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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025



FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## A LEGACY REBUILT FOR GENERATIONS: CELEBRATING THE RESTORATION OF MEMORIAL HALL



PHOTOS BY DIANE GRANT

Shown above are community members who gathered on Saturday for a long-anticipated Open House at the Abraham Lincoln Post 11 G.A.R. Memorial Hall, celebrating the restoration of one of Charlestown's most cherished historic landmarks.

Shown right are members of the Sons of Union Veterans during the celebration. See Pages 12 and 13 for more photos.



## Boston City Council votes to advance Ranked Choice Voting

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Last week, the Boston City Council approved a Home Rule Petition to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for city elections by a vote of 8-4.

The proposal, introduced by Council President Ruthzee Louijeune and co-sponsored by Councilors Julia Mejia and Henry Santana, now heads to Mayor Michelle Wu for approval before advancing to the Massachusetts Legislature. If passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, Boston voters will have the opportunity to decide on RCV through a ballot referendum.

In addition to the sponsors, the

measure was supported by Councilors Enrique Pepén, Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Brian J. Worrell, Liz Breadon, and Benjamin J. Weber. Councilors Ed Flynn, Erin Murphy, John Fitzgerald, and Sharon Durkin voted in opposition. Coletta-Zapata, chair of the Committee on Government Operations, received praise from councilors voting both ways for shepherding the bill through her committee in a thorough and transparent process.

"This is a historic day for Boston," said Louijeune last week. "Today's vote brings us closer to a more inclusive, representative, and

See VOTING Page 2

## OLD CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLBOYS ASSOCIATION MARKS 112TH REUNION GALA



Neil Gillis, 87, was the official bellringer to call the Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association's 112th reunion gathering to order on Sunday evening, May 18. By tradition, the oldest member in attendance gets to ring the bell. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

## Historic Event

Bunker Hill Monument Association to  
celebrate 200th anniversary of cornerstone laying

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Bunker Hill Monument Association and partner organizations will mark the 200th anniversary of the Bunker Hill Monument's cornerstone laying with a daylong historical com-

memoration. The event features a grand ceremonial procession, a Masonic ritual reenactment, historical orations by reenactors portraying Daniel Webster and General Lafayette, and stirring

(HISTORIC Pg. 5)

Our Offices will be  
closed Mon. May 26<sup>th</sup>  
in observation of  
Memorial Day.  
Ad deadline for next  
weeks' paper is  
Friday at noon.



# EDITORIAL

## MEMORIAL DAY

Although the Memorial Day weekend signifies the start of the summer season and is observed by families and friends who gather for barbecues and similar festivities, we should keep in mind that Memorial Day is our most solemn national holiday.

Memorial Day reminds us that freedom isn't free. The holiday makes us aware of the Supreme Sacrifice that has been made by so many of our fellow citizens, providing us with an opportunity to honor their sacrifice.

Memorial Day has its roots in what originally was known as Decoration Day in the aftermath of the Civil War, when the women of communities in the North decorated the graves of the soldiers who perished in that horrific and tragic conflict.

Decoration Day became an official holiday with the proclamation by Gen. Logan on May 5, 1868, in which he declared:

"The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit. Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

In keeping with the spirit of Decoration Day (and the 160th anniversary of the end of the Civil War), we are reprinting below President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, considered by many to be one of the greatest speeches of all time and which states far more eloquently than we ever could the debt that each of us owes to the brave men and women who have fought and died to defend our nation's freedom and liberty.

We trust that our readers will agree that Lincoln's words are as inspiring today as they were when he uttered them in November of 1863 at Gettysburg -- and have special resonance today, when the democratic values and institutions for which so many of our fellow Americans gave their lives are being challenged more so than at any time since the end of the Civil War:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

## ENJOY THE WEEKEND -- SAFELY

Memorial Day weekend marks the traditional start of the summer season, bringing with it the anticipation of sunshine and warmth, of vacations, and of time spent with family and friends.

So we ask our readers to stop right now — and think for a moment — about all of the good times that we will be sharing with our friends and our loved ones over the next three months.

But then think for a moment about how quickly all of that can dissolve in the blink of an eye if we make a wrong choice — if we drink and drive a car or a boat while under the influence, if we abuse drugs, or if we use fireworks or other dangerous incendiaries. If friends or family members are showing clear signs of intoxication, we should not hesitate to take their keys, whether from a car or a boat, to prevent a tragedy from occurring.

It is inevitable that the TV and newspapers will inform us of the hundreds of tragedies that will occur this holiday weekend because of poor choices made by our fellow Americans. It is up to each of us to ensure that we do not become just another sad statistic.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Memorial Day weekend.

## VOTING (from pg. 1)

transparent democracy—one that ensures our elected leaders have broad support and are chosen by the majority of voters. Ranked choice voting is not only simple, it's powerful. It gives voters more voice and more choice."

RCV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, eliminating the fear of "spoiler" candidates and promoting coalition-building over division, according to its proponents. Under the proposal, RCV would apply to general and special elections for mayor and district councilor (when three or more candidates run), and general elections for at-large councilors.

"Ranked choice voting is a tool to disrupt the status quo, shift power to the people, and amplify the voices of communities historically excluded from decision-making processes," said Mejia. "This vote is a declaration that our democracy belongs to all of us."

Santana stated that more than 60 percent of Bostonians supported RCV in 2020.

"This isn't just about policy—it's about trust, representation, and making sure our government reflects the diversity of our city," Santana stated.

Flynn, who voted against the proposal, expressed concerns about the city's prepared-

ness and whether residents are asking for this reform in the first place.

"The Election Department pretty much told me that they don't want to see this implemented," Flynn said during the Council meeting before the vote. "They don't believe now is the time to make such a dramatic, significant change to how people vote."

Flynn cited issues from recent municipal elections — such as lighting failures and polling locations running out of ballots, requiring police to transport ballots — as signs that the city should focus on fixing its current voting infrastructure before adopting a new system.

"I would have a very difficult time explaining this process to my constituents in District 2," he said. "Many of them don't speak English, many of them live in public housing, many of them are seniors, English Language Learners. [...] I don't want to set us up for failure. That's what we're doing."

Murphy, who also voted against the measure, cited concerns about accessibility and potential voter confusion. She said that the existing voting system already works and that adding new layers of complexity could have unintended consequences for vulnerable populations.

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# DiDomenico secures \$750,000 in funding for local education, transportation projects

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass a \$1.33 billion plan to invest in public education and transportation across the Commonwealth. The Senate’s bill directs funding to expand career and technical education opportunities, bolster construction projects at local schools and college campuses, as well as support public transit and road and bridge funding for cities and towns throughout the state.

