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16 TREMONT UNIT 2



eRealtyAdvisors

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Shown (left to right) are Massachusetts Trial Court Chief Justice Heidi Brieger, Xander Ruyevcan, Court Administrator Thomas Ambrosino, Massachusetts Probation Commissioner Pamerson Ifill.

Charlestown High School Junior was sworn in as “Co-Probation Commissioner”

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Xander Ruyevcan, Charlestown High School Junior and dedicated member of the Grousbeck Boys & Girls Club of Charlestown, was



The Independent Newspaper Group
offices will be closed on
Monday, Oct. 13, 2025
Ad deadline **Friday Oct. 10th**

sworn in by Massachusetts Trial Court Chief Justice Heidi Brieger today in the Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation in Boston. The event was hosted by Probation Commissioner Pamerson O. Ifill who recognizes youth leaders and those who have overcome challenges.

Xander, accompanied by Charlestown Boys & Girls Club Teen DirectorJavon Robinson, attended the ceremony where the 16-year-old received a certificate and co-signed an important policy, “Advancing Inclusive Leadership at MPS.” “This bill was designed to equip our managers with the competencies and skill sets essential for leading a highly skilled, diverse, and culturally

responsive workforce,” according to Commissioner Ifill.

Xander is the second individual and first teenager to be appointed “Co-Probation Commissioner.” Nine-year-old Tairih King, a nine-year-old cancer survivor was sworn in and appointed Co-Probation Commissioner a little over a year ago.

Xander is described as “a quiet leader” by Boys & Girls staff. He plays on the Charlestown High basketball team, serves as a Teen Associate in the Club’s Athletic Department where he is admired as a peer and mentor to younger members, ages 6-12. He is also currently a member of the BGCB’s “Ready to Work Program.

Liquor license laws to be updated

By Kiran Rajamani

Ninety-two years after a Yankee-dominated state government limited the sale of liquor licenses to prevent Irish American politicians in Boston from gaining more influence, city and state politicians are finally taking steps to fix the issue.

Earlier this year, state lawmakers approved a law allowing cities to upgrade restaurants’ beer-and-wine licenses to all-alcohol. The Boston City Council adopted the resolution in September. Now, the city’s licensing board will set rules for granting the license, and final approval from the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission is expected early 2026.

“A lot of the restaurants affected by this [were] concentrated in the North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, the South End,” said North End Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, the bill’s sponsor, at a hearing last month. “This provides an opportunity for them to share in the economic prosperity

[of liquor sales]. Restaurants really do operate on thin margins.”

Zapata added that the old fears surrounding all-alcohol licenses relating to an increase in public disturbance reflected “an outdated narrative” that no longer fits Boston’s restaurant scene. “These are really places centered around food and the culinary experience,” she said.

Like many political conflicts, Boston’s battle over liquor licenses tracks to two quintessential issues – power and money.

After Prohibition ended in 1933, the Massachusetts Legislature refused to let Boston issue its own liquor licenses. At the time, City Hall was run largely by Irish American politicians under Mayor James Michael Curley, whose working-class base clashed with the Yankee establishment at the statehouse. By keeping licensing power at the state level, lawmakers could control who was allowed to sell alcohol in Boston, limiting a

(LIQUOR LAWS Pg. 13)

DiDomenico protects residents in day habilitation centers

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined the Massachusetts Senate to approve legislation aimed at protecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, by updating an existing protection law to close an unintended gap for day habilitation participants. An Act to update Nicky’s Law, S.165, strengthens protections for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities who participate in MassHealth contracted day habilitation programs and ensures that participants in day habilitation programs are afforded the same safeguards from abuse as individuals in other care settings.

“I believe we are judged by how we treat the most vulnerable individuals in society, and this bill takes a big step forward in protecting our neighbors with intellectual or developmental disabilities,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. “Expanding safeguards for day habilitation center residents will increase safety for our constituents and put their family’s minds at ease when taking them to these centers. I want to thank Senate President Spilka, Chair Rodrigues and Senator Moore for their unwavering efforts on this important issue.”

The legislation would ensure that the existing statewide regis-

(HABILITATION Pg. 5)

EDITORIAL

MAKE THE MOST OF THE LONG WEEKEND

The arrival of this year's long weekend means that the fall season is squarely upon us, the time of year that has special meaning for all of us in New England.

Although the weatherman (as of this writing) is forecasting a mixed weekend weather-wise, we urge as many of our readers as possible to partake of the simple pleasure of getting outdoors to enjoy the crisp, clean air and the autumn colors before the colder temperatures arrive.

A nice hike, whether along the shore of the Cape, or in the Berkshires or the mountains of northern New England -- or even as nearby as the Blue Hills in Milton -- provides an opportunity to enjoy the natural world, far away from the noise of our daily lives that will do wonders for our emotional and physical well-being.

One of our favorite things to do with our kids when they were young was to go apple-picking, which is in prime season at many farms that are a short drive from the city.

We've always viewed this weekend as the last chance to take a mental and physical break ahead of the freneticism of the upcoming holiday season --- which will be here before we know it.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity.

We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate.

Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

MALDEN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY RAISES FUNDS TO DEFEAT ALS



BY NICOLE DIANO

The Malden Catholic (MC) community continued its commitment to fighting Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehr's Disease, by fundraising for the annual Ride to Defeat ALS.

