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FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025



FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## 'Bridge of Joy' sculptures on display until 2027

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

"Bridge of Joy," a new public art installation with art by well known artists Gillie and Marc opened last week in Charlestown. Over 400 people attended the event on a warm summer evening, enjoying activities, food and a special video recording from the artists introducing themselves, their work and their pride in bring-

ing the sculptures to Charlestown. The sculpture installation, Bridge of Joy, has three HUGE bronze sculptures, and the sculptures will be on display for the next two years through July 2027.

President of Navy Yard Garden & Art, Robin DiGiammarino stated: "The goal for Bridge of Joy is to connect two parts of

(SCULPTURES Pg. 4)



COURTESY PHOTOS BY BOBBY SHAKES



Shown are some of the sculptures on display around Charlestown.



## DiDomenico and Decker file groundbreaking anti-poverty legislation and report

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Representative Marjorie C. Decker and Senator Sal N. DiDomenico published the Poverty Commission's final report and filed a transformational anti-poverty omnibus bill, SD.2872/HD.4622, An Act significantly alleviating poverty (ASAP), which was informed by the report's recommendations. The Commission report lays out a roadmap for addressing poverty over the next 10 years and the ASAP Act compiles some of the most immediately actionable recommendations presented in the report and policy proposals filed by legislators from across the state. If passed, the ASAP Act will lift up Massachusetts working families and individuals in the short- and

long-term future by putting cash in their pockets, expanding their employment rights, and providing meaningful wealth-building opportunities.

As Co-Chairs of the Massachusetts Poverty Commission, DiDomenico and Decker's efforts to pull this comprehensive legislative proposal together were informed by recommendations the Commissioners have developed over the past year, and by oral and written testimony provided by advocates and individuals with lived experience in poverty at a series of public hearings across the state. The Commission's findings aligned with what DiDomenico and Decker have known from leading on anti-poverty issues in the State

(REPORT Pg. 13)

# EDITORIAL

## WWII ENDED 80 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

This week marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was on August 14, 1945, that Japanese Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender in a radio address to his nation that also was broadcast around the world. A few weeks later, General Douglas MacArthur and representatives from the Japanese government signed the papers that formalized Japan's unconditional surrender on the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Japan's surrender was preceded the week before by the dropping of two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9). Both of those bombs, which fell on targets of minimal (if any) military value, killed tens of thousands of civilians and caused radiation fallout that affected survivors and ensuing generations thereafter.

For those of us whose fathers and uncles served in combat roles in WWII, the marking of the 80th anniversary of the end of that conflagration is bittersweet. They were members of the Greatest Generation who answered the call to rid the world of the evil fascist governments who wreaked death and destruction across the globe, eventually drawing the United States into the conflict with the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

However, our fathers and uncles have long since passed. It is estimated that of the 16 million Americans who served in WWII, only about 60,000 are still alive today -- and if (God willing) we're still around 10 years from now to write about the 90th anniversary of the end of the war, at most there will be only a handful of veterans, who will be approaching their 110th birthdays, who will still be around.

What is most striking to us about the era of the Greatest Generation is that it marked the only time in our nation's history that our citizenry truly was united around a common cause. Even during the American Revolution, about 20% of Americans (known as the Tories) remained loyal to the British Crown. In the run-up to WWII, a substantial number of Americans actually identified as being sympathetic to Hitler and the Nazis, and the country was split 50/50 as to whether we should provide arms to England when it stood alone against Hitler. (President Franklin D. Roosevelt eventually persuaded Congress to approve arms shipments to England with the Lend-Lease Act.)

Our country's unity has been fraying slowly but surely over the past 80 years, leaving us where we are today: A nation that is far from a "United" States that is segregated into red and blue states. When Americans recently were polled as to whether they would approve of their child marrying a person who belonged to a different political party, only four percent said it would be okay. Politics has supplanted race, ethnic background, and religion as the driving force of division among Americans.

So let us salute the brave Americans who overcame the evil that existed in the world 80 years ago. We never should forget that their sacrifices enabled America to become the greatest nation on earth for those of us who are alive today -- their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

## SIGNS OF SUMMER'S END

All in all, this has been a pretty good summer. Despite a tough start (when it rained every weekend), the weather has been as close to perfect as we could expect for summer activities -- and the weatherman is predicting continued dry and seasonably-warm weather for the coming two weeks.

The mornings along our coastline have been pleasantly placid for those of us who row on the ocean (we belong to a rowing club on the South Shore that ventures up and down the coast and as far out as Minots Light), while the breezes typically have been picking up in the afternoon for the sailors.

Our vegetable and flower garden -- which is entirely contained in large pots on the deck of our condo --- once again has been superb. We've had more tomatoes than we know what to do -- and nothing beats the pop in our mouths of fresh-picked tomatoes in the summer (as opposed to those tasteless tomatoes that we have to settle for in grocery stores in the winter months).

However, all good things must come to an end, and so too it is with summer. The days now are noticeably shorter, and with the sunset inching southward each day, the shadows cast in the late afternoon and early evening are far different than they were in June and July.

The blooms of the purple loosestrife (though it is an invasive species, we have to admit it is quite striking with its spiky purple flowers) are another harbinger of the back nine of summer. So too, are the tips of the marsh grass, which a few weeks ago were verdant green, but which now are golden-yellow, yet another indication of the inevitable downward trajectory of the summer of 2025.

So sadly, with just three weeks to go until Labor Day (which occurs very early this year on September 1), yet another summer season is winding down.

But for those of us who treasure the hot and humid summer months, we're heartened by this realization: Memorial Day, 2026, is just nine months away!

## Local leaders support governor signing of updated Shield Law

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Last week, Governor Maura Healey signed the updated Shield Law, which prevents the disclosure of sensitive data, such as a physician's name, and formally establishes that abortions are to be provided in emergencies due to medical necessity.

Additionally, the law prohibits Massachusetts state or local authorities from cooperating with any federal or out-of-state investigation into health care services that are legally protected in Massachusetts, such as abortion care.

