carter's greatest strengths, his dogged determination and belief in his own ability, proved to be his greatest weaknesses. He failed to understand that politics is the art of compromise. When he spoke to the American people about gasoline shortages and the high price of energy, he urged personal sacrifice, such as driving less, turning down thermostats, and wearing extra sweaters. Carter lacked the ability of many great leaders, such as Churchill, Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan, to provide inspiration and hope.

Even though we were young and enjoying ourselves immensely in the prime of our lives during his presidency, whenever we think back to the '70s, we think of a gloomy and depressing era -- ugh, what a mess it was. Jimmy Carter didn't cause any of those problems, but he didn't have any solutions either.

But as much as Jimmy Carter may not have been a successful president, his five decades post-presidency should serve as an inspiration to every American. There is no person in our lifetime who has been the exemplification of the ideals (and we're not getting religious here) expressed by Jesus Christ: Love thy neighbor as thyself; do unto other as you would have them do unto you; let he who is without sin cast the first stone; and especially, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God."

For almost 50 years, Jimmy Carter practiced the ideals that he preached from the pulpit in his small Baptist Church. His work with Habitat for Humanity, his efforts to eradicate the Guinea worm disease through the Carter Center, and his many diplomatic efforts around the world earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

Jimmy Carter served as the conscience of our nation -- and the world.

His presence will be missed. May he rest in peace.

## EVEN WHEN THE PATRIOTS WON, THEY LOST

Heading into the final week of the NFL season, the Patriots were in prime position to claim the #1 draft pick, which held the promise of trading that pick to a team that needs a quarterback in return for a number of other picks that the Pats could have used to restock their team.

All that the Pats had to do on Sunday was lose to the Buffalo Bills -- something the Patriots had done on 13 previous occasions this season.

But they blew it -- they won! -- and thereby dropped to the #4 pick, which is of little consequence in this year's draft.

Despite the victory, the Patriots fired first-year head coach Jerod Mayo. Admittedly, Mayo may have been in over his head as a first-time head coach, but the reality is that he never had a chance given New England's pathetic roster.

The Patriots had been among the elite organizations in pro sports. But today they're a joke, with no light at the end of the tunnel, no matter who their next head coach may be.

The futility of the Patriots this season makes us all the more appreciative of the genius of Bill Belichick and the greatness of Tom Brady. Even though the Pats may not make it back to the Super Bowl for quite a while, we can be grateful for the joy they brought us for almost two decades.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

To the Editor,

The true meaning of Christmas is not artificial intelligence but attractive intelligence. If people would understand more of one another's positive characteristics the world would be more cohesive. Love and kindness are the building blocks of friendship. When you open your heart, it grows happier. Sharing one-self with another is a unique gift which brings special meaning to all our lives. Being a good neighbor also attributes joy. The soul needs nourishment and kindness strengthens this accomplishment. The holidays are a special time to express this compassion. This is the magic gift every-

one should try to emulate. The blessings of our lives is the valued memories of family and friends. Spending time is the richness that everyone can share. Conversations with laughter, empathy and listening grows meaningful connections. So let's start the new year with the guidance of being a true friend. One smile can ignite a little happiness, a present worth giving. The true meaning of Christmas is the beauty we have inside us. Magic is the moment when we know our heart can give joy. Touching a heart is a treasure worth receiving every day. Friendship is a present that can last a lifetime. This is the true meaning of Christmas. Love endures forever.

Karen McLaughlin

*The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission.*

*The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.*

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 021  
We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.



**CHARLESTOWN**  
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,  
PHONE: 781.485.0588 © 2008 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP.  
EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

NEWSSTAND PRICE: FREE / SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$75 ANNUALLY

PRESIDENT - STEPHEN QUIGLEY - EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM  
MARKETING DIRECTOR - DEBRA DIGREGORIO - DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

# Cartwright sworn in as new Clerk of Supreme Judicial Court

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Allison S. Cartwright, Esq., was sworn in January 1 as Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk by SJC Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd, in a ceremony that took place in the Great Hall of the John Adams Courthouse in Boston.

Attorney Cartwright was elected in November 2024 by the voters of Suffolk County to become the SJC Clerk for the County of Suffolk, and fills the position being vacated by Maura Sweeney Doyle, Esq. Clerk Doyle was appointed to the position in 1996, and was subsequently elected in 1998, serving for 28 years before retiring on December 21, 2024. Attorney Cartwright is the second woman and first black person to hold this position since its inception in 1693.