DiDomenico secured \$750,000 to support education and transportation projects across every community in his district. His funding will go towards projects such as playground enhancements, athletic and theater programs, creating sensory classrooms, assisting with repairs in our schools, new bleachers in a high school gym, after school programming, traffic calming measures on our streets, and new signalization to create a safer environment for drivers and pedestrians.

This bill prioritizes regional equity by providing support statewide for K-12 school district special education programs, roads and bridges, capital improvements for public bus transportation, and infrastructure upgrades at Massachusetts’ public colleges and universities.

The overwhelming success of the Fair Share amendment to the Constitution—voted for by residents in 2022—generated more



Senator Sal DiDomenico

than \$1 billion over initial projections in fiscal years 2023 and 2024. This legislation contains restricted one-time investments in public education and transportation initiatives and primarily uses funds from that surtax, which is paid by households in Massachusetts earning more than \$1 million per year. The Senate will debate its annual general budget later in the month.

“I am thrilled that I could bring such a significant investment home to my district to improve and support school programs, public infrastructure, and transit projects,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. “I am excited to witness new projects improving daily transit across our communities and the new education initiatives that will support countless students of all ages. I want to thank Senate President Spilka and Chair Rodrigues for this bill that will have far

reaching benefits in our state in the near term and long into the future.

**Education**  
Education investments in the supplemental budget include funding for:

Special Education Costs. \$248 million, including circuit breaker reimbursements to local school districts.

Public Higher Education Deferred Maintenance. \$190 million for higher education overall, including \$10 million for lab resources for community colleges following the success of MassEducate.

Career Technical Education Capital Grants. \$100 million to expand capacity and accommodate additional career technical education opportunities.

Local School Construction Relief. \$50 million to support cities, towns and school districts experiencing extraordinary school construction increases due to inflation or the impacts of tariffs.

Literacy Growth. \$25 million to support accelerated literacy growth for students in kindergarten through grade 3.

English Language Learning Programs. \$10 million for educational grants to reduce the waitlist for services for speakers of languages other than English to learn English and subsequently help fill in-demand jobs.

**Transportation**  
Transportation investments in the supplemental budget include funding for:

MBTA Improvements and Infrastructure Upgrades. \$370 million for improvements and infrastructure upgrades across the MBTA system, comprising:

\$200 million to replenish the MBTA budget reserve after the MBTA’s recent use of reserve funds for operations support.

\$100 million in workforce and safety training to implement Federal Transit Administration improvement recommendations.

\$50 million for commuter rail system maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

\$20 million for the MBTA’s low-income fare relief program.

Local Road Improvements. \$190 million for shovel-ready transportation improvements to roads, bridges, and culverts.

Regional Equity in Transportation. \$105 million for regional transit initiatives composed of:

\$50 million for capital improvements to equipment and facilities at Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) that serve and connect all regions of the Commonwealth.

\$25 million for RTA workforce recruitment and retention improvement efforts.

\$20 million for ferry infrastructure improvements.

\$10 million for on-demand micro-transit shuttles and Last Mile grants to foster an innovative multimodal transit system.

World Cup Preparations. \$5 million for transportation improvements associated with the upcoming 2026 World Cup.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Harvey, Clayton	Carrigan, Paul H	20 Chestnut St #1	\$1,000,000
Roche, Brendan T	Schonberg, Grant W	28 Mystic St #1	\$1,110,000
Murray, Sara B	Coffman, David R	33 Elm St #2	\$915,000
Porter, Sean G	Flannery, Matthew	34 Mystic St #1	\$1,179,000
Titov, Alexander V	Sultenfuss, Margo L	46 Harvard St #3	\$935,000
Bete, Melanie	McLaughlin Ft	51 Soley St	\$1,800,000
Lind, Charles	Flaczyk, Adam	53 N Mead St #C10	\$652,500
Owens, Benjamin H	Barger, James	58 Baldwin St	\$2,100,000
Burke, Kathryn	Lichkus, Richard	58 High St #3	\$1,420,000
Hosseini, Motaharsadat	Pollak, Jonathan	78 Pearl St #3	\$1,200,000

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# Milone-Nuzzo retiring as President of MGH Institute of Health Professions

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Paula Milone-Nuzzo, PhD, RN, FHHC, FAAN, the sixth president of the MGH Institute of Health Professions, is retiring after leading the Boston graduate school for eight years. Milone-Nuzzo intends to stay on the job until her successor is in place, which is expected to be this fall after a nationwide search is complete.

“It’s a bittersweet decision, for sure,” said Milone-Nuzzo. “I love my job, and I love the work because I love being with the people here. But it’s time for me to do other things, chief among them – spend time with my family. My husband has been retired for years, and I have four grandchildren now.”

When Milone-Nuzzo took over at the MGH Institute in August of 2017, she promised to build on the mission of preparing health professionals and scientists who advance care in an equitable way. She did that, and so much more. Among the achievements under her leadership:

- Creation of two Centers of Excellence: Tedy’s Team Center of Excellence in Stroke Recovery and Center of Excellence on Healthcare Simulation Research
- Supported research that saw more than a fivefold growth in its

portfolio

- Nurtured relationships throughout Mass General Brigham; today Institute personnel are serving in leadership roles within the system and the number of clinical rotations is on the rise
- Increased the Institute’s revenues, endowment, student scholarships, and degree programs
- Ensured Institute’s secure financial footing
- Started push for students to understand the importance of providing equitable healthcare, which led to the Office of Mission, Values, and Community Excellence
- Grew student enrollment to largest ever
- Oversaw implementation of Tuition Reduction Incentive Plan which provides 40% discount for MGH employees and 20% discount for their families
- Oversaw the expansion of the international footprint with academic partnerships in Saudi Arabia and Germany
- MGH Institute was named a “Great College to Work For” 11 times
- Successfully led the Institute through COVID

But it’s the intangibles that matter most to Milone-Nuzzo - the people. Building community and providing an environment where everyone – students and employ-

ees alike - can soar and maximize their potential.

“I think the most important accomplishment is building the community, supporting people at the IHP, and helping people to grow in their roles so that they can be successful,” reflected Milone-Nuzzo. “Making this the environment for the students where they can’t help but soar and achieve greatness – that’s what I will look back on with an immense sense of satisfaction.”

Building that community has had its share of challenges – COVID, financial struggles, the 2023 reduction in force, and the new executive orders by the Trump Administration, to name a few.

“But each time we worked at reconnecting, re-weaving, re-knitting together our community and I think it’s been successful,” noted Milone-Nuzzo.

Few would argue that Milone-Nuzzo’s eight-year run has been effective and successful, particularly those who hired her.

“Since the day she arrived, Paula has been a strong and innovative leader who’s not afraid to make bold decisions,” said Jeanette Ives Erickson, Board of Trustees Chair for the MGH Institute. “That’s why we hired her. The results speak for themselves



MGH Institute of Health Professions President Paula Milone-Nuzzo

– we have more degree programs, and the highest student enrollment in our history. The MGH Institute is the healthiest it has been in years, and that’s largely due to Paula’s leadership.”

