

76 Kimball St., Malden \$699,000

Just Listed!



Property features Den + 3-season solarium + LR/DR + renovated kitchen, 4 bedrooms + full bath  
Lower level walk-out partially finished level to outdoors | Side driveway with private fenced & manicured yard  
w/patio + deck | Upgraded electrical - Newer Carrier heating + central A/C  
Maplewood/Forestdale neighborhood— Just minutes to Boston



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025



FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## BOSTON LYRIC OPERA'S MISSION OF MUSIC ARTISTRY



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Boston Lyric Opera is bringing its mission of musical artistry to the streets with the Street Stage. This mobile venue will bring beautiful music to several neighborhoods throughout the city. See Pages 4 and 5 for more photos.



Boston Lyric Opera baritone Junhan Choi and soprano Josie Larsen perform Papageno & Papagena from The Magic Flute by Mozart.

## City Election Department issues reminders ahead of preliminary municipal election

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Election Department is reminding voters that Preliminary Municipal Election Day is Tuesday, September 9. This election will determine the field of candidates whose names will appear on the official ballot for the General Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Voters will determine the top two candidates for the office of Mayor, the top two candidates for each District City Councilor race (where applicable), and the top eight candidates for At-Large City Councilor. There will be no preliminary municipal election for District City Council in Districts 3, 6, 8, and 9.

### In-Person Early Voting

In-person early voting will run through Friday, September 5.

Voters may vote at any Early Voting location throughout the city. Any registered Boston voter can vote at any early voting location. You don't need an excuse or reason to vote early.

Boston City Hall will serve as the primary early voting site, with voting on:

Wednesday, September 3 and Friday, September 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Voters are encouraged to enter City Hall using the North side entrance on Congress Street (across from Haymarket T-Station).

Additional early voting locations are available in neighborhoods throughout the city on the following dates:

Thursday, September 4 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All early voting sites are equipped with electronic poll books for voter check-in. Early voting locations are well-staffed

with poll workers and interpreters. All sites are fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

### Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is available to voters who are unable to vote in person on Election Day due to being absent from the City during voting hours, a physical disability and can't get to the voting location, and religious beliefs.

The in-person absentee voting deadline is Monday, September 8 at 12:00 p.m.

### Ballot Return

Voters who planned to return their ballots by U.S. Mail and have not mailed their ballots within one week of Election Day are encouraged to return their ballots through other means, to ensure they will be counted. Ballot packages must be received by the Boston Election Department no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

Voters may return their ballots until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day to any of the 22 drop boxes across the City or in person at the Election Department in City Hall.

Ballots cannot be returned to a polling location on Election Day.

Voters can track their ballot through the state's website here. If there is no movement indicated in the "Track My Ballot" system, voters should plan to vote in person on Election Day at their assigned precinct. Check your polling location/status here.

### Accessible Voting

The Accessible Electronic Voting System allows voters who are unable to independently read, write, hold, or physically manipulate or mark ballots to submit their ballot via a secure electronic delivery system. Voters who quali-

# EDITORIAL

## REVIVING HAPPY HOURS WILL PUT MORE DRUNK DRIVERS ON OUR ROADS

The proposal by State Senator Julian Cyr to revive happy hours -- which have been outlawed in Massachusetts since the 1980s -- is a terrible idea that will have only one guaranteed consequence: More motorists will be driving under the influence, endangering the lives of everybody who is on the roads across our state.

Proponents of bringing back happy hours make three arguments.

First, they suggest that happy hours will help struggling restaurants.

However, the Massachusetts Restaurant Association (as well as the the Massachusetts Package Stores Association) is opposed to the change, which makes perfect sense. With food at razor-thin margins, the only means by which restaurants can operate profitably is through the sale of alcohol, which generates much-higher profit margins than food.

But restaurateurs know fully well that reinstating happy hours will only result in the proverbial "race to the bottom" that will see restaurants undercut each other on alcohol prices in order to attract customers -- and thereby trim their profit margins significantly.

In addition, happy hour promotions will require restaurants to ensure much-stricter policing of their patrons so that they are not being overserved. Why would any reputable restaurateur want that additional burden?

Second, proponents suggest that the widespread availability of ride-share services such as Uber and Lyft, which were not around when happy hours were banned 40 years ago, will mean that intoxicated drivers will not get behind the wheel.

However, this argument does not stand up to the facts. Contrary to the assertions of the pro-happy hour crowd, the introduction of ride-shares over the past 15 years has not reduced the incidence of drunk driving. OUI deaths on our state's roads plunged significantly from the mid-1980s to 2010, but have basically remained the same over the past 15 years despite the availability of ride-share services.

And according to a national survey looking at data in 2023, Massachusetts had the second-highest increase in alcohol-impaired fatalities in the country with a more than a 20% jump over 2022.

Here's what the Mass.gov website says about drunk driving. "Drunk driving and drugged driving have an enormous impact on road safety in Massachusetts. In 2021, over one-third (34%) of all motor vehicle deaths in Massachusetts involved a drunk driver, which was higher than the national rate of 31%. Of car and truck drivers hospitalized in Massachusetts for crash-related injuries in 2021, over one-third (35%) were identified as being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the crash. Drivers hospitalized for crash-related injuries who had used alcohol or drugs were 35% more likely to suffer a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury than drivers who had not used alcohol or drugs."

Finally, proponents of removing the ban say that it should be left up to each community to decide whether to reinstate happy hours. The "leave it up to local control" argument always sounds good, but in this case it has one fatal (pun intended) flaw: Drunk drivers do not respect city limits -- an intoxicated driver who leaves a bar in one community becomes a danger in the next town over. One town's decision to allow happy hours becomes another community's drunk-driving problem.

Senator Cyr was not around (he's 39) when Massachusetts banned happy hours in the aftermath of a high-profile drunk-driving death in the 1980s. Massachusetts also enacted a series of tough measures in the 1980s that increased the penalties for an OUI, and those new laws had a dramatic effect, with OUI deaths plummeting significantly over the next 20 years.

However, despite the new laws, our state still sees far too many tragedies resulting from drunk-driving accidents.

Our state's restrictions on happy hours have nothing to do with "Puritanism" (as the proponents of restoring happy hours try to suggest). Rather, it's all about public safety. We would note that the states that allow happy hours, predominantly in the south and west, have the highest rates of drunk-driving fatalities in the country.

In survey after survey for years, citizens have stated that they fear drunk drivers more than anything else on our roadways -- and as surely as night follows day, reintroducing happy hours will put more drunk drivers on our roads and lead to more deaths and more serious injuries.

We urge our state legislators to do what's right for the safety of all our residents and reject any attempt to restore "Happy Hours" to our state.



### GUEST OP-ED

## Boston at the crossroads: A city for all of us

By Josh Kraft

Boston has always been more than a city, it's a spirit. It's grit and grace. It's tradition and transformation. It's neighbors who look out for each other, families who dream bigger for their children, and communities who rise together no matter the challenge.

This is the Boston I love with all my heart. It's where I've worked for the past 35 years, celebrated milestones with family and friends, and stood shoulder to shoulder with neighbors who believe in the promise of community. I've spent my life listening, learning, and leading in service to others, from creating opportunities for young people to supporting families when they needed a partner, when they needed an ally. It was never about politics, it was about partnerships.

This fall, Boston faces a crossroads. And the choice for voters is not just about leadership styles, it's about the kind of city we want to build together.

Mayor Wu is smart, energetic, and deeply committed to her vision. But too often, that vision feels like it's for the Boston she imagines, not always the Boston we live in. It's a vision heavy on ideology, light on collaboration. It's leadership from the top down, more about politics than partnership, more about headlines than hands-on solutions.

My vision is different. It begins with listening. It builds on collaboration. It centers real families in real neighborhoods, not theories or talking points. I believe in building bridges, not battles. I believe leadership should be about lifting

people up, not ignoring their voices if they don't align with political ambition.