“For nearly three decades, we have been fortunate to have Maura Doyle serving in this position, and she has done so with professionalism, passion, and dedication,” said Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd.



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN WILCOX/BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE

*Attorney Allison S. Cartwright is sworn in by SJC Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd.*

“Today, we are equally fortunate to have Allison Cartwright stepping into this role. As an experienced lawyer and manager, she is well prepared to lead the county clerk’s office, and my colleagues and I look forward to working with her.”

The SJC Clerk for the County

of Suffolk is responsible for the management of the Court’s single justice caseload, which is comprised of petitions seeking review of lower court rulings under the SJC’s general superintendency power and various rules of court; bail review; appeals from State registration boards and agencies;

all matters relating to Bar Admission and the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and administrative disciplinary matters filed by the Board of Bar Overseers affecting members of the bar.

“I am excited and honored to have the privilege of serving as the next Clerk of the SJC for the County of Suffolk,” said Attorney Cartwright. “My team and I recognize the important role the Clerk’s Office has to ensure that our state’s highest court maintains its independence and delivers justice in a manner that is fair, equitable, and accessible to the people of Massachusetts.”

Retired Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland served as Master of Ceremonies. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Attorney Cartwright’s son, Jonathan S. Cartwright. Mr. Meyer Chambers, the Director of the Archdiocese of Boston Black Catholic Choir, led a musical rendition of America the Beautiful (arr. by Ray Charles). Speakers included Boston Mayor Michelle Wu

and State Sen. Lydia M. Edwards. Rev. Rahsaan Hall, Esq., Associate Minister of St. Paul AME Church in Cambridge, delivered the Benediction.

Attorney Cartwright began her career at the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), as trial attorney, working in the Roxbury office for four years. She then worked for the City of Boston as Assistant Corporation Counsel, before opening Cartwright & Coleman, a civil and criminal litigation law firm, from 1997 to 2001. In 2001, she opened Cartwright Law Office. During that time, she also mentored attorneys for the Suffolk Lawyers for Justice, Inc; from 2011 to 2019, she worked as the organization’s Supervising Attorney. In 2019, she returned to CPCS as Attorney-In-Charge and then Managing Director of the Central Region, where she managed offices in Suffolk and Norfolk Counties.

Attorney Cartwright is a graduate of University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Boston College Law School.

# Old North Illuminated joins prestigious Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program in anticipation of 250th anniversaries

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Old North Illuminated, the non-profit organization that stewards Old North Church & Historic Site, announced that it has been selected to join the Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program. This initiative helps cultural organizations across the U.S. and U.K. strengthen technology and management practices to improve operations, drive revenue, increase fundraising, engage broader audiences, and deliver dynamic programming.

Old North Illuminated manages all interpretive, educational, and preservation programs at the Old North Church & Historic Site in Boston’s historic North End neighborhood. Established in 1723, Old North Church is the oldest surviving church building in the city of Boston and a popular Freedom Trail destination. Old North is famous for the events of April 18, 1775, when two men climbed the church’s steeple to hold two lanterns aloft as a signal

from Paul Revere to fellow Patriots that British troops were headed to Concord “by sea” across the Charles River. This coded message and Paul Revere’s midnight ride helped spark the Revolutionary War, which erupted the following day with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Old North’s lantern signal was immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem “Paul Revere’s Ride” with the phrase “one if by land, and two if by sea.”

“The Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program comes at a pivotal time for Old North,” says Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated. “As we approach the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere’s lantern signal in 2025 and America’s 250th birthday in 2026, this critical support will help us redesign our website to better serve the hundreds of thousands of visitors expected in Boston. Our website also hosts free curricula, lesson plans, and educational videos used in classrooms nationwide. We’re

grateful to Bloomberg Philanthropies for enhancing the digital experience for history students and global visitors.”

Over the past three years, the Digital Accelerator Program has been a catalyst for strengthening nearly 150 cultural organizations across the U.S. and U.K. To date, the 40 institutions that were part of the first cohort cumulatively grew an additional \$20 million in new revenue including through fundraising, reached over 1 million new audience members, and engaged more than 4,000 new artists and partners.

Old North Illuminated is one of 200 nonprofit cultural organizations accepted into Bloomberg Philanthropies’ new Digital Accelerator Program cohort, spanning artistic disciplines and organization size in 52 U.S. cities and 28 U.K. cities.