"Massachusetts will always be a state where patients can access high-quality health care and providers are able to do their jobs without government interference," said Healey. "From the moment Roe was overturned, we stepped up to pass strong protections for patients and providers, and with President Trump and his allies continuing their assaults on health care, we're taking those protections to the next level. No one is going to prevent the people of Massachusetts from getting the health care they need."

The Shield Act 2.0 is a critical defense against the attacks that the federal government continues to make against women and the LGBTQ+ community, said Representative Marjorie Decker, House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health.

"This legislation sends a clear message: we will protect the rights, safety, and privacy of our residents. It ensures that patients

and providers are shielded from political interference, legal intimidation, and unlawful out-of-state overreach," said Senator Lydia Edwards, State Senator for the Third Suffolk District. "In Massachusetts, we believe health care decisions should be made in consultation with medical professionals—not dictated by partisan agendas. Here, your choices remain between you and your doctor, and we will fight to keep it that way."

The law also directs the Department of Public Health to create a technical advisory group that will provide support to businesses on implementing privacy protections for storing or managing electronic medical records related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

"This law is a landmark victory for health care, human dignity, and the providers and patients who deserve to live free from fear," said Jordina Shanks, CEO of Fenway Health. "At Fenway Health, we see every day how essential it is that people can access gender-affirming care without threats, delays, or discrimination. This law ensures that clinicians can focus on healing, that families can choose the care that's right for them while remaining protected, and that Massachusetts stands as a national beacon of equity and compassion. We are deeply grateful to Governor Healey, Senator Cindy Friedman, and all the champions who made this possible."

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**CHARLESTOWN**  
**PATRIOT-BRIDGE**

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# Suffolk County Sheriff indicted for alleged extortion of cannabis company

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was charged with extortion involving the purchase of an equity interest in a Boston-based cannabis company by federal authorities last week.

Tompkins, 67, of Boston, was indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts of Extortion Under Color of Official Right. He was taken into custody last week in the Southern District of Florida and is scheduled to appear in federal court in Boston at a later date, according to the Boston office of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Mr. Tompkins is a sitting Sheriff, responsible for over 1,000 employees, who was elected by the good people of Suffolk County," said United States Attorney Leah B. Foley last week. "Today, he is alleged to have extorted an executive from a cannabis company, using his official position as Sheriff to benefit himself. Elected officials, particularly those in law enforcement, are expected to be ethical, honest and law abiding – not self-serving.

"His alleged actions are an affront to the voters and taxpayers who elected him to his position, and the many dedicated and honest public servants at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department," Foley continued. "The people of Suffolk County deserve better. Public corruption remains a top priority for my administration and we will continue to investigate and prosecute anyone who uses their position of trust and power for their own gain."

As of early this week, neither Tompkins nor the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department had issued a



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

statement on the charges.

According to court documents, in 2019, the cannabis company, which was not named in the documents, sought to open a retail cannabis dispensary in Boston and applied to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) for a dispensary license. To satisfy the Positive Impact Plan (PIP) requirement of the CCC, the company entered into a partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) whereby the SCSD would help screen and refer graduates of its re-entry program to apply for work at the company's retail store.

The cannabis company's partnership with the SCSD was memorialized in a September 2019 letter signed by Tompkins and submitted to the CCC in its completed dispensary license application in or about March 2020, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. In or about March 2021, the CCC

approved a license for the company to operate a cannabis dispensary in Boston. The CCC later approved license renewal applications for the company in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In each of the renewal applications, the company included its ongoing partnership with the SCSD as part of its fulfillment of the PIP requirement.

According to court documents, one of the cannabis company's goals was to raise capital to launch an initial public offering (IPO) and then continue its growth as a publicly traded company. Company officials, including a company executive identified as Individual A, sought multimillion-dollar investments from institutions or other high net-worth, sophisticated investors in order to raise capital. That company's officials, including Individual A, were not looking to raise capital from the general public or small, individual investors. Beginning in or about mid-2020, the company began preparing for an IPO of stock, which included producing audited financial statements, hiring attorneys to ensure compliance with securities laws and obtaining additional financing from large scale and high net-worth investors, among other things, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

It is alleged that Tompkins pressured Individual A for stock, reminding Individual A that Tompkins had helped the cannabis company in its Boston licensing efforts. It is alleged that Individual A believed and feared that Tompkins would use his official position as Sheriff to jeopardize the company's partnership with the SCSD and thus imperil both the

dispensary license for Company A, as well as the timing of the IPO. In November 2020, Tompkins allegedly wired a \$50,000 payment from his retirement account to an account controlled by Individual A. Tompkins paid a pre-IPO price of approximately \$1.73 per share of company stock (equity equivalent to 28,883 shares) and after a reverse stock split, Tompkins held approximately 14,417 shares at a price of approximately \$3.46 per share.

According to court documents, in or about mid-2021, when the cannabis company launched its IPO, the stock had a value of approximately \$9.60 per share. Thus, Tompkins's \$50,000 purchase of 14,417 shares of Company A stock had appreciated to an approximate value of \$138,403, according to the U.S. Attorney.

In May 2022, company stock decreased in value such that Tompkins's equity interest in Company A stock was worth several thousand dollars less than the \$50,000 he originally invested. However, Tompkins allegedly demanded a refund of \$50,000 and, despite the decrease in the value of Tompkins's investment, Individual A agreed to Tompkins's demands for full repayment of \$50,000.

Subsequently, from approximately May 2022 to July 2023, Individual A refunded Tompkins \$50,000 investment by issuing Tompkins five checks. Allegedly in accordance with Tompkins's wishes, Individual A wrote memos on certain checks that read "loan repayment" and "[company] expense" to disguise the nature of some of the payments:

The charges of extortion under

color of official right each provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release

"From his very first day as Suffolk County Sheriff, Steven Tompkins sought to portray himself as a man of the people – a principled public servant and reformer, devoted to the cause of justice," said Ted E. Docks, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. "That's why it's beyond disappointing that he's now accused of gaming a system instituted in the interests of public safety and fair play. The FBI took Sheriff Tompkins into custody today for allegedly extorting \$50,000 from the owner of a national cannabis retailer seeking to do business in Boston.