Indeed, this year enrollment eclipsed 1700 students for the first time in the Institute’s history. Additionally, the Institute is entering the undergraduate education space with the new Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences major, which was approved last month by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.

The MGH Institute’s unique perch, at the intersection of higher education and healthcare that’s within an esteemed healthcare system, is what drew Milone-Nuzzo from her dean of nursing post at Penn State.

“I didn’t want another job that was just like the other jobs I had,” said Milone-Nuzzo, ticking off her positions at Southern Connecticut State University, Yale University, and Penn State. “I could have stayed in my job as Penn State’s School of Nursing dean for as long as I wanted, but I wanted to have an experience that was broader than nursing and fully integrated into the clinical environment in a way that enhanced the educational experience.”

Upon her arrival, she began reaching out to leaders at Massachusetts General Hospital and Mass General Brigham, telling them what the Institute was all about and how it could help the system. Milone-Nuzzo found an audience and soon strong relationships were formed.

“Paula has been instrumental in strengthening the relationship between the Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital, and she is a key reason the Institute’s influence and recognition continue to grow across Mass General Brigham,” said David Brown, President of the Academic Medical Centers for Mass General

Brigham. “She has consistently demonstrated the Institute’s value – not only as a critical contributor but also as a trusted partner within the system.”

Milone-Nuzzo’s tenure has been filled with milestones and accomplishments. She co-wrote a book on nurse leadership, made the Boston Globe’s Top 100 Women-led Businesses three times, advocated for higher ed with state leaders whenever possible, celebrated student leaders and faculty accomplishment, helped get the Tuition Reduction Incentive Plan (TRIP) started, supported the Aphasia Center being named for Marjorie Nicholas, helped launch a student referral program and a reimagined nursing degree program with Martha’s Vineyard Hospital, initiated and nurtured a relationship with the national accounting firm RSM (based in Charlestown) that has led to more than \$1-million in funding for MGH Institute researchers, and shared her thoughts on countless national and international issues and events.

As the MGH Institute rounds the corner towards its 50th anniversary, it stands as a world-class institute of learning and practice with a strong balance sheet and the healthiest student enrollment in its history; much of the success can be traced back to the leadership of its president.

During yesterday’s Commencement, Brown underscored the point from the podium as he addressed the graduates.

“Now, today is about the graduates, but I do want to just take one moment to acknowledge our extraordinary leader, our president, Paula Milone-Nuzzo,” said Brown. “Good things happen when you have an incredible leader, an inspiring leader, a dedicated leader. Paula is all of those things and more. We are so lucky to have her as our leader.”

“It has been the honor of my lifetime to have had the opportunity to lead at the IHP and to be part of a community with such dedicated and exceptional colleagues,” reflected Milone-Nuzzo. “I have felt privileged to have an incredibly supportive and engaged Board of Trustees and the benefit of being part of the Mass General Brigham family. When I began my career as a staff nurse on a post-surgical unit, I never imagined my career would end as a college president, but I can’t think of a better group of people to have worked with for the last eight years.”

A Historic Anniversary

Battle of Bunker Hill's

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coverage and more of the festivities during this

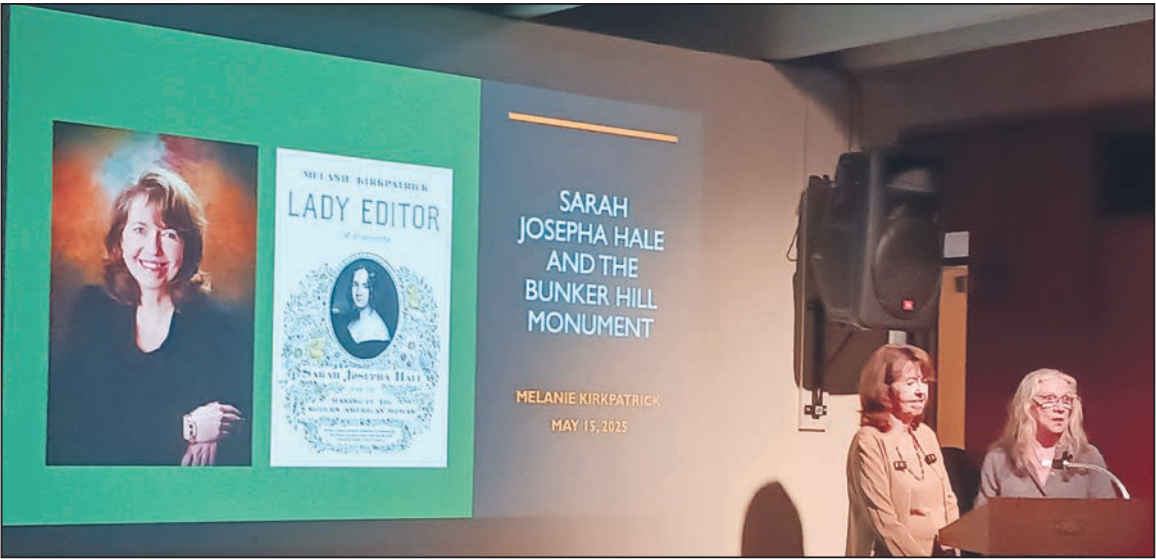
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Full page.....		\$850.00/week	\$1500		



# KIRKPATRICK SPEAKS AT BUNKER HILL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION EVENT



On May 15, the Bunker Hill Monument Association in partnership with the Friends of the Charlestown Branch Library, presented biographer Melanie Kirkpatrick (above being introduced, below speaking), who shared the fascinating life of Sarah Josepha Hale, the daughter of a Revolutionary War officer and one of the nineteenth century's most prominent magazine editors.

Hale is credited as being singularly responsible for the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument. From September 10 to 15 In 1840, Hale and a women's committee of the Bunker Hill Monument Association held a fundraising fair in Faneuil Hall (specifically, the second floor of the Faneuil Hall Market, now known as Quincy Market). They raised over \$30,000 which is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$1,102,755.17 today.



## HISTORIC *(from Page 1)*

musical performances by the Dee Opera Chorus and Orchestra.

Highlights:

- Morning Procession (9:30 AM): Begins at the Charlestown Navy Yard, featuring over 500 Freemasons, veterans, military groups, and civic leaders.
- Cornerstone Ceremony (10:00 AM): A traditional Masonic cornerstone-laying ritual with historical readings, musical tributes, and a benediction.
- Evening Festivities (6:00 PM): "It Has Begun!" – A Grand Monumental Celebration at the Old South Meeting House with toasts, music, and Lafayette's original 1825 tribute.