Established in 1991 as the Old North Foundation, Old North Illuminated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site operations and

interpretative, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church & Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church in the City of Boston, Old North Illuminated welcomes approximately 500,000 visitors annually while overseeing the preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. Old North Illuminated serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. ONI works collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S. National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other partners to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church’s history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. In 2023, Old North Church & Historic Site was designated as a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), joining a global network

of historic sites, museums, and memory initiatives that connect past struggles to today’s movements for human rights. For more information, visit: [www.oldnorth.com](http://www.oldnorth.com).

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 700 cities and 150 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on creating lasting change in five key areas: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg’s giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a philanthropic consultancy that advises cities around the world. In 2023, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$3 billion. For more information, please visit [bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org), sign up for our newsletter, or follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Threads, Facebook, and X.

VISIT [WWW.CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM](http://WWW.CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM)



# CITY OF BOSTON HOLDS FIRST NIGHT CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The City Of Boston celebrated New Year's Eve with First Night events throughout Downtown. A parade marched from City Hall to the Public Garden culminating with a fireworks show on Boston Common. The city welcomes 2025.



Parade spectators watch the festivities at the corner of Charles and Boylston Streets.



Fireworks provide a brilliant backdrop for the Soldiers And Sailors Monument in Boston Common.



Spectators watch the parade make it's way along Boylston Street.



JP Honk marches in the parade.



JP Honk marches in the parade.



Members of the Red Rebel Brigade march. The red dresses symbolize the lifeblood that connects all species on Earth as one and to draw attention to climate change.



Parade spectators line up along Charles Street to get a look at the procession.



The Granese and Thomson Families from Beverly.



# CITY OF BOSTON HOLDS FIRST NIGHT CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Members of the Open Air Circus march in the parade.



The William Diamond Junior Fife & Drum Corps from Lexington MA



The Puppet Free Library has an impressive presence in the parade.



The Mandarin characters read "Happy New Year" as part of the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association's contribution to the parade.



The Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association marches with a brilliantly lit dragon on Charles Street.



Parade spectators line up along Charles Street to get a look at the procession.



**DiDOMENICO** (from pg. 1)

dence and support, and for giving me the honor to serve as your State Senator for another term," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "I


look forward to a bright and productive legislative session working for you and the people of the Commonwealth."



Senator DiDomenico with Senate court officers.



Shown (left to right) are Senator Sal DiDomenico, Sal DiDomenico, U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Matthew DiDomenico, and Tricia DiDomenico.



**Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2025**  
January 26 - February 1  
#CSW25

**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

*The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church's evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community.*

*While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.*

**Publishing January 23 & 24**

**3x5 or 2x8 Color \$200.00 Per Paper**  
**3x5 or 2x8 Color \$700.00 4 Papers**  
**3x5 or 2x8 Color \$900.00 8 Papers**

The Revere Journal • The Winthrop Sun Transcript • Chelsea Record  
Everett Independent • East Boston Times Free Press  
Charlestown Patriot Bridge • North End Regional Review

**Deadline: Thursday, January 16th**

Email your rep. or call 781-485-0588  
Maureen DiBella - mdibella@winthroptranscript.com  
Sioux Gerow - charlestownads@hotmail.com  
Deb DiGregorio - deb@reverejournal.com



Shown (left to right) are Senator Peter Durant, Senator Brendan Crighton, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Senator Bill Driscoll, Senator Michael Rodrigues, Senator Liz Miranda, and Senator Lydia Edwards.

**Shop LOCAL**  
*Business directory*

Our readers are always seeking local resources. Call for a great rate on a long term COLOR campaign for your business.

Sioux Gerow  
[charlestownads@hotmail.com](mailto:charlestownads@hotmail.com)  
781-485-0588 x106



# Snow-thrower safety tips: keep best practices in mind this winter

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

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

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

Review the owner's manual. Check the owner's manual for safe handling procedures. If the manual



*The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute reminds home and business owners to use snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers, safely and offers tips to help.*

cannot be found, look it up online, and store a copy on your computer so it's available to reference in the future. Review how to operate

controls. Be able to shut off equipment quickly.

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

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

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

erly see [www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning](http://www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI owns Equip Exposition, the international landscape, outdoor living and equipment exposition, and administers the TurfMutt Foundation, which directs the environmental education program, TurfMutt. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces.

## Exploring the Blackstone River Valley: Recreational Hike Series

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) invites the public to participate in the "Exploring the Blackstone River Valley" recreational hike series. These free programs are open to individuals ages 12 and up. Registration is not required, but participants are encouraged to wear sturdy footwear, dress for the weather, and bring water. Bathrooms may not be available at certain locations.