We can't afford a Boston where housing slips further out of reach, where working families shoulder the burden while opportunity skips over them, or where neighborhoods feel like afterthoughts. We need quality schools in every neighborhood, not just a privileged few. Our children cannot afford crumbling buildings and unsafe buses. We need a Boston that works for all of us.

That's why I'm running. Not to manage decline, but to spark renewal. Not to divide us into winners and losers, but to unite us around what makes Boston extraordinary: our resilience, our innovation, our humanity.

For me, politics is not performative, I see service as a promise.

And I've spent my life proving that promise. In schools, on playgrounds, and in living rooms across this city. I've worked with kids who needed someone to believe in them and with families

who deserved more than words. I know that when you meet people where they are, when you invest in their potential, the entire city rises.

That's the Boston I believe in. A city where housing is attainable, where jobs are plentiful, where streets are safe, and where government is a partner, not a showpiece. A city where every child has opportunity, every family has stability, and every community has a seat at the table.

The choice before us is clear. Do we want four more years of politics as performance or do we want a future built on service, results, and unity?

Boston is ready to lead, not just the nation, but the world in showing what a city built on community, courage, and compassion looks like. And together, we can make that future real.

Boston is not just my home—it's our shared future. And with your support, I believe we can build a city that truly works for all of us.

*Josh Kraft is a candidate for Mayor of Boston.*



## CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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GUEST OP-ED

Our hearts are broken

By Fr. John Sheridan

Regardless of who we are, our hearts are broken last week as we heard the news of the terrible shootings at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis. It is natural for us in this moment to attempt to put some reasons, and even though there may be clues and evidence that point to one reason or another, it's important for us to focus on the horrible acknowledgment of the victims, those who died, were injured, the children, teachers and families whose lives have been forever altered by unspeakable terror in a place of safety and refuge, peace and hope. If we fail to put the children first in any discussion, we are failing miserably.

To those who disparage the call for prayers, I am reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King that in all times, particularly times of crisis, doubt and fear, the church is not where we go to it is where we come from, where we begin. Catholics- particularly emboldened and encouraged by the reception of the Eucharist and all people of good will- we must be witnesses and in Christ, transforming this all-too violent world. Christ is the King of our world- and first and last, He is the Prince of Peace. It is time, well past the time, to proclaim the end of this nightmare.

It has been made quite clear

that laws aren't working, and more guns won't work, either. This crisis, these issues, are bigger than any government, any force on this earth. Too many children have been exposed to the cruelty that adults inflict on each other and themselves and to them, and in their name, in God's name, together, we must find a way to bring that peace to the hearts and souls of those who misplace their anger, their frustration, their fear upon the lives of the most innocent and vulnerable in our midst.

This is our mission and our challenge, to bring Christ to the deeply divided, angry and troubled country- to defend the vulnerable, to protect each and every life, and to speak for justice and mercy and love as Christ commands and expects. In Deuteronomy 30, God challenges Israel to take a stand, to choose life. May our actions, based in our prayers, bring about a new revolution of hope, mercy, and life. If we fail, we have all failed, ourselves, our country and our children. May our lives, directed to hope and mercy, turn the tide and bring about that revolution.

Mary, Queen of peace, comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.

Please pray for the children of Annunciation school.

Fr. John Sheridan is from the Charlestown Catholic Collaborative.

Tompkins stepping away from office as he faces federal charges

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins is stepping away from his position until the case involving federal extortion charges against him is resolved, Governor Maura Healey stated last week.

Tompkins, who has served as Suffolk County Sheriff since 2013, was arraigned on two charges alleging that he extorted a Boston cannabis company executive so that he could own stock in the company.

Tompkins pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Until the case is resolved, Tompkins' position will be filled by the Special Sheriff, Mark Lawhorne.

"The allegations against Sheriff Tompkins are serious," said Governor Healey. "The Suffolk County Sheriff is responsible for managing more than a thousand employees, hundreds of inmates and programs that are essential to public safety and rehabilitation.

It is a full-time job that demands full time attention."

Healey said the people of Massachusetts need to be able to trust in the integrity of the criminal justice system and that their elected officials are fully engaged in the work of serving the public.

"This is the right step for the Sheriff's Office and the public as a whole, as it avoids prolonged proceedings before the Supreme Judicial Court," said Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell.

Tompkins' attorney, Mark Weinberg, previously stated that he expects the sheriff will ultimately be found not guilty, telling reporters that they believe in the system and that the charges were not going to be tried in the media.

ELECTION (from pg. 1)

fy for an Accessible Electronic Ballot may apply online. The deadline to apply for an accessible ballot is Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. To get access to the electronic ballot, you will need to provide your email address.

Voting On Election Day

Polling locations open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. A list of polling locations can be found here. As a reminder, voters should check their registration status via the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website. Printed ballots will be available in English and Spanish, English and Chinese, and English and Vietnamese. Language interpreters will also be available upon request. All voting locations are wheelchair accessible and are equipped with an AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal for voters with disabilities to assist with marking the ballot independently.

Poll Pads Electronic Check-in

The Boston Election Department is expanding the use of Poll Pads electronic check-in devices across all 275 precincts for voter check-in on Election Day. This upgrade will speed up the check-in process and enhance communication with the Election Department.

While Poll Pads are new to Election Day, they have been used successfully during Early Voting since 2016. The voting process for voters remains the same: you will check in with a poll worker, receive a paper ballot, mark your vote, and cast it as usual.

Central Tabulation

On Monday, September 1, 2025, the City of Boston will begin removing Preliminary Municipal Election mail-in and in-person early voted ballots for all 275 precincts from their envelopes and depositing these ballots into a tabulator in Boston City Hall located at One City Hall Square, Room

801, Boston, MA 02201.

Only ballots received prior to Friday, September 5, 2025 will be removed and deposited in Room 801.

Advance Processing Schedule

Ballot removal and processing will occur daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., through Tuesday, September 9, 2025, with processing beginning at 7:00 a.m. on September 9 (if necessary) and continuing until all ballots have been processed.

All ballots advance processed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 5, 2025, will be centrally tabulated.

All other ballots received by 2:00 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, September 9, 2025) will be delivered to their respective precinct for processing.

Ballots received after 2:00 p.m. on Election Day will be processed after the close of polls at 8:00 p.m., once the voter lists from each precinct have been received by the Elections Department.

Unofficial Results

After polls close at 8:00 p.m., the Election Department will

receive and upload unofficial results of ballots counted at polling places as they are returned from each precinct. Poll workers need time to tally election results and transport materials from polling places to City Hall. Uploading of election results may not begin until after 10:00 p.m.

The initial results reported on the website on election night will include:

Ballots cast in person on election day;

Early voting and mail-in ballots, including those from precincts being centrally tabulated at the City Hall central tabulation facility.

The unofficial results uploaded to [www.boston.gov/election](http://www.boston.gov/election) on election night will NOT include mail and absentee ballots that arrive on time on election day, but are too late to be sent to polling locations to be counted. These ballots will be processed after the close of polls at 8:00 p.m., once the voter lists from each precinct have been received by the Elections Department.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to [editor@reverejournal.com](mailto:editor@reverejournal.com) are preferred.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

SEASON OPENING! SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH

9 am Massport's Finest vs A-1 Convenience  
10 am Halligan Club vs McCarthy Bros.  
11 am Duce 2 vs YMCA

Games will be played at Eden Street Park!

CHA Cambridge Health Alliance WE ARE SEEKING

Healthy People or those Currently Receiving Buprenorphine (eg, suboxone, subutex or subsolv), Methadone or Naltrexone (Vivitrol)

We are seeking participants for a clinical research study about buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone. The study will include both individuals who use these opioids and a control group of individuals who do not.

If you are between the ages of 21 and 59, you may qualify for a research study at The Cambridge Health Alliance that focuses on how buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone affect people's weight, blood sugar and pain.