Presented by: The Bunker Hill Monument Association, in collaboration with Boston National Historical Park, The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, Revolutionary Spaces, the American Friends of Lafayette, and others.

About the Bunker Hill Monument Association (BHMA): Founded in 1823, BHMA is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and legacy of the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Bunker Hill Monument. Through educational programs, community events, and preservation efforts, BHMA ensures that the spirit of America's fight for liberty continues to inspire future generations.

[www.bunkerhillmonumentassn.org](http://www.bunkerhillmonumentassn.org)

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Echoes of Valor: Celebrating

250 Years of Service and Sacrifice

Free Public Concert by the U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus Hatch Memorial Shell, Boston, MA

This spectacular evening honors both the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army and the Battle of Bunker Hill. The acclaimed United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus will perform patriotic selections alongside a ceremonial tribute to America's enduring legacy of service.

Schedule:

- 6:00 PM – Ceremonial Procession: Begins at Edward Everett Statue, Boston Public Garden. (Route: Edward Everett Statue Arlington Street Arthur Fiedler Footbridge Hatch Shell)
- 7:00 PM – Concert Begins: At the Hatch Memorial Shell, with music, flyovers, cannon salutes, and tributes from military and civic leaders.

Presented in partnership with:

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Veterans Services, DCR, National Guard, State Police)
- The City of Boston (Veterans Services, Boston Police Department)
- Federal and Military Officials
- Historic and Patriotic Organizations (AHAC, MASSAR, MASSDAR, NSCAR, Friends of Lafayette, and more)

ADMISSION: Both events are free and open to the public. All are warmly encouraged to attend.

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# Wu announces expansion of free swim lessons for youth

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Office of Human Services (OHS), and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) marked yesterday's International Water Safety Day with the award of \$230,000 in grant funding to support free youth swim lessons and \$10,000 for the launch of a MBTA bus campaign that highlights the importance of water safety. In 2024, Swim Safe provided lessons to over 6,000 youth, and since its launch under Mayor Wu in summer of 2023 has provided lessons to 8,100 kids. Swim Safe is part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore: Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. The Swim Safe initiative affirms Mayor Wu's commitment to ensure all Boston kids learn to swim and can safely enjoy the City's coastline and pools.

“This International Water Safety Day, Boston is working with our partners to make it easier and more affordable to teach our kids

to swim,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “As warm weather returns, we’re investing in free Swim Safe lessons and making progress in renovating our City pools to ensure families have a safe, fun way to cool off and enjoy the summer.”

The \$230,000 in grants funded in BCYF's annual operating budget will support free swim lessons for Boston youth, ensuring families have access to affordable, beginner-level swim lessons. This year's grantees include the YMCA of Greater Boston, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester, and West End House, among others. Additional recipients of this year's grant include summer camp programs that will use the funds to incorporate beginner swim lessons into the camp curriculum. For more information, families can visit the website of participating organizations to learn more about swim lessons.

“We are excited to partner with many of our existing Swim Safe providers to offer swim lessons to youth,” said Chief of Human

Services, José F. Massó. “I am also thrilled that there is a new group of grantees who will be offering lessons as part of the summer camp experience.”

Mayor Wu, the Public Facilities Department, BCYF, and Boston Public Schools have prioritized investing in the city's pool infrastructure and streamlining processes to prevent the deferred maintenance that has caused closures in recent years. The BCYF Draper and Curtis Hall Pools reopened in April. The outdoor, seasonal pools (BCYF Clougherty and BCYF Mirabella) are expected to open Saturday, June 21 for the summer. The new Clougherty Bathhouse will be completed early this summer, and the BCYF Condon Pool is expected to finish renovations and reopen in the coming months. Despite national challenges, BCYF has hired lifeguards to fully staff City pools for the summer season.

“Given Boston’s prime waterfront location and the wealth of recreational opportunities it presents during the summer months, ensuring equitable access to water

safety education for all young residents is crucial, empowering them to confidently and safely engage with our city's pools and beaches," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families.

“I didn’t think my kids would be as excited and happy as they are – I thought they would be scared, [but] all they want to do is go to class and learn,” said Ericka Rodriguez, mother to Ezrael (5), Emir (7), Elianna (8) and Erik (10) who are learning to swim at the YMCA of Greater Boston. “They have learned so much already. I am so thankful for the Swim Safe program.”

The City's efforts to expand swim lessons is a public health issue. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children and that the risk of drowning is higher for children of color. Black children are more than twice as likely as white children to die of drowning. For every child who dies of drowning, there are seven non-fatal drownings,

which are traumatic and can lead to health issues later in life. Swim Safe Boston seeks to improve water safety in Boston, address the public health threat posed by drowning, and increase access to swimming for Boston families.

To mark International Water Safety Day on May 15, the City launched an ad campaign, featuring water safety ads on MBTA buses that travel through Boston. The information reminds parents and caregivers of important water safety tips in advance of summer. First, lessons are a great way to reduce drowning risk. Second, people should never swim alone. It is better to swim in a pair and to swim only in designated areas where a lifeguard is on-duty. Finally, if a person gets in trouble in the water, experts advise bystanders to call 9-1-1 for help and throw a float to the person rather than trying to attempt a water rescue, due to the added risk of drowning during a rescue attempt.

To learn more about Swim Safe Boston and water safety, visit [boston.gov/swim-safe](http://boston.gov/swim-safe).

# NFPA provides top grilling safety tips for Memorial Day and beyond

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

For many of us, Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start

of summer, when many people dust off their grills to celebrate the holiday and prepare for outdoor cooking in the warmer months

ahead. As they do, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) offers important safety tips and guidelines to help ensure

that the grilling season remains fire-safe.

“Cookouts and outdoor grilling can be a great way to spend time with friends and family, but they do present potential risks,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “Over Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer, we want everyone to be aware of where and when grilling fires tend to happen, along with steps they can take to help prevent them.”

NFPA data show that between 2019 and 2023, gas grills were involved in an average of 9,287 home fires per year, including 4,682 structure fires and 4,605 outdoor fires. In roughly one-fifth (20%) of these fires, the grill had not been cleaned. In addition, an annual average of 21,682 patients went to emergency rooms because of grill-related injuries between 2020 and 2024, according to data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

“By following simple safety precautions, people can greatly reduce the risk of grilling fires and associated risks,” said Carli.

Here are NFPA tips, recommendations, and resources for

using outdoor grills safely:

- For propane grills, check the gas tank for leaks. (Watch NFPA's video on how to check for leaks.)
- Keep your grill clean. Make sure to remove all grease and fat buildup from the grills and the trays below.
- Place the grill far from your home, deck railings, eaves, or overhanging branches.
- Before lighting your gas-powered grill, always make sure the lid is open.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area.
- If you use starter fluid with charcoal grilling, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire once it's been lit. When you finish grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing them in a metal container.
- Never leave your grill unattended when in use.