The issue is personal for many within the community, including Nicole Diano, who participates in the 40 or 50-mile annual bike ride. Diano's beloved grandfather, Charles Bent, succumbed to the disease, and ALS has also tragically impacted the MC community with the passing of alumni Christopher Snow '99 and Timothy Paquette '07, and Brother Joseph Comber, C.F.X., Ph.D.

For the past three years, Diano has participated in and fundraised for the event, which starts and finishes at the Longfellow Tennis and Health Club in Wayland, MA. This year, MC contributed significantly through an annual Dress Down Day, which raised \$2,192.50 for Team MC.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the total amount was presented to Ms. Hallie Cunningham, Manager of the Ride to Defeat ALS. The school thanked everyone who participated, stating that their collective efforts move them closer to the goal of defeating ALS.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION -
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF
A PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: Everett-Somerville - Mystic River Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge
Project File No. 612004

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design of the Mystic River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge in Everett and Somerville, MA.
WHEN: Tuesday October 21st, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed design for the Mystic River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing the Mystic River and connecting the path networks on the Somerville and Everett sides of the river. The bridge will connect the DCR Draw Seven Park to the Gateway Park trail and public boardwalk at the Encore Resort. The Mystic River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge will provide a vital missing link between the communities of Everett and Somerville, linking mixed use paths with local amenities including Draw Seven Park, Assembly Row and the Lower Broadway District. The bridge will provide a reliable and safe crossing alternative for bicycle users and pedestrians who wish to utilize the trail networks, access public transportation, and these

communities. Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612004. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted. This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats),

as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing. This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.
JONATHAN GULLIVER
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CHIEF ENGINEER

10/10/25, 10/17/25
EV, C, CT



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YMCA, Trinity Financial explore development of future Y location

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

YMCA of Greater Boston (YGB) President and CEO David Shapiro announced YGB has signed a Letter of Intent with Trinity Financial (Trinity) to explore the development of a new, state-of-the-art facility in Charlestown. The agreement signals the beginning of the next chapter of the Y in Charlestown as part of the Austin Street Lots Development led by Trinity. The 5-acre site is near Bunker Hill Community College, a mile away from its current Charlestown Y location in the now closed Constitution Inn. The overall project aims to create a mixed-use development with hundreds of residential units, playing fields, open space, and spaces for community use and early education. There are also plans to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to the site.

"This announcement is a reminder of the Y's deep commitment to the Charlestown community for the long term and ensuring we are part of evolving neighborhoods and increased accessibility and affordability for housing, connectivity in community, quality, early education, and health and wellness," said Shapiro. "This new facility will allow us to grow and offer even more services to our members in a modern and responsive facility. We look forward to working closely with our current members, neighbors, and partners to shape their Y in a way that reflects Charlestown's unique spirit and strengthens thriving and connection in the community for generations to come."

Regular operations and programming will continue at the Y's current location in the Charlestown Navy Yard. YGB has committed to continuing to invest in

the space with necessary upgrades and maintenance to ensure the Y can continue serving the community over the next several years. Construction of the new Charlestown Y at Austin Street Lots Development is expected to begin in 2029.

"We look forward to working in partnership with the YMCA and the city to realize the collective vision for the site. We believe the combination of high-quality housing and community-oriented recreational programming contributes to a stronger and healthier neighborhood. Our team is truly excited about this new potential facility and working with the YMCA," said Abby Goldenfarb, Senior Vice President at Trinity, and a resident of the Charlestown neighborhood.

The Charlestown Y, one of 13 centers across Greater Boston, was opened more than 50 years

ago as an Armed Services YMCA. As military operations sunset, the Y operated the Constitution Inn, a full-service hotel, in the same building as the Charlestown Y. That property is being sold and YGB plans to invest proceeds of the sale to support the construction and relocation of the Charlestown Y.

The Charlestown Y currently serves more than 1,100 members 7-days a week.

The YMCA of Greater Boston, one of Massachusetts leading nonprofits and America's first Y, is dedicated to enhancing the mind, body, and spirit of individuals and families in our communities. For more than 170 years, the Y has been developing skills and emotional well-being through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse populations, preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities.

We provide welcoming, belonging, and opportunity for all. For more information visit Home - YMCA of Greater Boston (ymcaboston.org), or follow us on Facebook, and Instagram.

Trinity Financial is a community-driven, diverse real estate development firm with a proven-track record of redeveloping complex urban sites from New York to Greater Boston. The work spans half a dozen residential and commercial specialties, from multi-family housing to transit-oriented development. Over the past 38 years, Trinity has developed more than \$3 billion in innovative development, delivering high quality, sustainable, multi-family housing, ranging from affordable to luxury - all with a commitment to people and place. For more information about Trinity Financial, please visit www.trinityfinancial.com.

Wu announces Clare Kelly as her next Chief of Staff

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced Clare Kelly as her next Chief of Staff starting November 17. Kelly currently serves as the Director of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) for Mayor Michelle Wu. Kelly will be stepping into her new role replacing current Chief of Staff Tiffany Chu, who has served the City of Boston in this role since February 2022. Over the next month, Chu and Kelly will be working closely together as she begins transitioning into the role.

"I am so grateful to Chief Tiffany Chu for her leadership, hard work, and dedication over this term, helping to build a strong culture of collaboration and entrepreneurship in city government to address our most pressing issues," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am delighted to welcome Clare Kelly as our new Chief of Staff for the City of Boston. Clare has been a key leader in our administration over the last four years, and her decades of service in government and community will help steer our continued work to make Boston a home for everyone."