The study involves:

- One up to 8-hour session
- Weight/height, waist measurement, body fat percent, a diet assessment, measurements of blood sugar and lipids, surveys and urine tests
- Up to \$60 provided for participation

617-665-1177

[delman@challiance.org](mailto:delman@challiance.org)

CambridgeHealthAlliance  
CHA-IRB-21-22-75  
Approved on 12-26-2024

### BOSTON LYRIC OPERA'S MISSION OF MUSIC ARTISTRY

The Boston Lyric Opera is bringing its mission of musical artistry to the streets with the Street Stage. This mobile venue will bring beautiful music to several neighborhoods throughout the city. Its first stop was at the Charlestown Navy Yard by the Commandant's House. Classical and show tune standards were performed by vocalists accompanied by a pianist. Be sure to catch it at the BPL Copley in the Courtyard on Aug 29, Curtis Hall in JP on Sept 11, and Titus Sparrow Park on Sept 14.



*Boston Lyric Opera soprano Josie Larsen performs Somewhere Over The Rainbow from The Wizard Of Oz.*



*Boston Lyric Opera pianist and Jane & Steven Akin Emerging Artist alum Brendon Shapiro provided musical accompaniment to the vocal performances.*



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

*Jean Sheridan with Ernie has a great time watching the performance.*



*Boston Lyric Opera Director of Programs and Events Roxanna Myhrum speaks to the audience during intermission.*



*Boston Lyric Opera baritone Junhan Choi performs Till There Was You from The Music Man.*



*A captivated audience enjoys the performance offered by the Boston Lyric Opera on its Street Stage.*



*BLO Board advisor Yin-Yin Wang with Bailey.*



#### Connect Where It Counts!

**We are looking for volunteers age 50+ to serve as reading coaches to help students in Chelsea**

#### Interested?

Attend an upcoming information session to learn more!  
Wednesday, August 13 at 3:00 PM.  
Chelsea Public Library, 569 Broadway St., Chelsea or  
email: [recruitment@literations.org](mailto:recruitment@literations.org) or call 617-423-6633  
For more information visit: [literations.org/volunteer](http://literations.org/volunteer)



*A captivated audience enjoys the performance offered by the Boston Lyric Opera on its Street Stage.*

# BOSTON LYRIC OPERA'S MISSION OF MUSIC ARTISTRY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



The Wienrich Family were visiting from Germany and were happy to have encountered the Street Stage.



The Navy Yard was an excellent place for the Street Stage to bring Boston Lyric Opera performances as the audience enjoyed what they saw.



Kasey and Alicia Wall enjoyed their picnic spot by the Commandant's House with their trusty friend Evie.



The Street Stage brings a unique classical music experience to anywhere in the city.



National Park Service Ranger Erin Kelly serves as social media manager for the Navy Yard. She encouraged the audience to follow events and news happening there through the year.



Boston Lyric Opera soprano Josie Larsen speaks to audience members after the performance.

**Visit HOOD PARK**

the handle bar HEAT  
 sunnyside all day brunch cafe  
 ELEMENT SALON AND SPA AVEVA SALON  
 URBAN WILD  
 Henry Bears Park  
 TRADESMAN RESTAURANT & BAR  
 @the Yara  
 BOSTON VETERINARY CLINIC  
 LANDRY'S BICYCLES  
 Lucky Tiger  
 Open 7 Days a Week • 3-HR FREE Parking • Corner of 500 Rutheford & Hood Park Drive • BlueBikes & Racks

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### KILLORAN GRADUATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Brigid Killoran of Charlestown is among the University of Rhode Island's newest alumni. URI celebrated more than 3,500 of its newest alumni during the University's 2025 Commencement. Nearly 3,600 undergraduate degrees and 600 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 16-18, 2025.

Killoran received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology.

Students who received the honor summa cum laude graduated with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.7; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.50; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land-and-sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health

and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

### CHARLESTOWN RESIDENT NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Dean College is pleased to announce that Katherine Moody of Charlestown has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

### LEGACY EARNS DEAN'S LIST HONORS AT AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

American International College (AIC) student Mary Legacy of Charlestown has earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 semester.

Legacy is majoring in Criminal Justice.

Dean's List honors are awarded to full-time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends Legacy and all of those on the Dean's List for their hard work and dedication.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a

private, co-educational, doctoral-granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

### DEAN'S LIST HONORS ANNOUNCED AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the spring 2025 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Lucas Guan, Class of 2026, of Charlestown

Lilly Ladd, Class of 2026, of Charlestown

Christine Maher, Class of 2027, of Charlestown

Daniel Percac, Class of 2026, of Charlestown

Sam Ringrose, Class of 2026, of Charlestown

Dory Russell, Class of 2028, of Charlestown

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

### ART IN THE PARK THIS SATURDAY

The Annual Art in the Park 2025, hosted by the Artists Group of Charlestown will be

held at City Square Charlestown on Saturday, September 6 (rain date Sunday, September 7) from 10:00

a.m. to 5:30 p.m. - This event is free and open to the public.

### LANTERN TOURS RETURN IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Discover the Freedom Trail in a new light – after dark – on the official Freedom Trail® Lantern Tours. Freedom Trail Foundation announces the return of the unique Lantern Tours, offering visitors and residents the opportunity to experience the sinister history and mystery of the Freedom Trail by lantern-light! The annual Lantern Tours will be offered on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. from September 11 until October 30, and Wednesday, October 29. Official Freedom Trail historic sites' evening Crypt Tours at King's Chapel and Old North Church also return in September and October.

Duels, the grave of a ruthless pirate, punishments of convicted witches and more: all real and explored on the Freedom Trail Lantern Tours. Investigate the ghoulish side of Boston's iconic red-lined-path and hear historic tales too dark and macabre for daytime. Join Freedom Trail Players®, darkly garbed with lanterns, and bring true accounts of appalling crimes, spies and assassins, to life on these 90-minute walking tours.

Lantern Tours start on Boston Common and illuminate the Granary and King's Chapel burying grounds as the final resting places of convicted pirates and others connected to Boston's less-illustrious past. Locations such as the Boston Massacre Site and the former site of the Old Gaol (Old Jail), adjacent to the Old State House and home to many of old Boston's most infamous criminals, are also featured along the way on the Freedom Trail.

"September and October are a great time to visit Freedom Trail historic sites and enjoy Freedom

Trail Tours filled with the ghoulish history," says Suzanne Taylor, Executive Director, Freedom Trail Foundation. "As we lead up to Halloween, these unique, nighttime Lantern Tours, as well as historic sites' Crypt Tours, give visitors and residents the opportunity to experience Boston's true, lesser-known, dark and spooky history."

Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children 12 and under. Purchase of a ticket includes a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund, which helps support preservation projects at official Freedom Trail historic sites. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center (8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) or online at [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org). Lantern Tours may also be scheduled as a private group tour year-round. For more information about the Lantern and Crypt Tours, please contact the Freedom Trail Foundation at (617) 357-8300 or visit [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org).

### FRIENDS OF THE TRAINING FIELD SUMMER CONCERT

Friends of the Training Field will be hosting the third and final 2025 Summer Concert on Saturday Sept 6 from 3-6:00pm. The theme of the event will be celebrating halfway to St. Patrick's Day with Boston's Erin Og singing all of the Irish Favorites. Special Thank You to the sponsor State Rep Dan Ryan. The YMCA and the Boston Police Ice Cream Truck will be there providing treats for the kids. This event is free and all are welcome.

### WELCOME BACK COOKOUT AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Residents are invited to The Welcome Back Cookout at St. John's Church at 27 Devens St on Sunday, September 7 starting at 11:30 am.

- Enjoy the newly renovated public garden space at St John's.

- Catch up with neighbors and friends as summer transitions into the school year. Families and all ages welcome!

## Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1              | SELLER 1             | ADDRESS                     | PRICE       |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Genta, Matthew       | Jks Investments LLC  | 106 13th St #223            | \$515,000   |
| Bucci, Matteo        | O'Brien, Timothy     | 235-237 Bunker Hill St #235 | \$1,750,000 |
| Carucci RET          | Lima Jr, Daniel      | 34 Harvard St               | \$2,950,000 |
| Bartinoski, Justin M | Abati, Kristin T     | 37 Soley St                 | \$2,610,000 |
| Willwerth, Maxim B   | Bolton 3rd, Thomas J | 397 Main St #4              | \$600,000   |
| Jones, Greg          | Goslin, Jennifer A   | 42 8th St #5505             | \$555,000   |



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ADVERTISE IN THE PATRIOT-BRIDGE

CALL 781-485-0588

# Goldberg and ABCC launch “Operation Safe Campus”

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC), under the direction of State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, has launched Operation Safe Campus. The annual program is designed to target underage drinking on college campuses and in surrounding communities to keep alcoholic beverages out of the hands of underage students and prevent tragedies. This initiative begins each year when students return to colleges and universities throughout Massachusetts.

“As the new school year begins, Operation Safe Campus helps to remind college students, servers and retailers alike about the real risks of underage drinking,” said Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, who oversees the ABCC. “We hope by raising awareness and promoting responsible choices,

we can protect young people and prevent terrible tragedies for kids and their families, before they ever happen.”

The enforcement efforts focus primarily on liquor stores in college communities where underage individuals often attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages with false identification, have adults buy alcoholic beverages for them, or have it delivered by way of delivery apps, as well as bars that have been known to sell or deliver alcoholic beverages to underage individuals.

The program focuses on front-line prevention, with investigators often calling the underage person’s parents when violations occur. ABCC officials say that most parents are unaware that their children are involved in the use of alcohol, and that the intervention is a powerful tool toward family involvement in addressing the

problem of underage drinking.

“The goal of Operation Safe Campus is to protect Massachusetts college students as well as those in the community, while at the same time drawing attention to the dangers of underage drinking,” said Jean Lorizio, chairperson of the ABCC. “We hope to keep alcoholic beverages out of the hands of underage people and spread awareness of the devastating consequences that drinking alcohol could have for them and their loved ones.”

In 2024, the ABCC Safe Campus program found 302 minors in possession, transporting, or attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages, 21 adults procuring alcohol for minors, 108 individuals in possession of false identification. Approximately 157 cases of beer and 153 bottles of alcohol were confiscated by Investigators, preventing delivery to approxi-

mately 2,100 underage individuals. In 2024, bars and liquor stores were charged with 347 counts of sale to underage persons.

Since 2005, these programs have resulted in the following cumulative results: 13,692 minors in possession or transporting alcoholic beverages; 3,719 adults procuring alcohol for minors; 2,135 individuals in possession of false identification; and approximately 6,263 cases of beer and 5,221 of alcohol were confiscated, preventing delivery to approximately 82,694 underage individuals.

Annually, approximately 1,519 college students between the aged 18 to 24 die from alcohol-related injuries, including motor vehicle crashes, 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking, and 14 percent of college students meet the criteria for an alcohol use disorder. In Massa-

chusetts alone, the overall annual cost of alcohol abuse by youth is estimated at \$1.4 billion.

Massachusetts IMPACT impaired driving data shows that 10% of all traffic fatalities involve drivers under the age of 21.

Massachusetts is among the top ten states for binge drinking, with more than 1 in 4 (27.75%) adults age 18 or older reporting they binged on alcohol in 2020. Among young people ages 12 to 20, 20.77% reported alcohol use in the past month and 11.81% reported binge alcohol use in the past month in Massachusetts. The national averages were 17.32% and 10.14%, respectively.

One in three (33.86%) substance abuse treatment admissions among persons aged 12 and older in 2019 in Massachusetts were alcohol related.

# Mystic Players Revival brings live theatre back to Medford

The Mystic Players Revival Theatre Company is bringing back community theatre to the Medford area! With successful Cabaret and Shakespeare performances under their belt, the players in Medford take on a new challenge with their first ever Spooky One-Act Play Festival this October! This event will feature six plays written by playwrights from around the country centering around a spook-tacular theme. Spooky will take place at McGlynn Middle School, 3002 Mystic Valley Parkway, Medford, MA 02155.

“We are excited to bring a new event to the area this Halloween season!” says Madison Sedlor (Director, Playwright). “Working with the team at the Mystic Players Revival theatre company has been a pleasure. Having moved to Massachusetts in 2024, I found it difficult to break into the theatre

scene. I am honored to have been chosen to direct for them and bring this completely original show to the Medford community!”

Emily Deller, a returning actor to the theatre company states, “This is my third performance with Mystic Players Revival, and I have loved every moment working with this wonderful and welcoming company. Halloween has long been my favorite holiday, and my inner child is so happy to be part of this production. Our collection of one-act plays combines all of the thrills, chills, and whimsies of the spooky season, and it is such a pleasure to bring these stories to life on stage for the Medford community.”

With over 350 submissions from playwrights around the world the Spooky One Act Festival is shaping up to be a great time. The festival features most-

ly comedies, with its sole horror play titled, Citrus Terror, by Ian Downes. “Set in the future, this ten-minute grapples with contemporary monsters, what Tony calls the Orange Terror,” Downes says. “Though time has refracted the story Tony tells, he reminds the two urbanites that history has a way of grabbing us back, even when we don’t think it can happen to us. Horror gives us the tools to imagine dangerous circumstances, reflect upon what we truly fear, and break down walls, but we must have the courage to face our fears.”

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online via [mysticplayersrevival.org](http://mysticplayersrevival.org). The show will begin at 8:00 pm on Friday, 10/24, Saturday, 10/25, and Sunday 10/26 with doors opening at 7:00 pm. Tickets available for purchase at the door while they last.

About Mystic Players Revival - Reviving Dreams, One Performance at a Time

Mystic Players Revival is more than a theater company; it’s a love letter to community, creativity, and the magic of second acts. Born in 2023 from a simple Facebook post, four strangers found each other by chance, bonded by a shared love of theater and a dream to create something meaningful. What started as a conversation became a calling to build a space where stories could come alive and everyone could find a place on stage, behind the scenes, or in the

audience. We proudly carry the legacy of the original Mystic Players of Medford, breathing new life into a local tradition of storytelling and stagecraft. Our name is a nod to the past, but our work is rooted in the present, inclusive, passionate, and community-driven.

More information about Mystic Players Revival events can be found on their website: [mysticplayersrevival.org](http://mysticplayersrevival.org). You can also follow the company on Facebook and Instagram, or send them an email at [mysticplayersrevival@gmail.com](mailto:mysticplayersrevival@gmail.com).

# Boston Parks Department’s Forever Young Program for older adults returns for fall season

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce the Forever Young Program, inviting older adults to enjoy a fall season full of fun, fitness, and fellowship. This free program, presented in partnership with Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF), features engaging outdoor activities such as archery and bocce, all designed to promote active lifestyles, strength-

en social connections, and build community.

The program will take place once a week on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Langone Park, 529 Commercial Street, North End. Sessions begin September 5 and run through October 24th.

Each session is designed to encourage physical activity, mental well-being, and community engagement. Sessions are drop-

in and pre-registration is not required. Join us to try something new and make a friend.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit [boston.gov/parks](http://boston.gov/parks), join our email list, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, and Instagram and @parks.boston.gov on Bluesky.

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# PIER 5 BELONGS TO THE PUBLIC – LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY

## THE ISSUE

Two proposals to develop Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard are currently under review by the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) – the Charlestown Marina would commercialize the water; Courageous Sailing would commercialize the land. Beneath Courageous' language of equity and access lies a commercial **land grab for six acres** of prime harborfront land and watersheet — a **Trojan Horse** using a non-profit cover to conceal a for-profit takeover.

### PIER 5 – A For-Profit Trojan Horse

- **What's proposed:** Turn Pier 5 over to a for-profit operator of year-round, ticketed, immersive theater events, 400-seat weddings, corporate venues, and dock leases.
- **The reality:** Over half the revenue comes from renting a 44,000 sq. ft commercial building. Less than 25% from actual community sailing. This is not public access — it's **pay-to-play**.
- **The deal:** All capital costs primarily paid by tax payers; net profits go to Courageous and its for-profit partner, ASM Global. This is not a public-private partnership — it's **public risk for private gain in perpetuity**.