For additional grilling safety information, check out the NFPA podcast episode, a blog post on fire code grill requirements, or a video on some lesser-known grilling safety tips.

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## CITY PAWS

## On the road again

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Taking your pet on vacation can be fun. You spend some quality time with a creature you love. You don't have to worry about your cat or dog getting along with a pet sitter or in a kennel.

## Getting Around No Pets

Scan vacation rental classifieds, and you'd think that "No Pets" is automatically added to every ad. How do those of us who want to take the whole family on our family vacation find a rental home? Simple: We do our homework and answer the homeowners' objections one by one.

You need references. Stay at a "pet-friendly" inn or bed and breakfast. Assuming all goes well, ask the owner to be a reference for your dog.

Find a sympathetic real estate agent. We've had the best results with agents who love dogs. If all else fails, call a local veterinary hospital and ask whether they can recommend a rental agency.

Start your search as early as possible. In the slow season, agents have the time to negotiate special arrangements. Be prepared to offer a refundable security deposit. That could turn their "No!" into a "Yes!"

## Transportation

Pack up the bags and go once

you've found a destination where pets are welcome. Driving is the easiest way to travel with critters. For safety's sake, we use a dog crate in any car. In case of an accident, the crate will help keep your dog or cat safe and contained. It also gives you more control when you make stops along the way.

You can fly with small pets in the cabin of some airlines, if you get the proper health certificate and make a special reservation. If your dog is too big for the cabin, you should consider what the experts have to say. "The ASPCA urges pet owners to think twice about flying their pets on commercial airlines, especially if they plan on checking them in as cargo."

## Paperwork and ID

Identification is very important for a pet when you're away from home. If separated on vacation, be certain someone can return your companion to you. Our dog, Poppy, wears a tag that says she's traveling with us, with our cell phone numbers. Keep copies of rabies certificates, microchip number, and photographs of her on your phone. We carry a wallet card that says a pet is waiting for us, where she is, and who to contact to care for her.

## Packing for a Pet

If your cat is a fussy eater or your dog has a sensitive tummy,



*Taking your pet on vacation can be fun. You spend some quality time with a creature you love.*

you might have to bring the right food or at least call ahead to be sure it's available at your destination. It's easiest to go to your vet for extra supplies of any medications you might need. If you give a monthly heartworm medication, check your pet's schedule to see if you should take it.

## Check the Rules and Make Friends

In recent years, most places we've stayed have formal, written pet rules. Cities, towns, parks,

beaches, and dog parks also have regulations. If you ask about the rules and follow them, you'll make friends and be welcomed back.

Making new friends, meeting locals, and meeting other travelers are clearly advantages of traveling with a dog. Pets are great icebreak-

ers! What's more, you and your pet could make the day of a lonely traveler who is suffering separation anxiety because they left their pal behind.

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

## PARKARTS SUMMER WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOPS RETURN

Budding artists ages nine and up are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for its popular summer series of ParkARTS Watercolor Painting Workshops during the months of May and June at six Boston locations. The series of free workshops is just one of the many offerings of the 2025 ParkARTS program and is supported by title sponsor Bank of America.

The workshops welcome artists of all skill levels to create their own water-inspired masterpieces. Materials and instruction by local artists are provided. This series is open to Boston residents. Registration is required. For more information, please visit [boston.gov/watercolor-workshops](http://boston.gov/watercolor-workshops).

Classes are held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., weather permitting. Dates and locations for the workshops are as follows:

Saturday, May 31

LoPresti Park  
33 Sumner Street, East Boston

Sunday, June 1  
Christopher Columbus Park  
110 Atlantic Avenue, North End

Saturday, June 7  
Scarboro Pond (Meet on the Bridge)

Circuit Drive, Franklin Park, Roxbury

Sunday, June 8  
Boston Public Garden (Lagoon)  
4 Charles Street, Downtown

Saturday, June 14  
Chandler Pond  
98 Lake Shore Road, Brighton

Sunday, June 16  
Jamaica Pond Boathouse  
507 Jamaica Way, Jamaica Plain

For general information, please visit [Boston.gov/parks](http://Boston.gov/parks). Stay updated with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](http://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails) and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and @parks.boston.gov on Bluesky.

## Fire officials warn against laptop fire social media "challenge"

State Fire Marshal Jon Davine and Massachusetts fire chiefs are urging parents and educators to talk to youngsters about the risk of fire and injury posed by a recent social media "challenge."

The trend, which appears to have started on TikTok, promotes inserting a paper clip, pencil lead, or other conductive object into a laptop computer's charging port or other port. This can cause a short circuit that increases the device's temperature or causes smoke, sparks, or a fire — any of which could injure a young user.

"We've received more than a dozen reports from Massachusetts fire departments of young people engaging in this behavior in less than a week," said State Fire Marshal Davine, who last week circulated a notice about

the nationwide trend to local fire chiefs. "There are probably many more that responsible adults haven't heard of or officially reported. No matter how smart your kids or students might be, please impress upon them that the only thing you should place in a computer port is the appropriate cord."

"Today's electronic devices pack a lot of power into small containers, and tampering with them is dangerous," said Foxborough Fire Chief Michael Kelleher, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. "Almost all modern laptops are powered by lithium-ion batteries, which can erupt in sparks and flames when damaged or abused. An event like that will injure anyone close by. The fire can easily spread to clothing, bedding, upholstery, and

furniture."

Most of the reported incidents were interrupted by teachers who spotted the abuse of school-issued laptops. They occurred in Barnstable County, Essex County, Hampden County, Hampshire County, Middlesex County, and Worcester County beginning on or about May 6. So far, only one minor injury has been reported but heavy smoke and device damage have been reported in some cases.

Unfortunately, social media trends involving risky fire-related behavior are not new. In 2020, numerous electrical fires and damage were reported after another challenge promoted dropping a coin onto the prongs of a power plug partially inserted into a wall outlet.



OLD CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLBOYS ASSOCIATION MARKS 112TH REUNION GALA



The head table at the Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association’s 112th gathering included outgoing President Jim O’Brien, Secretary/Treasurer Ronan FitzPatrick, incoming President Bill Lordan, Vice President Joseph Jackson, Jack Connors, Father Paul Coughlin, and Moe Gillen.

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Old Charlestown Schoolboy’s Association reunion gala took place on Sunday, May 18, in the Father Daniel Mahoney Hall at the Knights of Columbus – marking their 112th gathering as an organization and celebrating friendship that started in Charlestown and spread nationwide.

More than 100 friends gathered from far and wide on Sunday as part of the annual event, which follows the organization’s Scholarship Dinner earlier in the week. This year, outgoing President Jim O’Brien (St. Mary’s School) was honored for his two years of leadership, and income President William Lordan (Bunker Hill School, Edwards School, Charlestown High) was ushered in for a two-

year term. Father Paul Coughlin was offered the duties of chaplain of the Schoolboys and accepted the position – replacing the late Father Daniel Mahoney who served as chaplain for decades.