"We believe what the Sheriff saw as an easy way to make a quick buck on the sly is clear cut corruption under federal law," Docks continued. "The citizens of Suffolk County deserve better, not a man who is accused of trading on his position to bankroll his own political and financial future. Public servants must be held to the highest of ethical standards, and those falling short will be rooted out."

Tompkins was first appointed Sheriff in 2013, elected as Sheriff in a special election in or about 2014, and thereafter elected to successive six-year terms. As Sheriff, Tompkins oversees approximately 1,000 correctional officers and other employees responsible for operating and maintaining correctional facilities in Boston at the House of Correction and the Nashua Street Jail.

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



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**CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
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617-349-4396

**CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES**  
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860-541-3400

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## CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

### IMPORTANT NEWS!

Distribution of team jerseys and the 2025/2026 schedule

**Saturday August 23 2025**

**10am to 1pm**

**At Special Townies 314 Main Street**

We realize that the last week in August can be a busy time for people. If you can not make it on 8/23, please call Jimbo (617-803-5344), Debbie (617-241-0434) or Kerri (781-732-0517) to make other arrangements.

No show with no call could result in no spot for your child!  
**The season begins on Saturday September 6th 2025!**

If your child has decided not to play, please let us know right away so we can fill the slot.

**Thank You! Charlestown Gym Hockey Board**

SCULPTURES (from pg. 1)

Charlestown divided by the Tobin Bridge through public art. The Navy Yard Garden & Art board of directors set four goals for the Bridge of Joy: the art had to be large, unexpected, interactive and joyful. We believe public art can transform communities. With partial funding from a Neighborhood Downtown Activation Grant from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, and with help from individuals, businesses and community groups, Navy Yard Garden &

Art made it happen! " Bridge of Joy is a multi-year effort and the goal set by Navy Yard Garden & Art is to connect two parts of Charlestown separated by the Tobin Bridge.

Gillie and Marc have shown their work in cities around the world, from London to New York, and from Sydney to Singapore and now their work is on display in Charlestown for the next two years. Wildlife Wonders, the name for the three sculptures art-

ists Gillie and Marc, is the inaugural installation for the Bridge of Joy. The largest of the three sculptures, "The Arms of Friendship" weighs over seven tons and measures fourteen feet high and thirty six feet long. The two other sculptures, "The Hippo Was Hungry to Try New Things with Rabbitwoman" and the "Wild Table of Love" complete the installation.

This outdoor installation is free and open to the public.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY BOBBY SHAKES



Shown are scenes from the August 6 grand opening of Bridge of Joy, a vibrant new art installation by internationally acclaimed artists Gillie and Marc. With support from local partners and generous funding from the City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture, this bronze sculpture series will be on display through July 2027.



## Bridge receives Narcan vending machine through Boston Public Health Commission grant

Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Bridge), a nonprofit in Boston, Massachusetts, focused on serving youth experiencing homelessness, has recently acquired a harm reduction vending machine which will contain Narcan (naloxone), a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids, and other critical items.

Funded by a grant from the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), youth at Bridge will be able to access Narcan from the vending machine in the event of an opioid overdose emergency. The vending machine also contains fentanyl and xylazine testing strips, prophylactics, pregnancy tests, hand warmers, socks, snacks, toiletries, and wound care kits. The team at Bridge gave considerable thought to choosing the machine's contents, ensuring that it would be filled with items that are used frequently and that youth would be able to access in a respectful and dignified manner. An important goal was to reduce any hesitation youth might have about using the vending machine and its contents, as it was specifically customized for the needs of our young adult population.

All items in the vending machine

are free to youth, who, once registered, can access the items from Bridge's vending machine or any of the other four BPHC Narcan vending machines in the city. The machine also tracks which items are the most popular and provides alerts as to which need to be restocked, providing our Bridge team with valuable feedback about what products are most in demand.

"This vending machine will be extremely useful to our young adults, who will have easy access to these lifesaving items without fear of judgement or stigma. We are truly grateful to the BPHC for enabling us to provide all these items to youth," said Bridge Program Director Peter Ducharme.

Distributing Narcan (along with fentanyl and xylazine testing strips) are part of a larger effort by Bridge to help youth to engage in harm reduction, a strategy that focuses on reducing the negative side effects and consequences of substance use. Bridge programs support youth in setting achievable goals to reduce substance use, with a focus on fostering realistic and positive outcomes.

Bridge Over Troubled Waters is



The harm reduction vending machine which contains Narcan (naloxone), a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids, and other critical items.

the largest agency in Greater Boston providing a full continuum of services to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. The nonprofit provides programs and services to more than 2,000 youth annually and offers a comprehensive range of survival, health, educational, career, and housing services to encourage the formation of a healthy, productive, and fulfilling adulthood. Please visit [www.BridgeOTW.org](http://www.BridgeOTW.org) for more information.

## DiDomenico and colleagues approve road and bridge funding for cities and towns

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico and his legislative colleagues have passed a bill to distribute \$1.2 billion among cities and towns to maintain and repair roads and bridges across the state. The funding, derived from bonding, will expand the Chapter 90 program and help address transportation related improvements, road and bridge repairs, and the impacts of climate change on local infrastructure.

The bill, which has now been signed into law by Governor Healey, includes a one-year authorization of \$300 million for the Chapter 90 Program, a 50 per cent increase over past funding levels. The bill also appropriates \$885 million in additional funding that will help ensure the Commonwealth is able to achieve its long-term transportation goals.

"Roads, bridges, the MBTA,

and regional transit authorities are all part of a transportation network that keep our communities and economy connected, which makes it absolutely critical that we guarantee this infrastructure is safe, fast, and accessible," said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "These investments will repair outdated transportation infrastructure and will help protect our transit network from climate change related risks. These investments will have a big impact in my district and throughout the Commonwealth."

The one-year \$300 million authorization in the Chapter 90 program funding represents a historic 50 per cent increase and includes:

- \$200 million to be distributed to all municipalities based on the standard Chapter 90 program distribution formula;
- \$100 million to be distributed

to all municipalities based solely on road mileage.