### PIER 4 – A Stealth Takeover

- **What's proposed:** Bundle Pier 4 into the same plan as Pier 5, avoiding a separate review.
- **The reality:** Pier 4 has already been upgraded with \$10M in public funds to support a two-story building; plans for an 11,000 sq. ft modern facility are in place; and a long-term lease is reportedly within reach. Courageous does not need Pier 5 to support an expanded program.
- **The concern:** By withholding these facts, Courageous creates a false narrative to justify a **two-for-one stealth takeover of both piers**.

## PETITION

- **BPDA SHOULD REJECT** both current proposals for Pier 5.
- **BPDA SHOULD LAUNCH A NEW RFP** for a non-commercial Pier 5 that delivers maximum public benefit and is financially self-sustaining.
- **BPDA SHOULD NOT AWARD A LONG-TERM LEASE FOR PIER 4** without a transparent RFP process.

## CALL TO ACTION

- **SCAN THIS QR CODE: *sign the petition.***  
<https://www.change.org/p/pier-5-belongs-to-the-public-let-s-keep-it-that-way>
- **RAISE YOUR VOICE: *tell BPDA to reject this public giveaway.***  
<https://www.bostonplans.org/planning-zoning/planning-initiatives/pier-5>
- **KNOW THE FACTS: *read the Q&A Rebuttal exposing Courageous' misinformation.***  
<https://harborpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Courageous-Sailing-Pier-45-QA-RebuttalExhibits-20250818.pdf>

PETITION



BPDA



REBUTTAL



IF THE CITY IS TO GIVE AWAY PIER 5 FOREVER  
**GIVE IT TO THE PEOPLE – NOT TO PROFIT**

# OUR HARBOR, OUR PIER

Boston Harbor, once polluted, is now a swimmable jewel thanks to a multi-billion-dollar cleanup. Pier 5 in Charlestown should become a city-wide waterfront recreation destination — a landscaped **Harbor Park** offering shade and gathering spaces alongside a floating **Harbor Pool** for inclusive swimming, saunas, and skyline views. Together, this blue-and-green sanctuary would showcase climate resilience while giving every Boston resident the world-class harbor access they deserve.



## Boston's Next Waterfront Landmark: A Harbor Park & Pool for All

Paid for by: Connie Gutierrez, James Lee, Jules Pieri

# Healey proclaims September as 'Emergency Preparedness Month'

Governor Maura Healey has declared September 2025 as Emergency Preparedness Month to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to encourage planning for disasters and other types of emergencies.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and other state, local, and nonprofit agencies will promote preparedness through various public outreach efforts throughout the month. These efforts are part of a month-long national campaign themed "Preparedness Starts at Home."

"Emergencies come in many forms, from severe flooding to structure fires and wildfires, which is why it is essential to be prepared," said Governor Maura

Healey. "Last fall, Massachusetts experienced a historic wildland fire season, which burned more than 4,500 acres in communities like Great Barrington, Middleton, and many in between. This only emphasizes how essential readiness is for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Massachusetts. Being prepared for the unexpected emergency starts at home with each of us."

"Massachusetts has diligent professionals working every day to keep us safe, but preparedness really does start at home," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "By taking a few minutes to develop an emergency family plan or put together an emergency kit, you're taking steps that will make a real difference if a disaster strikes."

"During Emergency Preparedness Month, it's not only the ideal time to take steps to ensure you are as ready as you can be for a potential disaster, but also an important time to recognize everyone in public safety who is working year-round to ensure the people of the Commonwealth are prepared for hazards and threats," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "Thank you for your service in keeping us safe each and every day."

"Getting prepared for an emergency doesn't have to be an expensive or time-consuming process," said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley, "Creating an emergency plan for your family, including your pets, takes just a few minutes, and you may already have many of the items to include

in your emergency kit around your house. Emergency Preparedness Month is the perfect time to get started."

"Emergency preparedness is public health in action," said Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD, Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health. "It starts at home and keeps our communities healthy as it expands through our neighborhoods and across our Commonwealth. The true power of preparedness comes when all these pieces work together – not just to address a crisis, but to prevent it from ever happening."

Throughout September, MEMA will share information on its social media accounts about emergency preparedness topics, including emergency planning, building an emergency kit, prepar-

ing for disasters, youth preparedness, ways to get involved in community preparedness, and more. Keep an eye out for MEMA's Local Coordinators and outreach staff at community preparedness events across Massachusetts during September. The Women in Emergency Management Group, led by MEMA and DPH, will host a day-long event in recognition of Preparedness Month to engage women working across multiple sectors in the field of emergency management.

Visit [Mass.gov/ready](http://Mass.gov/ready) to find emergency preparedness tips available in several different languages, safety tips for specific threats and hazards, preparedness resources from the MEMA, DPH, and the Massachusetts Office on Disability, and other information.

## Annual San Gennaro Feast returns to the North End on Sept. 5-7

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Saint Gennaro Foundation of Boston, founded by Frank DePasquale, Nick Varano, Ange-

lo Vigliotta, and Pasquale Trotta, are bringing back the much-acclaimed San Gennaro Feast in Boston's historic North End on Friday, September 5 through Sunday,

September 7.

Proceeds from San Gennaro Feast will benefit Autism Awareness.

The San Gennaro Feast is returning this summer and features delicious food and drink from North End restaurants and vendors, live music and dancing, and culminates with a mass and procession with the statue of San Gennaro.

The three-day feast will take place in the Paul Revere Mall on Hanover Street in the North End and will conclude on Sunday with a procession of Saint Gennaro followed by an outdoor mass performed by the priests at St. Stephens.

There will be more than three dozen booths featuring North End restaurants that include: Strega, Bricco, My Mother's Cutlets, Antico Forno, Prezza, Little Sage, Mother Anna's, Cini, Forcella, Lucca and Giacomo's.

There will also be a Beer Garden, Espresso Martini Bar sponsored by DrinkThat Espresso Martini, dozens of North End restaurants, live DJs, raffles, and much more. The emcees for the weekend will be Magic 106.7 personality Kendra Petrone and Kiss 108 personality Gianna Gravellese.

The feast is put on by the Saint Gennaro Foundation, which is a nonprofit foundation named for the patron saint of Naples, Italy. For more information, please visit: [www.sangennaroboston.org](http://www.sangennaroboston.org)

The schedule entails:

**Friday, September 5:**

5:00p- The Feast Opens to the

public

6:00p- Magic 106.7 Personality Kendra Petrone welcomes guests

6:15p- Vinyl Groove performs  
9:00p- Al McKay's Earth, Wind and Fire Experience

11:00p- Feast closes for the night

**Saturday, September 6:**

12:00p- The Feast Opens to the Public

6:00p- Kiss 108 Personality Gianna Gravellese introduces performers

6:15-8:15- Angelina and the Unit

8:30-10:00p- Ruben Stoddard "My Tribute to Luther Vandross"

11:00p- The Feast closes for the night

**Sunday, September 7:**

12:00p- Outdoor Mass performed by the priests of Saint Stephens

1:00p- Procession of San Gennaro

3:00p- The Fenway Brats

6:00p- The Italian Connection Band

8:00p- 9:30p- The Miami Sound Review

11:00p- The feast concludes

The Saint Gennaro Foundation of Boston is an IRS approved 501 C3 non-profit organization. All current and future donations will be used to help autistic children. Our mission is to build a structure that houses an educational center that will comprise of about thirty furnished rooms, a cafeteria, a laundry, and a chapel for prayer.

Outside will include a farm-like space with pets that serve as excellent therapy for children. This cen-

ter will give hospitality to families who come from within and outside our region without means to take care of their children. That is the goal we have set ourselves and this we will do thanks to the generous support we have received.

Autism Eats provides autism-friendly, non-judgmental environments for family dining, socializing and connecting with others who share similar joys and challenges. For more information, log onto [www.autismeats.org](http://www.autismeats.org).