“For the longest time this reunion gathering has served as a way to reconnect with old friends and relive the best moments of our lives,” said President Lordan. “We have spread out to more than 6,000 cities and towns across the country, but still remain a proud brotherhood born and raised in Charlestown. Let’s keep that going...Our numbers in attendance are dwindling, but all of us know friends that should be here and let’s encourage them to come back.”

(REUNION, Pg. 9)



Old friends Paul Carey and Jim Kirk took a few minutes after dinner to relive the old times.



Moe Gillen and Rich Lyman.



Friends Bill McNicholas and Brian Callahan, both of Charlestown, catch up before dinner.



Tom O'Brien and Keith Lordan.



Jerry Burns, Bill Wilkins, Jack Enos and Stephen Collins.



## REUNION *(from pg. 8)*

The vice president is Joseph Jackson (Holden School, Prescott School, Edwards School), with Secretary/Treasurer being Ronan FitzPatrick (Holden School, Warren School, St. Mary's School).

As is tradition, the oldest member present rings the Robert 'Gugga' Flynn Schoolmaster's Bell to call the gathering to order, with this year's ringer being Neil Gillis, 87, of Concord, who attended St. Francis School, Edwards School, and Charlestown High School.

The two honorees this year were Jack Schievink for the George Murphy Fellowship Award, and the RSM Corporation Charlestown office for the James Conway

Community Service Award.

The traditional Harrow's chicken pot pie was served for dinner, with mashed potatoes and peas – with vanilla ice cream and strawberries for dessert.

The Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association was founded in 1913 by a group of former students who attended school in the Town prior to it being annexed into Boston in 1874. In 1914, they had their first big gathering with 500 showing up on the grounds of the Bunker Hill Monument to "preserve the unique identity and enduring legacy of Charlestown's educational and communal past."



*Bill Lordan was announced as the incoming president, with a two-year term.*



*John Ward, Tom Cunha, and Bobby Depauw.*



*Seated, Jimmy Sullivan, Jack Grace, and Jake Lynch. Standing, Jim Considine, Vinny Doherty, and Rich Lyman.*



*Seated, Bill Irvin, Joe Kelley, and Dan 'Doc' Sheehan. Standing, Joe Malone, Ed Kelly, and Jerry Burns.*



*Charlie McGonagle, Bud Magaldi, and Marty Fabiano.*

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## Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy announces two new board members

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, the non-profit organization responsible for the management and care of The Greenway, is proud to announce the addition of two new members to its volunteer Board of Directors: Luz Arregoces and Christopher Loh.

"The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a treasured Boston landmark," said Governor Maura Healey, who appointed Loh. "It is really important that we preserve and enhance our urban greenspaces like the Greenway because they are critical pieces of our economy, our communities and our climate resiliency plans. I am confident that Chris will contribute to these important conversations and advance the Conservancy's mission."

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Rebecca Tepper, who appointed Arregoces to the Conservancy Board highlighted the connection between The Greenway and Boston's water-



Luz Arregoces.

front.

"The Greenway is a beloved gathering space for our community that serves as a connector between the city and our waterfront," Tepper said. "The strength of our urban parks lies in their ability to create vibrant community spaces where all are welcome. Luz's vision and leadership experience will ensure The Conservancy parks remain equitable. I am confident she will continue to



Christopher Loh.

bring diverse programming and dynamic public art to Boston's residents and visitors."

The 21 members of the Greenway Conservancy's Board of Directors are nominated by community groups, government agencies and officials, the Greenway Business Improvement District, and the Conservancy.

Driven by a shared enthusiasm for The Greenway, these volunteers collaborate to use their

diverse expertise and viewpoints to actively support the Conservancy's mission and its sustainability goals.

"We are delighted to welcome Luz and Christopher to the board," said Hilina D. Ajakaiye, Chair of the Greenway Conservancy Board and Executive Vice President at Meet Boston. "Their years of experience serving the greater Boston community and advocating for inclusivity and accessibility throughout their work will greatly serve the mission of the Conservancy."

"The Greenway attracts millions of visitors to Boston each year through their vibrant and dynamic programming and beautiful park spaces," said Rebecca A. Lee, Vice Chair of the Conservancy and Chair of the Conservancy's Nominating Committee. "Welcoming new Board members like Arregoces and Loh is essential to advancing the missions of community engagement and public service, both of which are essential to The Greenway."

### Luz Arregoces

Luz Arregoces is Director of Community Engagement at the New England Aquarium. In this role, Luz leads the Aquarium's effort to create a downtown waterfront that is resilient, inclusive, and accessible. She focuses on making genuine and meaningful connections throughout the community and creating trust with visitors, families, and local government.

Previously, Luz worked as Director of Programs at the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. While overseeing the planning and execution of over 100 annual programs and events, Luz's specific portfolio of programs focused on government affairs and urban

planning. Luz has a Bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and her Master's degree in City Planning from Boston University. Originally from Cape Cod, she now resides in Quincy.

### Christopher Loh

Chris joined M&T Bank in September 2023 as Senior Vice President, Media Relations, and in January, transitioned into his new role as Head of Government Relations – New England. Starting his career as a newspaper reporter in Greater Boston, Chris served in the press office of Mayor Thomas M. Menino and in 2012, he joined the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office as press secretary for Attorneys General Martha Coakley and eventually Maura Healey. Before joining M&T Bank, Chris was Director of Global Medical Communications for Fresenius Medical Care. He lives in Dedham with his wife Maggie, his two daughters, Eleanor and Charlotte, and the family beagle, Brewer.

For a complete list of the Greenway Conservancy's Board of Directors, visit [www.rosekennedy-greenway.org/board](http://www.rosekennedy-greenway.org/board).

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston and one of the most visited attractions in the Commonwealth, welcoming millions of visitors annually. The Greenway is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, a non-profit responsible for the administration and care of the park. The majority of the Conservancy's annual budget is made up of generous donations from the community, and it is with their support that the Conservancy cultivates a gathering space where all are welcome and celebrated.

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# BPL announces \$1 million grant from Lego Community Fund U.S.

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Public Library (BPL) and LEGO Group have launched a new partnership setting in motion a citywide initiative that leverages play to address urgent early literacy challenges and ignite creativity and agency in Boston's youth.

Funded through a \$1 million grant from the company's LEGO Community Fund U.S. to the Boston Public Library Fund, this flagship collaboration between these two institutions will unlock the potential of children through joyful, hands-on learning. Timed with the opening of LEGO Group's new U.S. headquarters in Boston and aligned with the release of BPL's Strategic Plan 2025–2030, this two-year project will deliver interactive programs to more than 150,000 children ages 0–13 and their caregivers across Boston's neighborhoods.