Funding for three additional critical programs to support various transportation related projects include:

- \$500 million for the Lifecycle Asset Management Program (LAMP), which supports non-federally aided roads and targets the pavement and bridges that are in the worst condition in the Commonwealth.

- \$200 million for a culvert and small bridge repair program for municipalities' local culverts and small bridges under 20 feet that are in a state of disrepair or require replacement.

- \$185 million for capital projects to reduce congestion hotspots, funding that will be available for projects such as shared use paths, intersection improvements, railroad grade crossings, and sidewalks.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.S Marine Corps helicopters to be based at Logan for 4 days this month

Local residents might notice an increase in helicopters flying overhead near the end of the month.

As part of the 250th birthday of the U.S Marine Corps, Marine Week Boston will take place from August 20-24. This celebration

will include four military helicopters which will be based at Logan Airport. Part of this celebration will include helicopters taking off from Logan and flying to Boston Common in the morning and returning in the afternoon.

Residents of East Boston, Charlestown, Winthrop, and Chelsea may notice increased helicopter traffic during this period. For more info, please visit the [Marine250](http://Marine250.com) website.

CALL TO ARTISTS!

WHAT IS HOME?

Personal Reflections on a Universal Theme

The Artists' Group of Charlestown Fall 2025 Exhibition

Exhibition Dates: October 3 - 19, 2025  
 Submissions: July 14 - September 17, 2025  
 To Submit: [ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com](http://ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com)

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Detail of "Eddie At The Piano"  
© Carol Schweigert

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

# Healey signs Chapter 90 bill, unlocking over \$1 billion in infrastructure funding for communities across Massachusetts

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey signed into law a new Chapter 90 bill, delivering \$300 million in critical transportation and infrastructure funding to every city and town across Massachusetts. The bill reflects the Healey-Driscoll Administration's commitment to strengthening local roads, reducing congestion, and ensuring safe, reliable travel across the state.

In addition to a historic increase of Chapter 90 funding to an all-time high of \$300 million, the bill includes authorization for additional capital infrastructure investments through MassDOT that will improve the quality of the state's roads, bridges and culverts and help address congestion hotspots and driving safety.

"Through this Chapter 90 funding, we will upgrade roads and bridges across the state to improve transportation, reduce congestion and enhance safety," said Governor Maura Healey. "Whether it's helping a city repave a key commuter route or giving a small town the resources to replace a flood-prone bridge, this bill is delivering the resources our communities need to deliver for their residents. I'm grateful to the Legislature for passing this essential bill."

"As a former Mayor, I know how transformational this funding can be when it comes to planning, budgeting and delivering the infrastructure our communities deserve," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This bill is a win for every city and town, as well as every person who travels across our state."

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the Commonwealth's public transportation,



PHOTO COURTESY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor Maura Healey is shown signing the Chapter 90 bill into law.

roads, and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for local infrastructure repairs that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for projects that will address congestion hotspots across the Commonwealth. I want to thank Governor Healey for signing this bill into law, along with my colleagues in the Legislature for supporting this legislation."

"This legislation will deliver over a billion dollars to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to improve roads, bridges, and other critical local infrastructure that helps people get where they need to go—quickly and safely," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "This funding will fill potholes, ease traffic congestion, and make our roads safer and more accessible. I'm grateful to the Governor for signing this legislation swiftly and look for-

ward to seeing these investments make a difference in communities across Massachusetts."

Key elements of the bill include:

- \$300 million in Chapter 90 funding—a 50 percent increase over recent years—to offset rising construction costs and expand support for small and rural communities.

- \$500 million for pavement and bridge upgrades statewide through MassDOT's lifecycle asset management program.

- \$200 million to replace culverts and small bridges, building more climate-resilient infrastructure and addressing long-deferred maintenance.

- \$185 million to ease congestion and improve safety, targeting rail crossings, intersections, school zones, commercial districts, and other high-need areas.

The Chapter 90 program provides direct funding to municipalities for the repair and improvement of local roads, bridges, sidewalks and culverts. This year's investments will help cities and

towns repave busy corridors, fix aging infrastructure and enhance pedestrian safety near schools.

The bill also includes a change to the Chapter 90 funding formula that will allow for \$100 million of the total investment to be allocated exclusively on road miles, ensuring that while every community benefits from the additional investment our rural communities will see an added benefit.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will also continue to provide technical assistance to help municipalities maximize the impact of these funds. This legislation will also ease congestion and address safety issues across the state, improving conditions for drivers, pedestrians, transit riders and bicyclists in critical areas such as rail crossings, intersections near schools, commercial districts and residential areas.

"Investing in local infrastructure is one of the smartest ways to support economic vitality and allows us as a state to be the best fiscal stewards for community resources," said Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz. "Chapter 90 empowers cities and towns to make the capital improvements that drive growth, improve safety and position the state for long-term success."

"This legislation reinforces the very foundation of our transportation system, starting in the communities where people live, work, and navigate daily life," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "It reflects our shared commitment to building safer streets, expanding access to public transit, and creating infrastructure that doesn't just support economic growth, but actively advances equity and climate resilience. With our municipal partners, we're not just repairing roads. We are reshaping the future of transportation to be more just, sustainable, and inclu-

sive."

"This historic level of funding will help cities and towns improve their roads and sidewalks along with other transportation infrastructure," said Senator Brendan Crighton, Chair, Transportation Committee. "As we are experiencing increasing traffic congestion and the negative impacts of climate change, it is crucial that we prioritize investments that make it easier for our residents to travel safely. Thank you to Senate President Spilka for her steadfast leadership and commitment to transformative infrastructure."

"I applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Legislature for the passage of this bill. We recognize the need to be responsive to our cities and towns while also proceeding with caution due to the federal funding uncertainty," said Representative James Arciero, Chair, Transportation Committee. "Thank you to Governor Healey, Speaker Ronald Mariano and Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for their leadership throughout this process. This bill leverages the strategic and increased appropriations to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund to expand our borrowing capacity and allow for additional transportation funding for our local infrastructure needs."