Kelly will work alongside Mayor Wu and lead the Mayor's Cabinet in coordinating and delivering results. She will be responsible for overseeing daily operations and long-term initiatives of the Mayor's Office, and building collaboration between City departments, community members and local organizations outside City Hall, and other levels of government.



Clare Kelly.

"I'm honored to step into the role of Chief of Staff to continue supporting Mayor Michelle Wu's vision to make Boston a home for everyone," said incoming Chief Clare Kelly. "Tiffany Chu has been an incredible leader over the past four years and I'm grateful for everything she has taught me and brought to our administration."

Kelly has served as the Wu administration's Director of Intergovernmental Relations since January 2022 and brings a track record of twenty years of leadership and advocacy in Massachusetts. She worked for Governor Deval Patrick from 2005 until 2011, when she became the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Before joining the Wu administration in January of 2022, Kelly served as Executive Director of the Environmental League of MA Action Fund. She lives in Jamaica Plain with her

husband Zach and son Malcolm and twins, Eliza and Zoe.

"Serving as Chief of Staff has been the most rewarding challenge of my life - it's been an honor and privilege to work alongside the Mayor, our team, and our residents to make city government more creative, connected, and compassionate," said Chief Tiffany Chu. "I'm proud of all that we've accomplished together in this first term, and I couldn't be

more excited to hand the baton to Clare Kelly, whose leadership and experience will continue driving bold, meaningful progress for Boston."

During her tenure as Chief of Staff, Chu focused on translating Mayor Wu's vision into action - mobilizing teams across city government to deliver tangible results for Boston residents. She helped the Mayor build a strong leadership team, including hiring

15 Cabinet Chiefs, and operationalized the Mayor's priorities, particularly across climate, planning, transportation, arts and culture, community safety, and more. Chu is most proud of bringing an entrepreneurial mindset and design expertise to City Hall - championing new ways to cut red tape and solve long-standing issues, from prioritizing new systems for 311

(KELLY Pg. 13)



City of Boston
Planning
Department

In-Person Public Meeting

OCT
8

5:00 PM
-
7:30 PM

COASTAL RESILIENCE STUDY: NAVY YARD & LITTLE MYSTIC

LOCATION:

Charlestown YMCA,
150 3rd Ave, Charlestown, MA 02129

Website:
bosplans.org/
FloodResiliencePlanning

Please join the City of Boston Planning Department for a public open house style workshop to explore different flood resilience design strategies for the Charlestown Navy Yard and the Little Mystic Channel.

This project aims to reduce risks from coastal flooding and rising sea levels while ensuring equitable waterfront access for all.

Drop in anytime during the session to learn about the project and share your feedback! Light refreshments will be served throughout the event.

PROJECT PROPONENT:
City of Boston Planning
Department

Mail to:
Delaney Morris
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
617-918-4226
delaney.morris@boston.gov

Shining a light on nurses: Supporting education, innovation, and global collaboration

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Nora Blake was dropping her son off for his Freshman year of college when she noticed that something was wrong. She couldn't stand without assistance, and she was beyond tired. A joyous day turned into misery as she found out that same week, she was diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer. Everything had moved so fast as she was terrified and overwhelmed. She had bloodwork, scans, and test results. She was trying to make sense of what was happening as she didn't know what to expect. Until Mass General's Gynecological Oncology's team stepped up to the plate. The Gynecological Oncology nursing teams at MGH across the inpatient, outpatient, and the infusion clinic held Nora together. They led her forward, answered her questions again and again until she truly could understand what was happening. They gave Nora hope and told her that she could win, and that she would beat cancer and ring that bell! They gave her the motivation to keep fighting every day no matter how hard it was. That is when Nora knew she wanted to Fund GO for MGH.

Go for MGH

Nora has created a fundraiser to raise funds to benefit and recognize the exceptional nursing staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital's Center for Gynecology Oncology by raising funds to benefit and recognize the nursing staff



Nora Blake.

of the Center as well as supporting the Center's Gynecological Center Research and Educational Efforts. She says "These nurses don't just provide care. They provide strength." This event will be honoring 4 nurses at the GO for MGH Shining Stars Gala on Thursday October 23rd at 6:00 P.M. at the Bunker Hill Knights of Columbus. Single tickets are \$125.00, and every ticket purchased, and every donation made directly supports the extraordinary nurses on the frontlines of gynecologic oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The GO for MGH Shining Stars Gala is more than a celebration—it's a movement of hope, resilience, and community. These dedicated professionals are at the heart of patient care. Day after day, they walk beside women

facing some of the most difficult battles of their lives, providing not only expert medical care but also compassion, strength, and unwavering support.

Why This Fundraiser Matters

Funds raised through the gala will be utilized to expand educational opportunities for our gynecologic oncology nurses. These opportunities include advanced training, leadership development, and conference participation—empowering nurses to share best practices and partner with cancer centers around the world.

By fostering international collaboration, we are equipping MGH nurses with cutting-edge knowledge and innovative strategies. This means better care, more compassionate approaches, and

new pathways of hope for patients and families here at home.

Beyond Education: Celebrating the Caregivers

In addition to professional development, proceeds will also support day-to-day morale boosters—from coffee and small treats to tokens of appreciation that celebrate our nurses' tireless efforts. These gestures may seem simple, but they bring comfort to the comforters, reminding nurses that their work is seen, valued, and deeply appreciated.