"This partnership and investment builds on the Boston Public Library's roles of lifelong learning partner and community engager, in reaching thousands of children and families each year," said David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library. "The transformative grant will expand what's possible—introducing more playful, creative, and civic-minded experiences for young people across all of Boston's neighborhoods. By aligning the LEGO Group's global commitment to learning through play with the Library's mission to provide free, equitable access to knowledge and opportunity, we're opening new pathways for



BPL President David Leonard and the staff at the Children's Library welcomed the LEGO Group team to the Central Library on Monday, May 12 to launch this exciting new partnership alongside some of the Library's youngest—and most enthusiastic—patrons.

children to learn, grow, and feel connected to their city. May we all play well together!"

"We're deeply grateful to the LEGO Group and LEGO Community Fund U.S. for this generous investment in Boston's young people," said Paula Sakey, Executive Director of the Boston Public Library Fund. "This partnership is rooted in a shared belief that every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and engage with their community in meaningful ways. This is what it looks like to build a city's future—together."

The partnership includes three components:

1. Early Literacy & Learning Through Play (Ages 0–9)
- Hello Hatchlings: 12,000 new

parent literacy kits—including multilingual resources, books, and DUPLO bricks—will be distributed via hospitals and community partners.

- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: BPL will rebrand and relaunch this campaign with digital tracking tools and LEGO Group's Learning Through Play content, reaching over 100,000 children.

- Parent Ambassadors: Ten multilingual caregivers will be trained to lead story times in neighborhoods across Boston, helping families access early learning opportunities in their native languages.

2. Tween Engagement & Build the Change (Ages 9–13)

- Build the Change x LEGO Clubs: Expanded LEGO Clubs at 11+ BPL branches will incorporate civic, STEM, and storytelling activities supported by LEGO employee volunteers.

- Author & Music Series: Twenty interactive events will highlight creative expression through writing, storytelling, and music.

- Playful Cities Mural Challenge: A summer design competition will invite youth to reimagine Boston's public spaces, culminating in a LEGO Master Builder mural at the Central Library in Copley Square.

## 3. Staffing & Training

- Investment in librarians, evaluators, and musicians-in-residence to deliver high-quality programming and training on incorporating LEGO resources to engage early literacy and 9–13 audiences.

"This wide-ranging investment from LEGO Group's LEGO Community Fund U.S. allows us to meet children and families where they are, with inclusive programs that make learning joyful," said Angela Veizaga, Chief of Youth and Family Engagement at the Boston Public Library. "By embedding learning through play into everything we do—from early literacy to tween engagement—we're equipping Boston's young people with the tools to grow as readers, creators, and active members of their communities."

In addition to reaching more than 150,000 children over two years, the initiative is projected to generate over 21,000 new library card signups and more than 600,000 early literacy book checkouts. The LEGO Group employees will also have opportunities to

volunteer through kit assembly, story times, and Build the Change programming.

Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library is a pioneer of public library service in America. It was the first large, free municipal library in the United States; the first public library to lend books; the first to have a branch library; and the first to have a children's room.

The Boston Public Library of today is a robust system that includes the Central Library in Copley Square, 25 neighborhood branches, the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center, the Kirstein Business Library and Innovation Center, and an archival center, offering public access to world-class special collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and prints, along with rich digital content and online services.

The Boston Public Library serves nearly 4 million visitors per year and millions more online. All of its programs and exhibitions are free to all and open to the public. The Boston Public Library is a department of the City of Boston, under the leadership of Mayor Michelle Wu. To learn more, visit [bpl.org](http://bpl.org).

The mission of the Fund is to provide financial support to the Boston Public Library, ensuring that it remains viable, engaging, accessible, and free to all. The Fund fulfills this mission by working in partnership with the Library, donors, and other funders in supporting BPL programs and special initiatives. Support from the Fund supplements, but does not supplant, other BPL resources, including City of Boston funding.



Felicity Hammond (6yo) from West Roxbury participate in a hands-on activity with the LEGO Group volunteers at the Central Library in Copley Square on Monday, May 12.



A LEGACY REBUILT FOR GENERATIONS: CELEBRATING THE RESTORATION OF MEMORIAL HALL



Abraham Lincoln Post President, Joe Zuffante listens as Mayor Wu addresses the crowd.

Community members gathered on Saturday for a long-anticipated Open House at the Abraham Lincoln Post 11 G.A.R. Memorial Hall, celebrating the restoration of one of Charlestown’s most cherished historic landmarks. Originally built in 1791 and purchased by the Veterans of the Civil War in 1888, the building has been painstakingly restored to its 1888 appearance. The hall once again stands as a proud symbol of remembrance, service, and community.

Local leaders and dignitaries joined residents for the occasion, including Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Rep. Dan Ryan, Boston



PHOTOS BY DIANE GRANT

See MEMORIAL HALL Page 13      State Senator Sal DiDomenico gives his remarks.

# Don't Forget

## Pick Up After Your Pet!

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Remember to "Scoop the Poop" and dispose of pet waste in the trash.

### Dispose of pet waste in the trash!



Proper disposal of pet waste protects the environment and our waterways from contamination.





**Boston Water and Sewer Commission**



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Let's Protect Boston's Waterways



Shown (left to right) are Larry Stevens, Treasurer, Stan Leonard Vice President, two members of the Sons of Union Veterans presenting a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, Wally Southern Director, and President Joe Zuffante.

## Call to Artists

# ART in the PARK 2025

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ceramics by Tina Busa  
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Guests enjoyed guided tours, historical exhibits, and personal stories honoring the hall's legacy as home to the Grand Army of the Republic's Post 11.



State Representative Dan Ryan speaks to those who attended.



PHOTOS BY DIANE GRANT

"This restoration is about more than bricks and mortar," said President Joe Zuffante. "It's about preserving memory, identity, and a sense of belonging."

### MEMORIAL HALL (from pg. 12)

Commissioner of Veterans Services Roberto Santiago, Councilor at Large Erin Murphy, and Elaine Donovan representing Councilor Gabriela Coletta. Their presence affirmed the hall's vital role in Charlestown's civic and cultural life.

Guests enjoyed guided tours, historical exhibits, and personal stories honoring the hall's legacy as home to the Grand Army of the Republic's Post 11. Volunteers shared insights into the building's history and the generations it has served since the 19th century.

"This restoration is about more than bricks and mortar," said

President Joe Zuffante. "It's about preserving memory, identity, and a sense of belonging." Alongside Stan Leonard, Wally Southern, Larry Stevens, and David Hennessey, Zuffante led the decade-long effort to bring the hall back to life.

Now fully restored, the Abraham Lincoln Post 11 G.A.R. Memorial Hall will once again serve as a gathering place for remembrance, education, and civic engagement. More public events are planned in the coming months as the hall reclaims its place at the heart of Charlestown.