"The MMA and local leaders across the state are thrilled with this historic level of funding for the Chapter 90 program and deeply grateful to the governor and legislators for their support," said Executive Director and CEO of the Massachusetts Municipal Association Adam Chapdelaine. "This essential local road and bridge maintenance program, which benefits all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, promotes safety, quality of life and economic development in our communities. The 50% increase in funding will have a substantial impact in all corners of the Commonwealth."

## Real Estate Transfers

### BUYER 1

Lewis, Ryan J  
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## BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MERCURY ORCHESTRA

The Mercury Orchestra and New World Corale were this week's guest performers of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra summer season at the Hatch Shell along with tenor David Rivera-Bozon making his debut with the Orchestra. The free concert series gives everyone an opportunity to enjoy classical music in one of the most iconic settings in the United States.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Conductor Channing Yu guides the Mercury Orchestra.



Tenor David Rivera-Bozon performs.



Members of the New World Corale perform with the Mercury Orchestra.



It was a beautiful Summer evening for a concert at the Hatch Shell.

# BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MERCURY ORCHESTRA

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Members of the Mercury Orchestra string section perform.



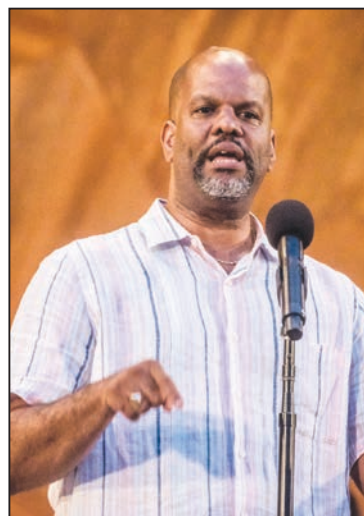
French Horn performer Isaac Julien meets with audience members during intermission.



Members of the Beacon Hill Women's Forum with friends.



Channing Yu conducts the Mercury Orchestra as tenor David Rivera-Bozon performs.



Chairman of Landmark Orchestra Emmett G Price speaks during intermission.



Members of the Mercury Orchestra string section perform.



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Conductor Channing Yu guides the New World Corale with the Mercury Orchestra.

# BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MERCURY ORCHESTRA

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Marathon Sports Ambassadors Steve Giuffre, Vinny Castronuovo, and Zion Dixon promote the Pickle Mile Run. A fun event where runners eat a pickle spear from Grillo's for each quarter mile they run.



The audience enjoys the music and ambiance of the Esplanade.



Stan Mah, Tod Woolf, David Jackson, and Peter Saradjia from Beth Isreal Hospital.



Members of the New World Corale perform with the Mercury Orchestra.



Maria Manning and Sandra Gilpatrick.



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# BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MERCURY ORCHESTRA

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Members of the New World Corale perform with the Mercury Orchestra.



Channing Yu conducts the Mercury Orchestra.



During intermission a young fan of classical music meets Violinist Jenny Smyrhe of the Mercury Orchestra.



A member of the Mercury Orchestra waits for his cue to perform on cymbals.



Tenor David Rivera-Bozon performs.



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Members of David Rivera-Bozon's family including his father Gerardo and mother Denise were happy to cheer him on.

## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Cold noodles

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

With a series of heat waves this summer, it's a perfect time to enjoy a variety of cold noodle dishes. We know the idea of noodle bowls and cold noodles has gone mainstream when the New York Times food section publishes Hetty Lui McKinnon's cold noodle salad with spicy peanut sauce in June, and we can pick up three varieties at Trader Joe's.

### Eat In, Take Out, Or Premade Kits

Your introduction to cold noodles might be a container of spicy peanut noodles. Or, if you love Korean food, try Naengmyeon, their icy cold noodles, or Chilli Cold Sweet Potato Noodles (Bibim Dangmyeon). We love Vietnamese Bún Gà N ng. Japan offers versions of cold soba (Zaru Soba) and cold Ramen (Hiyashi Chuka). Thailand offers Thai Glass Noodles with Minced Meat.

We're fortunate to have a fantastic selection of ethnic restaurants in the Greater Boston Area.

If a dish is new to you, we suggest setting your standard by trying the cold noodles made and served by those who strive for authenticity. A professionally prepared version will give you an idea of what the dish should taste like and how to serve it.

However, in their homeland, every cook may have a traditional family recipe or their twist on the dish. That's good news, because you can also create a family adaptation as you begin to make it yourself.

A visit to a store with an Asian focus can help you discover packages of the specific noodles used in

these dishes, sauces that make the meal prep quicker, and even pre-made kits for favorites like Korean cold noodles that contain the correct noodles, packets of broth ready to mix with water and chill (or freeze to slush) and spices.

### Make it Your Own

Once you've sampled the options and developed a taste for cold noodles, you may want to start making your own. There are three directions you can take for this food adventure.

First, you can produce a classic by following a recipe from a cookbook or by watching a video on YouTube. For the classic Korean Noodle dishes, we recommend the videos and cookbooks from food writer Maangchi. She has developed easier-to-make versions for her international audience.

Second, you can take a concept and add or subtract elements to make the recipe suit you and those around your table. You may need to adjust your spice levels if you have chili enthusiasts or less adventurous eaters. Since many of these salads are vegetarian, you could add some protein or serve it alongside.

Finally, you can take a salad from your repertoire and add cold noodles for a more filling and a new twist on a family favorite. For example, you could make your favorite tabouli recipe and substitute noodles for the bulgar wheat.

A Middle Eastern salad might include noodles mixed in, rather than pita, alongside. If you consider pasta as noodles, we would suggest orzo.

We've been enjoying a lot of Cowboy Caviar, a salad made from beans, corn, onions, toma-



On a busy workday, this Peanut Udon Noodle Salad took just minutes to prepare and was a delicious and satisfying lunch.

toes, and peppers, all tossed in a vinaigrette. That could be delicious served over a pile of chewy buckwheat noodles.

As our climate grows warmer,

we can look to cultures that have developed food designed for the heat, which is often served cold, thereby reducing the cook's exposure to heat.

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# NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain (Ret.) Sunita L. Williams to speak at USS Constitution Museum Leadership Forum September 2

The USS Constitution Museum is proud to announce that Sunita L. Williams, NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain (Ret.), will headline the next session of the USS Constitution Museum Leadership Forum on Monday, September 2, 2025, in conversation with Meghna Chakrabarti, award-winning WBUR journalist and host of NPR's On Point.