For updated programming information, call (508) 278-7604 or visit the DCR website. ADA accommodations are available by contacting (617) 645-0358 or emailing [moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov](mailto:moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov).

Upcoming Hikes:

Sunday, January 12: Sparrow and Grouse Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Upton State Forest

Meet at the CCC Camp parking area (205 Westboro Road, Upton).

~3 miles over a rugged forest surface with steep inclines.

Sunday, January 19: Grand Trunk Trail Loop, 1-4 p.m.

Douglas State Forest

Meet at Carter's Field parking area.

~4-5 miles over a compacted gravel surface with mild inclines.

Sunday, January 26: Long Trail Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Hopkinton State Park

Meet at the Hopkinton State

Park upper beach lot parking area.

~3-5 miles over rugged forest and loose gravel surfaces with moderate inclines.

Sunday, February 2: Goat Hill Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

Meet at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center parking area (287 Oak Street, Uxbridge).

~2 miles over rugged forest and rocky surfaces with steep inclines.

Sunday, February 9: Mammoth Rock Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Upton State Forest

Meet at the CCC Camp parking area (205 Westboro Road, Upton).

~2.5 miles over a rugged forest surface with steep inclines.

Sunday, February 16: Morse Pond Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Douglas State Forest

Meet at Carter's Field parking area.

~3.5 miles over a compacted gravel surface with mild inclines.

Sunday, February 23: Forest Road Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

Meet at the Purgatory Chasm Visitor Center parking area (198 Purgatory Road, Sutton).

~3.5 miles over a rocky surface with steep inclines.

For more information, contact the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park at (508) 278-7604.

**LIFE-SIZE DINOSAURS!**

**SHRINERS AUDITORIUM  
JANUARY 10-12**

**DINOSAUR ADVENTURE**

Get your tickets now at [DinosaurAdventure.com](http://DinosaurAdventure.com)



# NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through January 18 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

### Scheduled Work

- West sidewalk formwork and utility install
- Southwest approach barrier and sidewalk work
- Marine fender wood installation
- Lovejoy walkway pile cap formwork

### Work Hours

- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead

period:

- Bruins: 1/6 at 6 p.m., 1/7 at 7 p.m., and 1/14 at 7 p.m.
- Celtics: 1/10 at 7:30 p.m., 1/12 at 6 p.m., 1/17 at 7 p.m., and 1/18 at 7 p.m.
- Other events: 1/11 at 8 a.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: [Mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement](http://Mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement)

Project email: [NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us)

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN  
Docket No. SU22P0538GD  
In the Interests of: Susan Holaday Of: Charlestown, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Jewish Family and Children's Service of Waltham, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent  
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.  
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/17/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which. You have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to

filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 16, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett  
Register of Probate

Service of Waltham, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Conservator of the Respondent  
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.  
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/17/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which. You have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 16, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett  
Register of Probate

### LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A CONSERVATOR  
Docket No. SU22P0539PM  
In the Interests of: Susan Holaday Of: Charlestown, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Jewish Family and Children's

01/09/25  
CT

01/09/25  
CT

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Rives, Jenna	Sullivan 3 Lexington Rent	3 Lexington Ave	\$825,000
Fitzgerald, Caroline	Olson, Michael E	36 Winthrop St	\$3,075,000
Corrigan, Pamela	Srk Rt	47 Harvard St #A2	\$1,275,000
Galvin, Rosemarie	Gamache, Matthew	58 Chappie St #2	\$899,000

**Century 21 Elite** 253 Main St. • Charlestown • 617-241-5566  
www.c21elite.com  
Sales • Rentals • Free Market Analysis  
Certified Buyer Agents

Visit [www.charlestownbridge.com](http://www.charlestownbridge.com)

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**CASTLEMAINE CONSTRUCTION**  
home improvement  
Fine carpentry  
Interior & exterior  
Remodeling  
**MORGAN FOLEY**  
781-267-1777  
-local references-

**JOHN P. McHugh Electric**  
Licensed & insured  
Complete electrical services  
[www.johnpmchughelectric.com](http://www.johnpmchughelectric.com)  
[Jmchugh447@gmail.com](mailto:Jmchugh447@gmail.com)  
617-320-7703

**Ryan Masonry**  
Chimneys • Fireplaces  
Cellar Floors • Restoration  
French Drains • Repointing  
Free Estimates, Lic. & Ins.  
Local References  
Phil - 617-230-3490

**JOHN J. RECCA PAINTING**  
Commercial/Residential  
Interior/Exterior  
Fully Insured  
Quality Work  
Reasonable Rates  
Free Estimates  
781-241-2454  
reccapainting@hotmail.com

THINK OF IT AS AN OWNER'S MANUAL FOR YOUR MONEY.