**June 10, 2025** || **6PM - 10 PM**

---

**COURAGEOUS SAILING, PIER 4, CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD**

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## CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY PLAYER OPENINGS

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( Anyone who turns 11 years old before 1/1/ 26 is too old).

For more information, or to register,  
call Debbie 617-241-0434  
or Kerri 781-732-0517.

Any 3 or 4 year old who is interested is welcome to call but will be on a waiting list until a spot is available.

**THIS WILL BE OUR 38TH SEASON!**



## Spring Fling

Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard

**Thursday, May 29, 2025**  
**6-8PM**

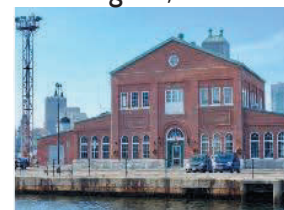
Friends of The Charlestown Navy Yard  
invite you to celebrate community  
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enjoy getting to know your neighbors.

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11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Port Park  
99 Marginal St  
Chelsea, MA

Bent Water Brewery

250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT!

Battle of Chelsea Creek



ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AND PARKING INFO AT  
ChelseaProsper.org  
#ourfirst250 #discoverchelsea  
Parking is available on site.



CHELSEA, MA

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This event is sponsored by Eastern Salt Company



BATTLE OF CHELSEA CREEK 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 24, 2025, 11am–4pm    Port Park (99 Marginal St)

The festival kicks off with an official opening ceremony featuring live music and drum, remarks from City and elected officials, followed by a special presentation by John McGough of Historical Services, The Adjutant General's Office.

PARADE: 11:30am - 12pm at Marginal Street

Explore the SSV Ernestina-Morrissey, the 1894 schooner from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, as you learn about the first British vessel captured and destroyed, The HMS Diana. A highlight of the event will be the original cannon captured from the HMS Diana, on display for the first time in Chelsea! This historic artifact was taken by Groton's Asa Lawrence and his men in May 1775.

IN ADDITION: The Governor Bellingham-Cary House Museum (34 Parker St, Chelsea) will also host a free Open House from 11am to 3pm, offering exhibits and storytelling about Chelsea's Revolutionary past.

Artillery Demonstrations (12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.)    Revolutionary-Era Militia Encampment    Musket Firing Demonstrations thru the day

Children's Spot: Colonial Games, Historical Schoolmaster Station, and Balloon Artist    Bent Water Beer Garden

LOCAL FOOD VENDORS

Tawakal Halal Cafe    Bella Isla Express    Antojitos Latinos Chelsea

Orlando's Fully Baked    Boba Tea & Snow Ice House    Lily Jello's Factory

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND PARKING

PUBLIC TRANSIT    The event is accessible via the SL3 and 111 bus routes:

Silver Line SL3: Stop: Eastern Avenue 0.6-mile walk via Marginal St

111 Bus: Stop: Woodlawn Park St @ Williams St. 0.5-mile walk via Williams St and Marginal St

104 and 112 Bus: Stop: Central Ave @ Lynn St. 0.3 mile walk via Lynn St

PARKING

Parking at Eastern Minerals (located at Marginal St, between Shawmut St and Highland St) and at Chelsea Point (Marginal St @ Willow St). If you're using GPS to navigate to Chelsea, please enter the address: 99 Marginal St, Chelsea. Additional parking options are also available throughout Downtown Chelsea.



## Eversource recognizes National Electrical Safety Month with life-saving tips

With warmer weather returning and many people turning their attention to outdoor projects and seasonal home maintenance, it's critical to keep safety top of mind—especially when working around electricity. In recognition of National Electrical Safety Month, Eversource is reminding customers that without proper precautions, contact with electric lines or equipment can be dangerous or even fatal.

"Safety isn't just something we do—it's who we are," said Eversource Vice President of Safety, Training and Fleet Operations Cliff Williams. "It's built into every step of our work and every decision we make. Our crews are trained to handle high-risk situations with care and precision, and we want our customers to feel empowered with the same mindset—staying alert, knowing the risks, and taking the right steps to

stay safe around electricity."

National Electrical Safety Month, observed each May, promotes awareness of potential electrical hazards and encourages families, businesses, and communities to take preventive action. While electricity powers daily life, it must be treated with care and respect to avoid injuries, fires, and property damage. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), electrical failures and malfunctions contribute to thousands of home fires each year. Fortunately, many of these incidents are preventable with greater awareness and a few simple precautions.

### Outdoor safety tips:

- Know where power lines are at all times, assume they are energized, and avoid working near electric lines – staying at least 10 feet away
- Always assume downed

power lines are live. Never touch anything in contact with a downed wire

- Stay away from fallen trees that may be entangled with power lines

• If in a car accident involving a downed power line, stay inside until first responders confirm it's safe to exit

- Always call 811 before digging to mark underground utilities

• Hire qualified professionals for tree trimming or other work that must be conducted near power lines, and ask if workers have been trained in electrical hazard awareness

- Keep balloons, drones, and kites far from power lines

• Store power tools indoors and avoid using them in wet conditions

### Indoor safety tips:

- Don't touch exposed wires or damaged appliances
- Use outlet safety covers to protect children and pets
- Never overload outlets or extension cords
- Replace worn or cracked wires

• Have a fire extinguisher on every floor and never use water on electrical fires

- Install GFCI outlets where moisture is present

• Unplug appliances before cleaning or repairs

Explore more safety tips and visit the ESFI's Kids' Corner for fun, age-appropriate learning about electrical safety.

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

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COURAGEOUS SAILING'S MAKE-A-MARK CELEBRATION SET FOR JUNE 10



Courageous Sailing is thrilled to announce that their annual Make-A-Mark celebration is returning to Pier 4 in the Navy Yard on Tuesday evening, June 10. Due to the pandemic and two years of emergency pier repairs, it has been six long years since Courageous last hosted Make-A-Mark under the big tent, and all are invited. The event, which features live music from the Chicken Slacks, drinks, food tastings, an auction and raffle, and a short program, raises money for Courageous Sailing’s free and low-cost youth sailing and STEM programs for youth who might not otherwise be able to participate. It is also an opportunity for Courageous to thank all the individuals, foundations, and companies that support the organization’s mission of transforming lives through sailing programs that inspire learning, personal growth, and leadership. Community support makes it possible for Courageous to ensure that financial means are never a barrier to getting involved with their programs—well over half of their summer students participate at no cost. Advance leadership support opportunities are available; advance donations or pledges of \$1,000 or more entitle donors to event tickets, and higher giving tiers include publicity, sailing memberships, sailing outings, and more. Tickets and donation information are available at [courageoussailing.org/makeamark](http://courageoussailing.org/makeamark).

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