Williams, a trailblazing space explorer and Needham, Massachusetts native, has spent more than 600 days in space over her career, including setting the women's record for most spacewalking time on her most recent mission, and famously ran the Boston Marathon aboard the International Space Station. She will sit down with Chakrabarti, known for incisive, thoughtful reporting, to explore how curiosity, resilience, and Navy-rooted values translate from orbit to everyday life.

Williams was previously honored by the Museum in 2022 with the "Old Ironsides" Award for

Exemplary Service in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to inspiring public interest in naval service and space exploration.

In conjunction with the Forum, Williams will also meet with the active-duty crew of USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, for a special visit.

"Captain Williams exemplifies the values of honor, courage, and commitment that USS Constitution represents," said Dennis Langwell, Interim President & CEO, and Chairman of the Board of the USS Constitution Museum. "Her journey—from Needham to the Navy to space—offers lessons in bold leadership and service that continue to inspire across generations."

The USS Constitution Museum Leadership Forum is a signature event series showcasing transformative leaders whose stories bring the timeless values of "Old Ironsides" to life. Each event includes a private reception and public

program designed to foster meaningful dialogue with leaders across military, business, civic, and cultural sectors.

More information and registration details are available at: [usscm.org/leadership/](http://usscm.org/leadership/)

The USS Constitution Museum serves as the memory and educational voice of USS Constitution by offering award-winning exhibits where all ages can have fun while learning and exploring history together. The Museum's mission is to engage visitors in the story of Constitution to spark excitement about maritime heritage, naval service, and the American experience. The Museum is open seven days a week with a pay-what-you-wish admission policy. The USS Constitution Museum is a 2022 winner in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice in the "Best History Museum" category and is consistently named a Boston Parents Paper's Family Favorite. For more information, visit [usscm.org](http://usscm.org)



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

NASA astronaut Sunita 'Sunni' Williams will speak at the USS Constitution Museum Leadership Forum on Sept 2.

## Healey announces successful closure of all hotel shelters, ends state of emergency

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The final hotel shelters closed last week, months ahead of schedule, saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars

Governor Maura Healey is announcing that the final hotel shelters in Massachusetts are closed, months ahead of schedule. She is also formally terminating an

emergency declaration she issued in August 2023, which paved the way for reforms that successfully lowered the size and cost of the state's emergency shelter system.

"When we took office, families were being placed in hotels all across the state, and families were staying in shelter for months – sometimes years – at a time. There was no plan in place to reform the shelter system to handle the surge in demand, protect taxpayer dollars or help families leave shelter. We can all agree that a hotel is no place to raise a family. So we took action," said Governor Healey. "As a result of my reforms and our efforts to help families get jobs and stable housing, we have fewer families in shelter than the day we took office, and all hotel shelters are now closed – months ahead of schedule. We're saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and putting families on a path to self-sustainability."

"We are deeply grateful to the frontline teams whose extraordinary work make all the difference for families," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "The dedication of our shelter providers ensured that thousands of families had access to safe shelter and support when they needed it most. We also thank the

communities and partners across the state who stepped up to help families in need."

The Healey-Driscoll Administration inherited two dual challenges when it arrived in office in 2023: an unprecedented surge of families seeking emergency shelter and a flawed shelter system that was ill-equipped to handle such a surge. In response, Governor Healey declared a state of emergency and imposed a cap on the system at 7,500 families in 2023. If she hadn't implemented this cap, caseload was projected to have reached 13,000 families by the summer of 2024. Governor Healey also worked with the Legislature to reform the Right to Shelter law to implement a six-month length of stay limit, require proof of Massachusetts residency and require that all family members have lawful immigration status, with limited exemptions. Governor Healey also expanded workforce training and job placement for residents, increased case management to help families find stable housing, and imposed mandatory CORI checks for all adults before entry into the system.

As a result of Governor Healey's actions, caseloads and costs have decreased. The number of families in shelter is now lower than when

Governor Healey took office in January 2023, and all hotel shelters closed as of Thursday. Since the start of 2025, triple the number of families have exited shelter (approximately 4,500) than have entered shelter (approximately 1,500). Approximately 85-90 percent of families seeking shelter are now longtime Massachusetts families.

Historically, Massachusetts has turned to hotels and motels to shelter homeless families when traditional shelters reach capacity. In 2014, 1,500 families were being sheltered in hotels across the state. The previous administration turned to hotels again in 2022 as the number of families seeking shelter began to dramatically increase due to the housing crisis, failed federal immigration policy, and a lack of safeguards to control the expansion of the shelter system.

In addition to hotels, the Norfolk Rapid Shelter located at the former Bay State Correctional Center and the Chelsea Rapid Shelter site have also closed.

The reforms implemented by Governor Healey and the Legislature will remain in place to ensure the continued sustainability of the shelter system and protect taxpayer dollars.

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**REPORT** (from pg. 1)

House for over a decade: we can significantly reduce the poverty rate in the Commonwealth by providing people with increased direct cash benefits and more economic opportunities.

"As the federal government abandons its role to provide a safety net for our poorest residents, this ambitious bill would ensure our state fills the gaps to protect those in need and takes a monumental step forward by lifting vulnerable individuals and families out of poverty," said Senator Sal N. DiDomenico. "I am proud of our Poverty Commission report because it lays the groundwork for our sweeping legislation that meets the moment and importantly takes a longer view at what our state can do across all sectors and government bodies to methodically address the fundamental causes of poverty. The insight we have gained from leading the Commission has led us to develop this commonsense legislation which employs evidence-based policies that will expand our safety net and provide real pathways to economic security for low-income residents across the Commonwealth. It is a privilege to file this bill and report alongside my friend and colleague, Rep. Marjorie Decker. I am excited to fight for these transformative investments that will ensure all our neighbors can access nutritious foods, live in a safe home, earn a stable income, get the medical care they need, and build wealth for themselves and their families."