The free Consumer Action Handbook. It's in print and online at ConsumerAction.gov. Order your free copy online at ConsumerAction.gov or write to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS



# More than one-third of Christmas tree home fires occur in January

More than one-third (36 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) strongly encourages everyone to dispose of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

“As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they’re large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

According to NFPA data, Christmas tree fires don’t happen often, but when they do occur, they’re more likely to be serious. That’s in part because fresh Christmas trees dry out over time, making them more flammable the longer they’re in the home. A dried-out Christmas tree will burn much more quickly than a well-watered one.

Between 2018 and 2022, there was an estimated annual average of 155 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, result-

ing in four civilian deaths, seven civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage.

“Fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year,” said Carli.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community’s recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

## SAFETY (from pg. 2)

ty Institute of America to identify reputable local companies.

### Space Heaters

Keep space heaters at least three feet from curtains, bedding, and

anything else that can burn. Plug them directly into a wall socket, not an extension cord or a power strip, and remember that they’re for temporary use. Always turn a space heater off when you leave

the room or go to sleep.

When purchasing a space heater, select one that’s been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL). Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off switch that turns the device off if it tips over. Unvented kerosene space heaters and portable propane space heaters are not permitted for residential use in Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Davine said: the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning that they pose is too great.

### Create and Practice a Home Escape Plan

Everyone should have a home escape plan that accounts for two ways out of every room, and everyone should be able to open the doors and windows along the way. Remember that children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need extra assistance.

### More Home Heating Safety Tips

The Department of Fire Services offers a wealth of home heating safety information, including the “Keep Warm, Keep Safe” tool kit for local fire departments, caregivers, and service providers, on the DFS web site.

• Revere • Everett • Winthrop • Lynn • East Boston • Chelsea • Charlestown



**Independent Newspaper Group**

**Classified**

*More Than 100,000 Readers Each Week*

7 COMMUNITIES

781-485-0588  
Fax: 781-485-1403  
Ext 102  
E-Mail Your Ad To:  
[classified@reverejournal.com](mailto:classified@reverejournal.com)

REAL ESTATE  
Sales • Rentals  
Land • Commercial  
RECRUITMENT  
Professional • Medical  
General • Services  
  
• Auto Sales • Yard Sales  
• Miscellaneous

## HELP WANTED - FULL TIME

**FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN** - Federal License req'd, 30 ton or better.  
47' Commercial fishing - 100% permitted licensed & insured. Docked East Boston.  
857-756-2988 or email: [bluefish2882@yahoo.com](mailto:bluefish2882@yahoo.com)

## APT FOR RENT

Winthrop Fort Heath Ocean View: 1 Bedroom starting at \$2195, modernized. Minutes to Boston. Heat, hot water, amenities, pool, billiard/exercise rooms, sunroom, view & steps to ocean. Non smoking, No pets. Call Debera, 617-846-7300. 1/29/25

**DEADLINES:** For classified line ads, deadlines are Monday by 4 p.m. Call 781-485-0588

To place a  
memoriam please call  
**781-485-0588**

## Extend your Business's reach with Online Advertising!

**Clients and Customers are just a click away!**

**\$300<sup>00</sup> per month per site**



REVEREJOURNAL.COM • WINTHROPTRANSCRIPT.COM  
LYNNJOURNAL.COM • EVERETTINDEPENDENT.COM  
EASTIETIMES.COM • CHELSEARECORD.COM  
CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM • BEACONHILLTIMES.COM  
NORTHENDREGIONALREVIEW.COM • THEBOSTONSUN.COM  
JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM • MISSIONHILLGAZETTE.COM

**Combo Rates available!  
Buy any 3 sites, get 4<sup>th</sup> FREE**

**Call 781-485-0588 to get started!**

### AD SIZE

**in pixels  
W: 160px  
H: 600px**

**please send in "png" format**



### FHAP AGENCIES & OTHER STATE/ LOCAL REFERRAL AGENCIES

**BOSTON FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION**  
One City Hall Plaza, Suite 966  
Boston, MA 02201-1054  
617-635-4408

**CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
51 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732  
617-349-4396

**CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES**  
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-1561  
860-541-3400

**MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
51 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
207-624-6050

**MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**  
One Ashburton Place, Room 601  
Boston, MA 02108-1599  
617-994-6000

**RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**  
180 Westminster Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Providence, RI 02903-3768  
401-222-2661/62

**VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
135 State Street, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301  
802-828-2480

**NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
2 Chenell Drive  
Concord, NH 03301-9053  
603-271-2767

**NEW HAVEN COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**  
200 Orange Street, Room 402  
New Haven, CT 06510  
203-946-8160/8165

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



# DiDomenico celebrates over \$11 million awarded to prevent youth violence

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Last month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced over \$11 million in funding awarded through the Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative, including new funds to support violence prevention in public housing sites. Senator DiDomenico has championed this critical grant program for years and consistently advocated for increased funding. The program helps communities build programs to improve safety and reduce gang activity and is benefiting cities throughout Senator Sal

DiDomenico's district and in areas throughout the state. Thanks to this funding, communities can provide youth programming and help build and strengthen relationships between police and young people.

"I have supported this program for years and will continue to do so in order to reduce violence and protect young people in my district and across Massachusetts," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "I want to thank my colleagues and the broad coalition of advocates working with me to support funding the Shannon grants."



Senator DiDomenico speaking at an event in 2024 with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to highlight support of the Shannon Grants.

## CITY PAWS

### Quality of life

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Our furry family members need more from us than regular feeding, walking, and routine health care. They need us to be concerned about the quality of their lives.

If you have a dog or a cat, you want to do everything possible to keep your animal happy and healthy. However, finding time to do things that can improve their quality of life may be challenging. To overcome this, resolve to form new habits and set a few goals for the new year.

#### Dedicated Time

You know the activities you love to do with your dog or cat. However, you should also think about the activities your little pal loves to do with you. It could be a play session when you toss a toy or wiggle an interactive cat teaser. Recognizing joyful moments can take careful observation. Plan to do more of it once you know what

fills your animal's life with bliss.

On the other hand, you also know what activities cause your pet stress and fear, diminishing their quality of life. You should take whatever steps are needed to support the animal through difficult situations and desensitize them as best you can. For example, you might visit the grooming parlor or veterinary office and have the staff give your pet a treat between scheduled visits.

#### Learn To Do The Basics

You are the one most likely to spot something abnormal with your cat and the one who speaks for your dog when he needs medical care. A quick home check-up regularly might save the animal some pain and you some money.

Routine, at-home dental care is one of the most important (but often neglected) quality-of-life care a pet guardian can provide. If you can set a routine to brush your critter's teeth at least once or, at

best, twice a day, it can help prevent pain and a cascade of health issues from periodontal disease.

#### Make Your Home Pet-Friendly

Does your cat have places to climb, not only because cats love to climb, but also to get away from dogs, children, (or even you) when she wants to be left alone?

We often notice cats and sometimes dogs perched in windows. Does your little friend love to watch the world go by or keep track of the birds in the trees? If you don't have wide window sills, do what you can to provide a comfortable and secure perch. And, be sure there is no possibility of a fall out of the window.

Safety is another issue. In our tech-filled world, we run wired chargers here, there, and everywhere. These can be tempting to little friends who spend far more time on the floor looking around than we do. Keep those devices unplugged or out of reach when



PHOTO BY PIOTR MUSIOL

Your cat's purr is an excellent sign that she is enjoying your moment together.

you aren't using them.

Finally, educate yourself about foods, plants, household products, and odd dangers from ribbons that cats might ingest to stray socks that a big dog might eat.

The saddest assessment of the quality of life required of any animal guardian is when their pet's health drastically reduces their enjoyment of life. With our pets, we are allowed to end suffering.

However, before you make that decision, check your options. It may be that more specialized veterinary care, a new medication, or a mobility aid could make a difference.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*



## 46 Main Street

### 1BD/1BA w/ heat & hot water incl.

**GRACE BLOODWELL**  
Broker  
20+ Years Experience,  
Local Resident  
Seller, Buyer & Landlord  
Representation  
617-512-4939  
grace.bloodwell@nemooves.com  
Coldwell Banker | 91 Main Street  
Charlestown MA



\$2,475/mo

# 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](mailto:obits@reverejournal.com) or call 781-485-0588

## Mammograms Save Lives.

All women over 40 should have a mammogram once a year. Breast cancer found early offers the best chance to be cured. Free or low cost mammograms are available. For more information and answers to any of your cancer questions, contact us any time, day or night.

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)  
1.800.ACS.2345