The A Voice For Mikey Autism Foundation, was founded by parents Michael Intocchia and Marilyn Zambrzycki in honor of their autistic son, Mikey. Mikey, who is now 6 years old, was diagnosed with autism at the age of 2.

While autism can manifest in many ways, Mikey's autism is defined by speech apraxia and being non-verbal. This significantly impacts his ability to communicate and engage socially, amongst other challenges.

Since his diagnosis, Mikey and his family have been blessed to have access to all of the avenues available to assist in his developmental growth. They continually meet parents who struggle to afford the therapies, treatments, and opportunities that crucially benefit children like Mikey.

To address this tremendous need of support, The A Voice For Mikey Autism Foundation has proudly partnered with the San Gennaro North End Feast to raise funds to provide vital therapies, education and physical care tools to families in need.

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# Bread of Life calls on public to join together in ending hunger

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

September is Hunger Action Month, a nationwide campaign led by Feeding America, and The Greater Boston Food Bank is encouraging everyone to take action to end hunger. During the month-long campaign, Bread of Life will be raising awareness and inspiring action in Malden and surrounding communities. Every action counts, whether it's donating, advocating, volunteering or spreading the word online.

"Hunger is not an emergency; unfortunately it's a daily lived reality for far too many people in our state with a profound impact on our health and well-being," says

Catherine D'Amato, president and CEO of The Greater Boston Food Bank. "With decreases in hunger-relief programs coming from the federal government, now more than ever we ask for continued support from our donors, volunteers, and government officials, to help fuel our mission to end hunger here in Eastern Massachusetts."

According to The Greater Boston Food Bank's annual statewide study on food insecurity, conducted in collaboration with Mass General Brigham, 1 in 3 Massachusetts adults experienced food insecurity in 2024.

Bread of Life is providing food every month for about 9,000 indi-

viduals from Malden, Everett and surrounding communities.

"As many more of our neighbors will struggle with the coming decreases in federal help, the burden of assisting them will fall heavily on the private sector, on nonprofits like BOL, on individuals, churches and other faith communities, businesses and civic organizations," says Gabriella Snyder Stelmack, Executive Director of Bread of Life. "We are counting on our community, which has always been rock-solid, to help us meet the challenge through food donations, financial support, volunteer efforts and advocacy!"

Together, we have the power to end hunger. Learn how you can

take action today by visiting [www.breadoflifemalden.org](http://www.breadoflifemalden.org) and clicking on "Take Action" or "Volunteer."

Bread of Life is a nonprofit, nondenominational, faith-based food security organization based in Malden, MA that provides over 1 million pounds of free food a year for economically struggling and disadvantaged families, individuals, youth and senior citizens in the North metro Boston area including Malden and twelve surrounding communities. Founded in 1980 and incorporated as a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization in 1992, Bread of Life brings together hundreds of volunteers and dozens of partner organiza-

tions that include people from the faith community, businesses, civic organizations, schools, government and social service agencies to distribute food through our programs: food marts, congregate meals, grocery delivery to senior citizens and disabled residents, nutrition backpack distribution to Everett public school youth, food delivery to homeless individuals and families in shelter, and Food Access project to overcome barriers to accessing nutritious food encountered by lower-income communities with respect to race, ethnicity, language, culture, age, gender and other factors.

## Greater Boston Food Bank receives \$1 million grant to purchase fresh produce, dairy, protein and eggs

The Delta Air Lines Foundation has partnered with The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, to stem growing food insecurity in Eastern Massachusetts.

The foundation's \$1 million grant is the capstone gift in the food bank's 'Fill the Fridge' Campaign that was launched in 2024 to help GBFB meet the needs of clients by providing more fresh produce, dairy, protein, and eggs for GBFB's newly expanded cooler at The Yawkey Distribution Center in Boston. GBFB's new cooler has the capacity for 400 additional pallets of healthy food and enables GBFB to distribute an additional 8-10 million pounds of nutritious fresh food per year to our neighbors in need in Eastern Massachusetts. Approximately 97 percent of the food GBFB distributes through its 600 agency partners meets rigorous nutrition standards and nearly 60 percent are perishable items.

Delta Air Lines was recently named GBFB's 2025 Corporate Partner of the Year and has a long-standing partnership with the food bank that started in 2016. Delta Air Lines has been a generous sponsor of 12 major GBFB events and seven fundraising campaigns including Spring for Meals, Taste of the Food Bank, and the annual WCVB Day of Giving, where their team is known for bringing unmatched energy and enthusiasm when volunteering. Over the last 3.5 years, Delta Air Lines employees have also provided hands-on

support by volunteering over 500 hours through monthly small-group volunteer shifts in GBFB's warehouse and at mobile markets, and by holding an annual Volunteer Day at GBFB every April.

"Delta's mission to connect the world starts with being a strong partner to the communities where we live, work and serve," said Tad Hutcheson, Managing Director, Community Engagement at Delta Air Lines and Senior Vice President of The Delta Air Lines Foundation. "The work of The Greater Boston Food Bank is absolutely essential here in Eastern Massachusetts, and hunger-relief is one of the areas that we feel compelled to give back. With this grant we want to help connect those people facing food insecurity in this region with access to the fresh and nutritious food they need to thrive."

This generous commitment from The Delta Air Lines Foundation arrives at a critical time as Massachusetts continues to grapple with a persistent hunger crisis and federal hunger-relief funding declines. GBFB's latest research shows that 1 in 3 people experienced food insecurity in 2024 while recently passed federal legislation contains unprecedented cuts to SNAP and Medicaid funding over the next few years that may force even more people to turn to an already overextended hunger relief network.

"We are so grateful for the support of The Delta Air Lines Foundation who have made an incredibly generous commitment to help

GBFB provide access to the healthy food that our neighbors need to live active and productive lives," said Catherine D'Amato, GBFB's President and CEO. "Hunger is a daily experience for far too many of our neighbors across the Commonwealth. Thanks to great community partners like Delta Air Lines Foundation, we have the power to end hunger here."

About The Greater Boston Food Bank:

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and one of the largest food banks in the country. For nearly half a century, GBFB has fueled Eastern Massachusetts' hunger-relief system, putting nearly 90 million healthy meals on tables across the region each year. Over 600 community-based pantries and other local partners in 190 cities and towns depend on GBFB to provide access to healthy food for 600,000 people every month. GBFB is committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual's circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. Together, we have the power to end hunger here. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, X (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617.427.5200.

### Bunker Hill Associates announce the GERARD F. DOHERTY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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Welcome Back Cookout and Potluck  
St. John's Church - Sunday Sept. 7 - 11:30 a.m.

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# Wu and Superintendent Mary Skipper will adopt recommendations into school transportation safety

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu and Boston Public Schools (BPS) Superintendent Mary Skipper shared the independent report by Mintz Attorney Natasha Tidwell following her review of safety policies and performance under the contracts with Transdev, and announced the City and BPS will adopt all of the report's recommendations and will be implementing them as quickly as possible. The decision to initiate an independent review followed the tragic death of Lens A. Joseph, a kindergartener who was struck and killed by his school bus on Monday, April 28. While this review examines BPS and Transdev systems, it was not an investigation of the tragic events of April 28. There is a separate and ongoing investigation into the incident led by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

"On behalf of the entire City and BPS, I want to express my profound condolences to Lens's family, friends, and everyone who loved him. There are no words

that can capture the pain of losing a child. We are determined to make sure that a tragedy like this never happens again," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I want to thank Attorney Tidwell and her team for their diligent work over these past three months. The City and BPS have reviewed the final report, and we will be adopting all of the report's recommendations to strengthen our system to ensure the safety of every child who begins and ends their day on a BPS school bus."

"The passing of Lens Joseph was a heartbreaking tragedy that will have an everlasting impact on our school community and city," said Superintendent Mary Skipper. "Our thoughts remain with Lens' family, friends, teachers, and all who loved him. Because the safety of our students is our highest priority, the Mayor and I requested the independent review to ensure that we are taking every measure possible to provide the safest experience for our students and families. We have begun tak-

ing steps with Transdev and within our own operations to strengthen safety policies, training, and oversight. Our commitment remains to act decisively on these recommendations and to ensure the highest standards of safety for the more than 20,000 Boston students who rely on school transportation every day."