"This bold and broad-reaching legislation offers a comprehensive approach, looking at the multiple root causes of poverty and identifying the many levers that need to be pulled at once if we are going to significantly reduce it," said Representative Marjorie C. Decker. "The policies in this bill are the most effective tools we have to substantially alleviate financial hardship and build economic security, which we know not only from the recommendations of the Commission, but also from years of studies and pilot programs. These are challenging times as the federal government dismantles the social safety net, taking resources from us. We are now being asked to do more with less, but we are also in a moment when ambitious and assertive action is required to address economic distress in Massachusetts. This bill serves as a path to reducing poverty, which evidence shows is more cost effective in the long run. As someone who grew up in poverty and as a longtime champion for measures to lift up struggling residents and families, I am proud to file this

bill alongside my friend and colleague Sen. DiDomenico, who for a decade has been my partner on these issues in addition to serving as Co-Chair of the Poverty Commission."

**Poverty Commission Report Overview**

The Poverty Commission report, Pathways to Possibility: A Ten Year Roadmap to Expand Economic Mobility in Massachusetts, is an in-depth analysis that details the state of poverty in our Commonwealth, outlines the complex and overlapping root causes of poverty, and offers expansive and forward-looking recommendations that will drive major reductions in the poverty rate over the next decade.

The Commission's policy prescriptions include potential legislative and regulatory proposals that address four key areas: Access to Essential Support, Stability for Individuals and Families, Opportunity for Economic Mobility, and Systems Coordination and Implementation. This report is intended to serve as a roadmap to greatly reduce poverty in Massachusetts by 2035. These recommendations are grounded in evidence, shaped by the experience and stories of community members that are most impacted, and can be collectively owned by leaders, advocates, citizens, and professionals who understand the urgency and possibility of this work.

**ASAP Act Overview**

The ASAP Act is a combination of some of the most effective anti-poverty policies currently proposed in the Legislature and new proposals informed by discussions with Poverty Commission members and testimony at Commission hearings. The bill focuses on three main policy levers that can lift Massachusetts residents out of poverty: direct cash benefits, worker rights and wages, and wealth-building opportunities.

**Putting Cash in People's Pockets**

Creating and expanding cash benefit programs for low-income residents:

- **Lifting Our Families out of Deep Poverty:** increasing the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) cash benefits program for pregnant individuals, families and caregivers, and increasing the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) cash benefits program until every eligible person is lifted out of deep poverty (under 50% of the federal poverty line).

- **Protecting Maternal Health:** guaranteeing that all pregnant people can access TAFDC cash benefits from the moment they

know about their pregnancy.

- **Codifying TAFDC Clothing and Rental Allowances:** ensuring that eligible parents and pregnant people can access \$50 per month in rental assistance and the annual \$500 clothing allowance for their children.

- **Codifying EAEDC Rental Allowance:** guaranteeing that eligible elderly, disabled, and child residents can access the \$50 per month rental assistance every year.

- **Updating Child Support Policies:** prohibiting the government from taking any amount of child support payments from low-income parents and giving parents the ability to decide not to pursue child support if it could be unsafe or destabilizing for them or their children.

- **Enhancing Tax Credits:** increasing Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) benefits for low-income workers and increasing the state's Child and Family Tax Credit (CFTC) for eligible parents and caretakers. This provision will also expand EITC eligibility to low-income workers of all ages, legal residents, workers with large families, and all children up to age 18.

- **Establishing a Guaranteed Income Pilot:** creating a cash stipend of \$1,000 per month for 5 years to any individual transitioning out of foster care between the ages of 18-23.

- **Replacing Stolen Food Assistance Benefits:** directing the state to replace Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cash benefits stolen by criminal rings through skimming or phishing.

- **Improving Language Access:** requiring all public-facing state government agencies, and the outside service providers they rely on, to offer interpretation services and translate vital documents for non-English speakers. This will ensure that all residents, regardless of the language(s) they speak, can better access the public services they need, including cash benefits and unemployment assistance.

- **Providing Menstrual Products:** ensuring and expanding access to free menstrual products, without stigma, to all menstruating individuals in all public schools, homeless shelters, prisons, and county jails.

**Protecting and Empowering Workers**

Safeguarding and increasing wages for workers and empowering job applicants:

- **Protecting Workers' Wages:** enhancing the Attorney General's ability to ensure companies pay their employees the wages they deserve and hold employers accountable when they steal

workers' wages, ensuring workers have remedies and relief when experiencing employer retaliation, and empowering workers to fight wage theft.

- **Streamlining Automatic Record Sealing:** creating an automated record sealing process so that individuals with eligible past offenses who have served their time can find a job and access housing without stigma.

- **Eliminating Subminimum Wage for Farmworkers:** raising farmworker wages from \$8 per hour to at least the Massachusetts minimum wage, which is currently \$15 per hour.

- **Eliminating Subminimum Wage for People with Disabilities:** prohibiting employers' ability to pay a subminimum wage to individuals with disabilities and ensure these workers earn at least the Massachusetts minimum wage, which is currently \$15 per hour.

**Building Wealth**

Guaranteeing every resident has the opportunity to accumulate assets and build financial security for themselves and their families:

- **Establishing a Baby Bonds Program:** creating a trust fund for eligible children that can be used after turning 18 to pursue wealth-building ventures like seeking more education, buying a house, or starting a business. Children who are born into families with low income or are in the state child welfare system will be eligible for this wealth-building savings account seeded by the state.

- **Creating a Matched Savings Program:** establishing a state-funded matched savings program, which will be available to people whose incomes are below 80% of the area median income.

Participants will be entered into a program where they can receive financial education coaching and an account that will provide \$4 in matching funds from the state for every \$1 they save. Graduates of the program can use their savings on a wide range of wealth-building activities, such as a down payment on a home, higher education for themselves or a dependent, and purchasing a car or other forms of transportation.

- **Building Community Wealth through the ENOUGH Act:** implementing an innovative strategy to fight poverty by investing resources in high-need neighborhoods and collaborating with community residents to help drive decisions that will ensure investments increase economic mobility.

**ASAP Act information**

The bill docket numbers are SD.2872 and HD.4622, and they won't receive an official bill number until they are released from the Committee on Rules and then referred to their respective committees.