Together, We Shine

When you support this fundraiser, you're not just giving to an event—you are:

- Investing in the education of nurses.
- Strengthening global cancer

care partnerships.

- Providing everyday comforts that lift spirits and show gratitude.

- Empowering women and families facing gynecologic cancers.

Your generosity creates a ripple effect that extends far beyond one evening. It builds a future where every nurse has the tools, training, and encouragement to provide the very best care.

How You Can Help

Join us on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the Bunker Hill Knights of Columbus in Charlestown for a night of inspiration, community, and impact. Together, we can ensure our nurses continue to shine as true Shining Stars for every woman in their care.

Crystal Galvin selected for fellowship bringing together Massachusetts early childhood leaders

Crystal Galvin, Director of Community Services at the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center will spend the coming year developing her skills as a leader in early childhood policy by participating in the inaugural Fellowship for Impact in Early Childhood Policy (FFI), launched by the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy.

This new program is designed to bring together leaders from across the early childhood field, including early education and care providers, health and social service professionals, nonprofit leaders, and state officials, who are eager to strengthen systems that serve children and families. Fellows will deepen their understanding of policy, expand their leadership skills, and collaborate with peers to propose ideas that improve coordination and outcomes for children from birth through age five.

Throughout the year, fellows will participate in a combination of site visits, policy workshops, and leadership development sessions. They will explore the early childhood landscape across four core systems—health and well-being, family and caregiver support, education and care, and community engagement—while also learning how state and federal policy processes shape the experiences of young children and families. Fellows will meet with policymakers on Beacon Hill, participate in a Federal Policy Retreat in Washington, D.C., and conclude the year by presenting their own policy proposals.

"This fellowship offers pro-



Crystal Galvin, Director of Community Services at the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center.

professionals a unique opportunity to connect with early childhood peers and cross-sector policy leaders, fostering collaborations that continue long after the program. By strengthening their leadership skills and deepening their policy knowledge, fellows are equipped to shape stronger, more equitable systems for children and families," said Dr. Chad d'Entremont, Executive Director of the Rennie Center.

Crystal joins FFI as Director of Community Services at the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, where she provides strategic leadership for family engagement, early education, and community partnership initiatives that strengthen the fabric of Charlestown and surrounding neighborhoods. An experienced nonprofit leader, she is deeply committed to advancing equitable systems that uplift children and empower families. Crystal oversees the

Charlestown Family Engagement Network (CFEN), a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and leads programs that expand access to early learning, foster parent leadership, and ensure culturally responsive support for all families. She will be part of a founding cohort of 20 fellows representing a wide range of early childhood roles and experiences.

"By the end of the program, fellows are well-prepared to leverage their knowledge, skills, and networks in order to advance as policy leaders and promote a stronger system of support for young children and their families," said Dr. d'Entremont.

The Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy's mission is to improve public education through well-informed decision-making based on deep knowledge and evidence of effective policymaking and practice. As Massachusetts' preeminent voice in public education reform, we create open spaces for educators and policymakers to consider evidence, discuss cutting-edge issues, and develop new approaches to advance student learning and achievement. Through our staunch commitment to independent, non-partisan research and constructive conversations, we work to promote an education system that provides every child with the opportunity to be successful in school and in life. For more information, please visit www.renniecenter.org.

Harvest on Vine Food Pantry Fundraiser

Thursday, October 16th 6-9 pm

Tradesman Restaurant
50 Hood Park Drive, Charlestown

Join us for an evening of fun while supporting your community. Tickets and details:



Harvest on Vine Food Pantry

The heart of the
Charlestown Catholic Collatorative

The community needs your support more than ever

stmaryscatherine.org/harvest-on-vine



NEW HEALTH CHARLESTOWN ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



NEW Health Charlestown's Olga McLellan, FNP, Jessica Planamento, DNP, FNP-C and Sandra Leyan-Castillo, FNP.

NEW Health Charlestown is proud to announce that our Family Medicine practice is now accepting new patients! Whether you're seeking care for yourself or your entire family, our dedicated team of Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs) is here to provide compassionate, high-quality care—right in the heart of Charlestown.

At NEW Health, everyone is welcome. We proudly serve patients regardless of insurance status, and we're committed to making healthcare accessible to all.

We're especially excited to introduce three exceptional FNPs who bring diverse experience, cultural insight, and a shared passion for community health:

Olga McLellan, FNP Fluent in Spanish and deeply rooted in primary care, Olga brings over 20 years of experience to our team. Practicing as an FNP since 2020,

she focuses on preventive medicine and chronic disease management, empowering families to lead healthier lives.

Jessica Planamento, DNP, FNP-C Jessica's expertise spans HIV care, infectious disease, sexual and women's health, and adolescent medicine. Her patient-centered approach and innovative mindset make her a trusted advocate for improving health outcomes across generations.

Sandra Leyan-Castillo, FNP Originally from Chile, Sandra began her career in cardiothoracic surgery before earning her FNP degree from Boston College. Inter-

nationally recognized for her bone health research, she offers culturally sensitive care—especially for Charlestown's Spanish-speaking community.

With this talented trio, NEW Health Charlestown's Family Medicine department is more equipped than ever to meet the evolving needs of our neighborhood. We invite you to meet our providers and establish primary care that's close to home and centered around you.

To schedule an appointment, call (857) 238-1100 or visit www.newhealthcenter.org.