Several of the recommendations are consistent with improvements already underway as BPS prepares for the first day of school next week. After April 28, BPS Transportation made immediate changes to improve safety, and those changes will be permanent.

BPS Transportation and Transdev leadership have added a daily meeting with Transdev safety leads, and the leadership teams collectively review all accidents or safety incidents from the prior day and the follow-up steps being taken.

BPS Transportation leadership are now attending all Accident Review Committee meetings with Transdev and the bus drivers union.

BPS worked with Transdev to enhance the training that all drivers receive. Four months ago, Transdev introduced a new Professional Operator Development Program (PODP) to supplement required training for school bus drivers, and it is now being fully implemented. BPS worked with Transdev to increase the number of driver trainers Transdev has in Boston, to accelerate the implementation of the PODP training for all Boston school bus drivers. All Boston school bus drivers are fully credentialed and have received all required training to be driving a school bus in Massachusetts.

BPS's implementation of the Tidwell Report recommendations will further strengthen safety provisions established under the new vendor contract with Transdev, which took effect on July 1, 2023. The new contract introduced performance incentives and liquidated damages for non-performance that did not exist in the prior contract. The new contract also added extensive reporting requirements and oversight mechanisms. BPS Transportation's active management of Transdev has helped achieve meaningful, sustained improvements in on-time performance and operations, which have benefited our students and families.

Tidwell Report Recommendations that BPS will adopt: BPS Transportation will bol-

ster existing accountability structures with increased oversight and auditing of Transdev's licensing and compliance functions. This work has already begun. In the immediate aftermath of the April 28th accident, Transdev conducted an audit of all drivers and confirmed that all drivers on the road had valid and up-to-date licenses and certifications. This summer, as an additional check, Transdev has required all drivers to bring in a hard copy of their credentials. No driver will be allowed to drive this school year until they fulfill that requirement, even if Transdev already has a copy of their valid credentials on file.

BPS will also be requiring Transdev to provide a full, updated driver roster with each driver's credentials prior to the start of the school year, which will allow BPS to conduct additional checks to monitor compliance—including paper reviews and increased auditing of driver files and credentials during unannounced visits to bus yards.

BPS will strengthen driver training by adopting the recommendation to increase the number of safety trainers. The new contract required Transdev to more than double the number of safety trainers for drivers from four to 11. This summer, BPS has increased the number of safety trainers from 11 to 15 full-time trainers, and will work with Transdev to maintain that number moving forward. BPS will also closely study whether any additional staffing increases are warranted.

The Tidwell Report recommendations also highlighted opportunities to strengthen safety provisions in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with drivers,

parts of which are decades old. BPS will closely review the recommendations regarding CBA amendments to improve student safety, and will work with Transdev and The Boston School Bus Drivers' Union to act on those recommendations.

BPS also fully supports the recommendations to streamline Transdev's electronic record-keeping. BPS will work with Transdev to make it easier to access and update driver files, and will increase ongoing auditing to ensure compliance. The district is pleased that as preparations advance for the first day of school, every role on the Transdev safety team in Boston is staffed. BPS Transportation will work closely with Transdev to immediately address any vacancies with qualified safety professionals.

Boston Public Schools is committed to providing safe, reliable, and on-time transportation for the more than 20,000 students who ride the school bus every day. The "Driving Change: April 2025 Transportation Progress 2022-2025" report documented the on-time performance improvements that have benefited students in recent years, as well as plans for continued, sustainable system improvements. As students prepare to return to the classroom next week, families are encouraged to download the Zum app to view their bus assignment, track their student's rides, and receive real-time notifications when their student is picked up and dropped off. Families are encouraged to reach out to the BPS Transportation Hotline, at 617-635-9520, with any questions about their student's transportation.

## MEETING VOTERS



Candidate for Mayor, Josh Kraft, was in Charlestown over the Labor Day weekend encouraging residents to vote.

The Beacon Hill Times - beaconhilltimes.com  
The North End Regional Review - northendregionalreview.com  
The Boston Sun - thebostonsun.com  
The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - charlestownbridge.com



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# Commuter rail fare gates coming to South Station

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Installation of new Commuter Rail fare gates began at South Station, with the goal of gates being operational this winter. This important improvement follows the successful introduction of fare gates at North Station in 2022. There will be minimal impacts to Commuter Rail service during construction, however riders will see construction activity in sections of the South Station concourse.

“Installing fare gates at South Station, our busiest Station, will help ensure fares are appropriately collected. These fares support our operations budget and are important to continuing the delivery of safe, reliable and more frequent rail service,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “The public has a right to expect us to do our part and to ensure revenue is collected. These gates, including fully accessible ones, are another step towards delivering a best-in-class transportation system that the public deserves.”

The gates will improve fare collection, replace platform ticket checks, and create a more consistent fare-paying experience for passengers across transit modes. The

design and configuration of the fare gates was developed with riders’ needs in mind, and builds on the lessons learned during the implementation of gates at North Station, where passengers have tapped tickets or passes 14 million times since the gates opened. The design also follows industry standards and global best practices in fare collection.

The South Station fare gate layout features 40 gates installed around the concourse area, including 11 wider, accessible gates that allow sufficient room for wheelchairs, scooters, bicycles, luggage, and strollers.

Construction will be staged to ensure riders can access their trains. As each section is completed, that area will reopen before the work moves to the next section of the concourse. We look forward to allowing our riders the opportunity to try the new gates before they become operational. Staff will be available to help any riders with questions about navigating the station during and after construction.

Once the fare gates are operational, riders will notice the following fare collection changes:

Riders will be required to tap or



A look at the new Commuter Rail fare gates at South Station.

scan their tickets or passes to enter and exit at South Station.

Riders will still need to show tickets to conductors on board to verify that their ticket zone match-

es their trip.

Riders who arrive at South Station without tickets will be required to purchase them through the mTicket app or from a staff

member stationed at the gates.

Amtrak passengers will be able to use their tickets to pass through the fare gates in the same way as Commuter Rail riders.

## NFPA and Center for Campus Fire Safety ring the alarm on fire risks

With the new school year, thousands of college students nationwide are moving into dormitories and off-campus housing. The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) and The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) collaborate on the annual Campus Fire Safety Month campaign every September to provide vital fire safety education and resources to students, parents, and campus housing staff and administrators to help make resident living spaces as safe as possible. This year’s campaign highlights the importance of safe cooking practices and lithium-ion battery safety, drawing attention to two significant fire hazards in student residences.

According to the latest NFPA statistics, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,231 structure fires in dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, and barracks from 2019-2023. These incidents resulted in an annual average of 19 civilian injuries, and \$19 million in direct property damage. Roughly three out of four fires in these properties started in the kitchen or cooking area, accounting for 58 percent of civilian injuries and 11 percent of the direct property damage. Cooking equipment was involved in nearly eight out of 10 fires; unattended equipment was the most

common factor contributing to the ignition of these fires.

“As students adjust to life on campus, cooking quickly becomes one of the leading daily fire risks,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA and CCFS Advisory Council member. “Unattended cooking and the improper use of kitchen appliances remain the primary causes of cooking fires in student housing. Taking these factors into account, NFPA and CCFS underscore the critical need to develop smart cooking habits as part of this year’s Campus Fire Safety Month campaign.”

NFPA and CCFS offer several tips and resources for cooking safely, including these key messages:

- Stay alert and present. Do not cook if you’re tired or drowsy from medicine or alcohol. Do not leave the kitchen unattended, especially when using the stove or oven.

- Keep flammables away from heat sources. Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains – away from your stovetop.

- Be prepared for emergencies. Always have a lid within reach to smother small grease fires. If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire, get outside, close the

door behind you, and call 911 from outside the home.