**Poverty Commission Report information**

The Special Legislative Commission to Study Poverty was established by statute in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, enacted on September 30, 2021, and completed its comprehensive study between April 2024 and June 2025. The 34-member Commission, chaired by Senator DiDomenico and Representative Marjorie Decker, was tasked with studying poverty in the Commonwealth and developing recommendations to significantly reduce poverty over the next 10 years. This is the final report of the Special Legislative Commission to Study Poverty.



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Building 110 .....	110 First Ave.
MGH Institute.....	26 First Ave.
7/11 Store .....	1 First Ave.

## Boston Senior Home Care awarded \$50,000 grant from PLAN MA & RI for caregiving services and supports

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC), a trusted provider of home- and community-based services, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc. (PLAN of MA & RI) to advance initiatives supporting family caregivers.

“With caregiving often presenting significant financial and emotional challenges, this award reflects the essential role that family caregivers play in our communities,” said Margaret Hogan, Chief Executive Officer of BSHC. “We are grateful to PLAN of MA & RI for their generous support and for recognizing the importance of strengthening resources for caregivers.”

Joan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer of PLAN of MA & RI, underscored the organization’s commitment to partnering with mission-aligned nonprofits. “We are honored to support BSHC as they work to bolster services for family caregivers,” McGrath said. “Our trusted fiduciary services offer peace of mind to families concerned about protecting their loved ones’ financial well-being. Collaborating with BSHC allows us to help create a more complete support system that addresses both everyday needs and long-term planning.”

This grant unites two organizations dedicated to supporting vulnerable populations and the people who care for them. PLAN of MA & RI specializes in providing quality trustee and fiduciary services, helping families secure the financial future of loved ones with disabilities. Their services complement BSHC’s mission of ensuring that older adults and people with disabilities, particularly those of limited means, can remain at home and in the community with dignity and independence.

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC) is a private, nonprofit human services agency based in



Shown (left to right) PLAN of MA & RI Chief Executive Officer Joan McGrath presents a \$50,000 check to Boston Senior Home Care Chief Executive Officer Meg Hogan for caregiving services and supports.

Boston. Since 1974, it has been dedicated to making a difference by connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities with social services and resources to help them live independently. BSHC also provides support and guidance to caregivers by helping them care for their loved ones while focusing on their self-care needs. For more information, visit [bshcinfo.org](http://bshcinfo.org).

PLAN of MA & RI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with origins dating back to the 1960s, when a group of parents of children with various physical, mental, and behavioral challenges assembled to plan for the future. Incorporated in 1971, PLAN is recognized today as an expert in operating Special Needs Pooled Trusts.

PLAN of MA & RI proudly serves people with disabilities –

whether due to illness, injury, or age – helping them preserve assets, protect access to public benefits, and live well. PLAN of MA & RI is a professional trustee providing quality trustee/fiduciary services to individuals and their families through sound and thoughtful trust administration and compassionate, caring social service support. Licensed social workers assess the beneficiary’s living situation, needs, and current benefits and make recommendations and referrals to services that improve the person’s quality of life.

PLAN of MA & RI has offices at Two Adams Place, Suite 110, Quincy, MA 02169, and at One Richmond Square, Suite 225W, Providence, RI 02906. For more information, please call (617) 244-5552/(401) 234-8444 or visit <https://www.planofma-ri.org/>.

### 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 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to [deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com).

# Gov. Healey demands Republic Services immediately resolve strike in letter to CEO

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey has wrote to Jon Vander Ark, President & Chief Executive Officer at Republic Services, the waste disposal company that has halted trash and recycling pickup in several Massachusetts towns and cities for seven weeks now, to demand the company return to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith to end the strike.

In the new letter, Governor Healey wrote:

As my attempts to speak with you directly have gone unanswered, I am now writing to express my deep concern and profound disappointment regarding the ongoing labor strike involving Republic Services workers in Mas-

sachusetts.

Your company's failure to resolve or even meaningfully address this prolonged strike is unacceptable. For seven weeks now, trash and recycling have been piling up in neighborhoods during the heat of summer, impacting public health and quality of life for thousands of Massachusetts residents. Communities across the state are being forced to bear the consequences and costs of stalled negotiations between your company and its workforce.

This situation is beyond untenable. Republic Services has an obligation to the communities it serves. That obligation includes ensuring that labor disputes do not escalate to the point of endan-

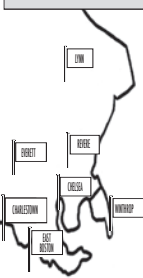
gering public well-being.

The fact that you haven't returned my calls is a reflection of your unacceptable approach to this urgent matter. The time for delay and posturing is over. It is time to resolve this - now.

Republic must return to the bargaining table immediately and negotiate in good faith with the workers and their representatives. It is in the interest of your company, your employees, and—most critically—the residents of Massachusetts that a swift resolution is reached.

My administration stands ready to assist in facilitating dialogue if needed. But make no mistake: this matter demands your direct attention and immediate action.

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# WLP's Spaghetti Dinner Oct. 9 at Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

For decades, the annual Spaghetti Dinner has been at the heart of Women's Lunch Place's fundraising efforts, bringing the community together in a shared commitment to support women facing hunger and hardship.

This year's event, called 'At the Table Together,' is set for 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, in the grand ballroom of the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, located at 138 St. James Ave.

"Spaghetti Dinner is more

than a meal—it's our signature event and a powerful catalyst for change," said Melissa Cording, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Women's Lunch Place. "The funds raised help women move from crisis to stability through healing, hope, and housing. We simply could not do this work without our generous community. Join us, take a seat at the table, and be a part of that change."

Visit <https://womenslunchplace.org/spaghetti-dinner> to reserve a seat at the event, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities.



PHOTO COURTESY KEIKO HIROMI

City Councilor Ed Flynn is seen at the podium during Women's Lunch Place Spaghetti Dinner held last Oct. 18 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. Councilor Flynn is seen alongside (left to right) Council President Ruthzee Louijeune; Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, Chief Executive Officer of WLP; and City Councilor Sharon Durkan.

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