HABILITATION *(from pg. 1)*

try that prevents individuals with substantiated abuse allegations from being hired in care positions would include day habilitation programs contracted by MassHealth. This bill now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Maura Sullivan, CEO of The Arc of Massachusetts

"The Arc of Massachusetts extends its immense gratitude to the Massachusetts Senate for their unanimous passage of An Act to update Nicky's Law to protect individuals with disabilities in MassHealth day habilitation programs. This is a huge step forward and a critical measure that will expand the Abuser Registry to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. We are incredibly grateful to our bill's dedicated Senate sponsor, Senator Michael Moore, and to Senate Ways and Means Chairman Michael Rodrigues and the Senate President Karen Spilka. This bill has been a top priority for The Arc for several years. This amendment strengthens the registry and closes a critical loophole to ensure the safety and well-being of people

with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are thrilled to see this bill move to the next stage and remain committed to ensuring its final passage into law."

Nancy A. Alterio, Executive Director of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission

"The DPPC Abuser Registry has proven highly effective in preventing abusers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities from continuing to serve this vulnerable population. Unfortunately, an unintended consequence of a funding change for day habilitation clients removed these programs from purview of the Abuser Registry. The passage of this bill in the Senate marks an important step to reincorporate day habilitation centers into the Abuser Registry as initially intended by Nicky and Dana's Law. The DPPC appreciates the work of Senator Moore in sponsoring this measure, the advocacy of The Arc of Massachusetts, and the support of the Senate and its leadership to advance this bill and promote the protection of adults with disabilities."



Good Shepherd School is a non-profit Catholic Preschool serving children from 20 months to 4 years old in the Charlestown Community. We prepare our students for a life of joy, by growing in the love of Jesus.

Open House

November 19 6-7pm

We have current openings for children that are 20-26 months in our Tuesday/Thursday morning classroom, applications are available on our website, please reach out with any questions or interest.

For more information contact

Jessica Briley, Director@gsscharlestown.org

The Good Shepherd School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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Fire chiefs unite at 2025 NFPA forum to champion strategies, defend standards, and confront worldwide wildfire threats

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Fire chiefs from Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States convened at NFPA headquarters in Quincy, Massachusetts, for the annual Urban Fire Forum (UFF). Hosted by the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), the 2025 gathering advanced global collaboration and tackled the most urgent and complex challenges confronting today's fire and emergency services.

Participants tackled a broad agenda, from wildfire-driven urban conflagrations and lithium-ion battery hazards to data-driven emergency planning, national mutual aid, and the evolving role of fire service leadership in shaping policy and public safety.

Following these discussions, the chiefs formally endorsed five position papers that now serve as official UFF-Metropolitan Fire Chiefs (Metro Chiefs) position statements, reflecting the collective guidance of some of the world's largest metropolitan fire departments. These position papers provide a framework for improving firefighter safety, advancing national coordination, and strengthening leadership in the face of emerging threats. The five position papers include:

- Combating the Assault on Codes and Standards – Fire Service Leadership Toolkit
- National Fire Apparatus Specification

- Support for Advancing National Fire and Emergency Services Capabilities Through Strategic Leadership and Unified Advocacy

- Statement in Support of Reauthorization of FirstNet
- Confronting the Risk of Wildfire-Initiated Urban Conflagrations

In addition to these position papers, the Forum announced a sixth endorsed deliverable, an informational bulletin titled, Enhanced Tactical Considerations for Fighting Lithium-Ion Battery Electric Vehicle (EV) Fires. This bulletin will be released in conjunction with the Fire Protection Research Foundation's upcoming research report, providing critical guidance for departments facing this rapidly emerging hazard.

Download the 2025 Urban Fire Forum documents.

NFPA is proud of its longstanding commitment to supporting fire departments of all sizes and types across the globe," said NFPA President and CEO Jim Pauley. "Through initiatives like the Urban Fire Forum and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, we bring together leaders to address today's fire and life safety challenges. The insights and resources generated from these collaborations are designed to benefit not only large metropolitan departments but also smaller and rural organizations that may face their own unique challenges. Our goal is to ensure that every fire service—regardless of size or capacity—has access to the guidance needed to protect

their communities effectively.

The 2025 UFF featured several distinguished guests who shared updates and global perspectives on fire and emergency services:

- Jim Pauley, President & CEO, National Fire Protection Association

- Donna Black, Acting Administrator, United States Fire Administration (USFA)

- Commissioner Darren Klemm, President, AFAC National Council for Fire and Emergency Services (Australia)

- CFO Marco Antonio Sanchez Guerrero, President, Mexican Fire Chiefs Association

- CFO Stephan Wevers, President, Federation of European Fire Officers (FEU)

- Chief Inspector Peter Holland, UK Government

- CFO Milan Dubravac, President, CTIF – International Fire & Rescue Services

These international leaders emphasized the vital role of global collaboration in confronting shared challenges, from large-scale disasters to emerging threats that impact firefighter safety.

"Today's fire and emergency services face challenges that reach far beyond traditional response," said Otto Drozd III, Executive Secretary of the Metro Chiefs and UFF facilitator. "The position papers endorsed this year focus on strengthening leadership, advancing national coordination, standardizing apparatus, and addressing emerging threats such as wildfire-driven urban conflagrations and lithium-ion battery hazards. These deliverables provide critical guidance for departments navigating an increasingly complex environment and highlight the need for collaboration across all levels of government and the private sector."