Further, while cooking remains a leading cause of fires in campus housing, there is growing concern on college campuses about the increasing number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries. CCFS President Alan Sactor highlights the urgency of education around battery and technology use:

“College students rely on technology and micromobility devices like e-bikes and e-scooters and smaller electronics such as cell phones, laptops, and tablets every day, but it’s critical that they know how to use and store them safely,” said Sactor. “The batteries that power these devices can present safety hazards such as overheating, fire, or even explosions. NFPA and the CCFS are working together to help educate all members of the college and university campus community on how to safely use, store, and charge these devices to reduce the risk of fire. Our partnership with NFPA allows us to reach thousands of students with practice steps that help reduce fire risks on and off campus.”

NFPA and CCFS offer tips for safely using, storing, and charging lithium-ion batteries to help prevent fires:

- Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses

a lithium-ion battery, look for a safety certification mark. This means it meets important safety standards.

- Charge devices safely. Only use

the charging equipment provided with your device, stop charging once full, and never charge overnight or with damaged chargers/batteries.

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## Charlestown Patriot-Bridge Pick-Up Locations

|                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Newtowne Market .....              | 87 Medford St.            |
| Community Center .....             | 255 Medford St.           |
| 365 Convenience Store .....        | 275 Medford St.           |
| Annas Café .....                   | 275 Medford St.           |
| Jenny's Pizza .....                | 320 Medford St.           |
| Waverly Café .....                 | 229 Bunker Hill St.       |
| Bunker Hill Liquors.....           | 200 Bunker Hill St.       |
| Kennedy Center .....               | 55 Bunker Hill St.        |
| McCarthy's Liquors.....            | 9 Moulton St.             |
| Bunker Hill Cleaners .....         | Moulton St.               |
| Police Station .....               | 20 Vine St. Hayes Sq.     |
| Santander Bank .....               | 437 Rutherford Ave.       |
| 7/11 Store .....                   | 269 Main St.              |
| Zelma Lacey House.....             | 9 W School St.            |
| Gatehouse Apartment.....           | 75 W School St.           |
| Ace Hardware .....                 | Bunker Hill Mall          |
| CVS .....                          | Bunker Hill Mall          |
| Citizens Bank.....                 | Bunker Hill Mall          |
| Whole Food Market.....             | Bunker Hill Mall          |
| MGH Health Care Center.....        | 73 High St.               |
| 7/11 Store .....                   | Thompson Sq.              |
| Charlestown Liquors .....          | Thompson Sq.              |
| Starbucks .....                    | Thompson Sq.              |
| Cambridge Savings .....            | Thompson Sq.              |
| Warren Tavern.....                 | 2 Pleasant St. & Main St. |
| Constellation Wharf Condos         | 1 Constellation Wharf     |
| Harborview .....                   | 250 First Ave.            |
| Basilica.....                      | 106 13th St.              |
| Anchorage Apartment .....          | 103 13th Ave.             |
| Parris Landing .....               | 42 Eighth St.             |
| Tuttles Clevergreen Cleaners ..... | 197 Eighth St.            |
| Flagship Wharf .....               | 197 Eighth St.            |
| Style Café.....                    | 197 Eighth St.            |
| Building 104 .....                 | 104 First Ave.            |
| Building 110 .....                 | 110 First Ave.            |
| MGH Institute.....                 | 26 First Ave.             |
| 7/11 Store .....                   | 1 First Ave.              |

## State health officials announce season's first human case of West Nile Virus

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the first human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in Massachusetts this year in a woman in her 70s who was exposed in Middlesex County.

"West Nile virus can be a very serious disease and its presence in mosquitoes remains high right now in Massachusetts," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "While September brings cooler air and the return to school for many in the state, the risk from WNV is going to be elevated for some time. Residents should continue to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites."

The first WNV positive mosquitoes in the state this year were announced on June 17. There have been 319 WNV-positive mosquito samples so far this season detected from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. There has also been one WNV infected goat identified this year.

The risk for WNV is high in 10 municipalities in Suffolk and Middlesex counties and moderate in 193 municipalities in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties.

There have been 18 Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE)-positive mosquito samples and no human or animal cases so far this year.

"The mosquitoes will be with us until the first hard frost," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Cath-

erine M. Brown. "People should use mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered active ingredient, clothing to reduce exposed skin, and consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning."

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

### Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

### Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding

items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors.

### Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

Learn more about mosquito-borne diseases, including all WNV- and EEE-positive results on DPH's Arbovirus Surveillance Information page, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

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## NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through September 13 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

### Scheduled Work

- FRP fascia screening installation
- Marine fender and dolphin pile work

### Work Hours

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

### Travel Tips

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

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

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

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local

police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- September 6, at 12:00 p.m., September 10, at 7:30 p.m., and September 10, at 7:30 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X,

formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

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

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

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

## The Mark & Michelle Gorman Scholarship

**\$6500 in awards for the 2025-2026 school year.**

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1 to a girl and 1 to a boy in 2 categories:  
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**To apply:** fill out a 3x5 index card with:  
student name, address, phone number, school & grade and drop it off during our **Annual Cornhole Tournament at the Barry Playground on September 6, 2025 from 10-2.**

Only index cards will be accepted, 1 entry per student.

Tournament donors must add their name to the student entry card. Winners chosen in a lottery and awarded at the end of the Tournament.

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## CITY PAWS

## Dogs with disabilities

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Recently, we were catching up with a former neighbor when we asked about their little Frenchie. He described Lily's mobility issues, and we immediately recommended a trip to Eddie's Wheels ([www.eddieswheels.com](http://www.eddieswheels.com)) in Shelburne Falls, MA.

We've been fans of this business that creates custom wheelchairs for pets since we met our first dog in one of their assistive devices more than a decade ago. We watched in amazement as a senior Weimaraner named Kepler raced along in the park to burn off some of his sporting dog energy. There was joy in Kepler's runs and a big smile on his guardian's face as he told us about the wheelchair.

## Other Assistive Items

If you have an animal with a disability, you'll find many types of assistive devices to make their life and yours less stressful and more enjoyable. For example, splints, wraps, and booties can protect injured paws or skin and fur. Around the house, where wheels might not work, there are drag bags for paralyzed pets.

For a dog who needs a little bit of assistance on walks or to relieve themselves, you can add a

lift assist harness, which is a gentle sling around the belly that allows a person to add support.

We had a visit from one of our rescue Westies, Swiffer, in his later years. He was having problems getting into the correct position to relieve himself. We tore a wide strip off an old beach towel and used it as a lift assist. Assistance can be homemade or something designed for that purpose.

Small footstools to get up on chairs and sofas have been handy for our dogs as they aged. However, some ready-made stairs and ramps can help a disabled or injured dog or cat reach a favorite spot. For example, there are special ramps designed to make getting a large dog into a car easier for everyone.

## Deaf or Blind

For a deaf dog, you can use a vibration collar to help you train the pup to recognize that you want their attention. We are vehemently opposed to shock collars as training devices. This assistive device is a simple vibration, similar to the one you have on your phone when you put it in silent mode. Other options are to test a dog whistle to see if there is a range that your animal can hear or to tap your foot as you approach to set off vibrations



Wheelchairs for dogs improve exercise and mood. Here's one happy and relaxed pup!

from the floor to alert the dog.

A halo collar can help a blind dog avoid bumping into things as she moves about her world. Scented toys allow a blind animal to find and play with a toy. We also recommend adding puppy gates to stairways and other danger spots to avoid falls and injuries.

## Training with Patience

You can turn to your pet care team of veterinarians, groomers,

pet sitters, friends, and neighbors to help you find possible solutions for your animal's disability. Once you decide on a device or approach, be realistic. It will take time for you and the animal to adapt to make full use of the system, and you may need to try something different.

In a Whole Dog Journal article, "Caring for Dogs with Disabilities," Mary Schwager wrote,

"For disabled animals and their caretakers, success lies in adapting to new challenges. Sometimes, humans have the hardest time, while many dogs seem to have innate resilience."

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your request.*

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