The officers of the Metro Chiefs Executive Board make up the core group of the UFF. These chiefs are joined by a select group of at-large Metro Chiefs. This year's participating chiefs are:

- Chief Keith Bryant, Metro Senior Member, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Oklahoma City, OK

- Commissioner Paul Burke, Boston Fire Department, Boston, MA

- Chief John Butler, Metro Vice President, Fairfax County Fire and

Rescue Department, Fairfax, VA

- Chief Mary Cameli, Mesa Fire/Medical Department, Mesa, AZ

- Chief Steve Dongworth, Metro Treasurer, Calgary Fire Department, Calgary, Canada

- Chief Mike Duran, Phoenix Fire Department, Phoenix, AZ

- Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago, IL

- Chief Patrick Kennedy, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, West Palm Beach, FL

- Chief Richard Liebmann, Montreal Fire Department, Montreal, Canada

- Chief Ernest Malone, Metro President, Indianapolis Fire Department, Indianapolis, IN

- Chief Anthony Marrone, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles, CA

- Chief Dan Munsey, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, San Bernardino, CA

- Chief Randy Royal, Colorado Springs Fire Department, Colorado Springs, CO

- Chief Chuck Ryan, Metro Treasurer, Tucson Fire Department, AZ

- Chief Douglas Schrage, Anchorage Fire Department, Anchorage, AK

- Commissioner Jeffery Thompson, Philadelphia Fire Department, Philadelphia, PA

In addition to the chiefs listed above, event presentations were made by the following NFPA staff members and others:

- Dr. Jeff Burgess, Professor and Director, Center for Firefighter Health, University of Arizona

- Jeremy Criner, Regional Director, NFPA Field Operations

- Bob Duval, Regional Director, NFPA Field Operations

- Al Gillespie, President Emeritus, Public Safety Broadband Technology Association

- Aaron Guggenheim, Battalion Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department

- Shelby Hall, Fire Analysis Research Manager, NFPA Research

- Dr. Sara Jahnke, Director & Senior Scientist, National Development & Research Institutes

- Dr. Stephen Kerber, Vice President, Research Director, UL Fire Safety Research Institute

- Victoria Lutz, Senior Research

Project Manager, NFPA Research Foundation

- Karen Berard-Reed, Director, NFPA Community Risk Reduction

- Michael Spaziani, Manager, Fire Service Programs, FM

- Michele Steinberg, Director, NFPA Wildfire Division

- Dalan Zartman, COO, Energy Security Agency

The Urban Fire Forum brings together fire chiefs responsible for protecting some of the largest urban centers in the world, providing an opportunity for participants to learn from their peers and expert speakers, and helps NFPA stay abreast of current trends and needs in the fire service. As part of the overall mission of the UFF, chief officers share UFF deliverables and related information with fire officers from around the world.

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs (Metro) Association convenes fire chiefs from large metropolitan fire departments of more than 350 career firefighters to share information and focus on major issues affecting policy changes in the U.S. and abroad. Its members belong to IAFC and NFPA and are the fire chiefs of jurisdictions with more than 150,000 firefighters that safeguard nearly 150 million residents in the U.S. and Canada.

For more information, contact Metro Executive Secretary, Otto Drozd III.

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

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BPM celebrates 10 years of loving local at annual Harvest Party fundraiser

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Public Market (BPM) is proud to announce its annual Harvest Party will be held on Thursday, October 16, — This year is especially meaningful as BPM celebrate a major milestone: their 10th birthday! Since 2015, the BPM has been a home for local farmers, fishers, food producers, and artisans—a vibrant gathering place in the heart of downtown Boston. For a decade, the Market has been “loving local,” connecting the community to New England’s farmers, fishers, food producers, and artisans, and this milestone year’s Harvest Party will celebrate that legacy while fueling the mission for the years ahead.

Proceeds benefit the Market’s Community Engagement Fund, which supports educational programming, small business development, and community partnerships.

The evening features two expe-

riences:

- **Dinner:** An intimate buffet in the Entrepreneurship Tent powered by Citizens, across from The Rose Kennedy Greenway, with the best in local food and drink. Dinner guests enjoy an exclusive open bar all evening and early access to the Bash. Tickets: \$500.

- **Bash:** A lively walk-around tasting event with bites from Market vendors, craft beer and cocktails, birthday-themed activities, live music and dancing, silent auction prizes, and photo ops with the “Official Pumpkins of Boston.” Tickets: \$50, including one beverage.

Tickets are now available on Eventbrite.

“Each year, our community comes together for the Harvest Party—the Boston Public Market’s cornerstone fundraising event that powers our Market on a Mission. Thanks to this support, we’re able to subsidize rent for local entrepreneurs, offer community pro-

gramming, develop educational initiatives, foster partnerships, and so much more. The Harvest Party is more than just a great night out — it’s a celebration of our community and a chance to ensure the Boston Public Market continues to thrive for the next decade,” said Cheryl Cronin, CEO of the Boston Public Market.

Initial sponsors for the Harvest Party include Citizens, Boston.com and The Boston Globe, Cummings Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Edible Boston, and Yankee Magazine, with more to come.

The Boston Public Market Association is a “Market on a Mission” to nurture local entrepreneurs, educate visitors on the importance of a resilient and equitable food system, celebrate the bounty of all of New England, and cultivate a diverse community around food. Proceeds from the event enable the non-profit to provide opportunities such as:



COURTESY PHOTO

A scene from last year's event.

- Subsidize rent for local food entrepreneurs, especially diverse business owners facing barriers to entry.
- Expand educational programs

in the Market and throughout the community.

- Support the Entrepreneurship Forum & Incubator Program powered by Citizens, pro

BPM KICKS OFF 10TH ANNUAL HARVEST PARTY WITH ARRIVAL OF BOSTON'S OFFICIAL PUMPKIN



On Tuesday, October 14 at 12:00 p.m., the Boston Public Market (BPM) will launch its 10th anniversary year in grand style with the arrival of the Official Pumpkins of Boston — giant gourds delivered by forklift from Market vendor Red Apple Farm. This beloved annual tradition marks the start of BPM’s annual Harvest Party, the Market’s signature fundraising event, taking place on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Happy 10th BPM! This year’s colossal pumpkins come from the fields of Art Kazenski of Irving, Massachusetts, and are generously donated by Boston Public Market vendor Red Apple Farm of Phillipston, Massachusetts. Each year, the arrival of these pumpkins delights visitors of all ages and sets the stage for the Market’s most festive season. Everyone is invited to gather on the plaza to watch the live unveiling and unloading of Boston’s official pumpkins, a photo-worthy moment that has become a Boston fall tradition. Shown is a previous year’s pumpkin.

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STOVE FACTORY GALLERY PRESENTS 'WHAT IS HOME' EXHIBITION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Ben Lipiwcki and Jenni Hathaway look at *The Road Home* by Dara Pannebaker.

What Is Home is the current exhibition at the Stove Factory Gallery. It's a collection of art that explores the universal yet unique connections the concept of home has for each of us.



Turning a corporal tunnel injury into a creative opportunity, artist Sudakshina Bhattacharya shows off her cast she decorated.



Artist David Cabot and Mimi LaPoint look at work by Gloria de Menezes Martins.



Margaret Burns with her piece graphite clear gesso dry pigments on canvas *Roof Over My Head*, inspired by a Winter walk along the river.



Robert Sack and Regina Ashodian look at *Silent Kiss* by Wyatt Freed.



Margaret Burns with Robin Inman talking about her work.



Terra-cotta sculpture titled *Saguaro-Desert Home* by Tina Busa.



Artist Christine Mercedes-Jowers discusses her acrylic painting *Good Mahnin, Brother And The Twins Venture Out For Town*.



The curator of What Is Home, Pat McSweeney, with her piece *In My Mother's Garden* utilizing Joomchi, a Korean folding technique for mulberry paper.



Visitors to the Stove Factory Gallery enjoyed snacks and conversation in the lobby.

STOVE FACTORY GALLERY PRESENTS 'WHAT IS HOME' EXHIBITION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Ann Giauque and Alin Botoman enjoy the show.



Visitors to the Stove Factory Gallery take in the diverse range of artwork.



Artist Lisa Nelson talks to Christine Mercedes-Jowers about her watercolor piece from her Western Ave Studios Speed: The Canals Of Lowell.



Living Inside by Laura Stern.



Visitors to the Stove Factory Gallery take in the diverse range of artwork.



Visitors to the Stove Factory Gallery take in the diverse range of artwork.



Back Bay Dreaming by Jan Shapiro



Home/Earth by Gloria de Menezes Martins.



Acrylic painting by Sudakshina Bhattacharya .



Artist Sudakshina Bhattacharya talks about her work to Gallery visitors.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

With winter weather and increased gas usage on the horizon, Eversource previews bill changes along with programs available to help customers

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

As temperatures begin to cool and winter weather approaches, natural gas customers will soon be turning on their heating systems, causing increased usage that will translate into larger bills for gas customers during the winter. Regular rate changes for natural gas customers are scheduled to take place on November 1 as the region transitions from the off-peak summer gas season to the peak winter gas season. This year, Eversource natural gas customers will also notice a redesign of their bill format – reflecting direct feedback from customers and communities – making the bill easier to read and understand.

The new user-friendly bill layout will break down a customer's total bill into three categories – instead of the current two – to provide the bill in clearer language for customers to gain a better understanding of their charges and the costs associated with those charges. Currently, customers see charges in only two categories, which are "Supply" and "Delivery," with "Supply" referring solely to the cost of natural gas and "Delivery" referring to everything else. Going forward, "Delivery" will now be clearly displayed as two separate components: "Maintenance and Infrastructure Investment" and "Public Benefits." Maintenance and Infrastructure Investment are the costs necessary to ensure customers can safely and reliably heat their homes, including equipment, materials, and vehicles, as well as the workers who maintain, repair, and upgrade the system, especially during the cold peak days when customers need it most. Public Benefits are the costs of programs, including energy efficiency and payment assistance, that provide value to customers and the state by helping reduce energy usage and enabling customers to better manage their monthly bills, among other benefits. The rede-

sign also follows direction from the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) earlier this year to include a line item for energy efficiency on bills to increase transparency. Eversource will be providing additional information about the bill redesign directly to customers in the coming weeks.

"We work every day to ensure that our customers can safely and reliably heat their home during the winter, have hot water and cook their food throughout the year," said Eversource President of Gas Distribution Kevin Kelley. "We take this responsibility very seriously, and it's critical that we are transparent with our customers about this work and everything else that makes up their total bill. We heard our customers loud and clear when they said their bills needed to be easier to understand, and this bill redesign improves transparency – helping people better understand exactly what they're paying for with the various rates included in their bills."

This week, the energy company filed its cost of gas adjustment – or supply rate – with the DPU for the peak season, one of several rates that typically change at the beginning of November for gas customers. The supply rate changes every six months based on the regional wholesale market price of natural gas, is passed through to customers without any markup or profit to Eversource, and typically increases during the peak season due to higher demand driving up the market cost of supply. In addition, adjustments will also be taking place to rates that reflect necessary maintenance and investment to the natural gas system to provide safe and reliable service year-round for the hundreds of thousands of customers relying on natural gas to heat their homes, water and cook their food, as well as valuable public benefits programs that customers rely on and use. While rates will be increasing in total compared to last peak

season, Eversource estimates that total customer bills will be slightly less or similar to last winter's if the weather and usage return to 10-year historic averages.

"We work diligently to keep the maintenance and infrastructure costs we can control as low as possible, but the cost of this work is not optional – because heating our homes during a New England winter isn't a choice," Kelley continued. "Last winter was the coldest we've seen in recent years, driving significantly increased gas usage that – when coupled with the regular Nov. 1 peak season rate adjustments – led to higher-than-normal bills and a renewed focus on affordability in Massachusetts. While we all hope for a milder season, the weather is not something any of us can control or predict, and we're laser-focused on efficiently managing our maintenance and infrastructure costs while maintaining reliability, providing transparent information to customers, and connecting them with energy efficiency and financial assistance programs that can help anyone who may be struggling with their bill."

Based on the filings that have been submitted to the DPU, beginning Nov. 1, an NSTAR customer using 126 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$6.22 or approximately 2% in the supply portion of their bill, a total bill increase of \$34.47 or approximately 11% within maintenance and infrastructure investment, and a total bill increase of \$0.57 or approximately 0% in public benefits. Compared to the average peak season rates for last winter, NSTAR customers using 126 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$41.26 or approximately 13%. Separately, EGMA customers using 127 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$14.87 or approximately 5% in the supply portion of their bill, a total bill increase of \$26.65 or approximately 9% within maintenance and infrastructure investment, and a total bill increase of \$7.02 or approximately 2% in public benefits. Compared to the average peak season rates for last winter, EGMA customers using 127 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$48.54 or approximately 17%.

How an individual customer's bill will be affected ultimately depends on their usage and weath-

er conditions. Bill impacts above are based on the average usage during a normal winter, which is 126 therms for NSTAR and 127 therms for EGMA. Due to the much colder temperatures last winter, customer usage increased significantly, to an average of 143 therms for NSTAR and 168 therms for EGMA. This increase in usage ultimately accounted for approximately 40% of the bill increases that all customers saw last winter.

Help is available for customers who need it.

"We know that any rate increase can be difficult for our customers, which is why we're encouraging them to prepare before the heating season begins by taking advantage of the programs and plans we have available – including Budget Billing, which can smooth out the spikes that usage and rate changes can have on a bill to keep your monthly bill more predictable, and energy efficiency programs like weatherization to reduce usage," Kelley continued.

Eversource encourages customers to enroll in one of its payment plans or assistance programs if they need help with their energy bill by calling 866-861-6225 (NSTAR) or 800-688-6160 (EGMA), or online.

- Budget Billing Plans are also available and can help customers avoid seasonal spikes on their energy bill by paying a level amount each month based on their average annual usage.

- A Discount Rate is available to customers receiving public assistance benefits and have a household income at or below 60% of the state median income. These customers may be eligible for a 25% discount on their monthly natural gas bill.

- The New Start Program for NSTAR customers and the Residential Arrearage Management Program (RAMP) for EGMA customers can help income-eligible customers reduce or eliminate their outstanding balance in as little as 12 months when they make on-time monthly payments. Eversource will eliminate or forgive a portion of the total balance enrolled in the program – reducing the amount owed each month.

- Flexible Payment Plans are available to all customers, regardless of income, to pay their past-due balance over a period of time.
- The Home Energy Assistance

Program (HEAP) is a free resource offered by the state to help eligible homeowners and renters pay a portion of their winter heating bills. Customers can apply online.

- The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund provides energy assistance to residents in temporary crisis who do not qualify for state and federal assistance programs. Find your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center to apply.

- Beginning on Nov. 1, Eversource electric customers who use a heat pump to heat all or part of their home can take advantage of a seasonal Heat Pump Rate, which is a new, reduced distribution and transmission rate during the winter months (Nov. 1 to April 30) to help save on winter electric bills.

Eversource is also continuing to schedule in-person bill assistance events across the state, which are also posted online, along with additional information about energy efficiency and assistance programs.

Eversource (NYSE: ES), celebrated as a national leader for its corporate citizenship, is recognized as the #1 U.S. utility on TIME's List of World's Best Companies for 2024. Eversource transmits and delivers electricity and natural gas and supplies water to 2.2 million customers throughout Massachusetts, including approximately 1.58 million electric customers in 159 communities, 647,000 gas customers in 124 communities, and 12,000 water customers in five communities. Eversource harnesses the commitment of more than 10,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and water with superior customer service. The #1 Energy Efficiency Provider in the Nation, the company is empowering a clean energy future in the Northeast, with nationally recognized energy efficiency solutions and successful programs to integrate new clean energy resources like a first-in-the-nation networked geothermal pilot project, solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles and battery storage, into the electric system. For more information, please visit eversource.com, and follow us on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. For more information on our water services, visit aquarionwater.com.



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FBI Boston announces “Operation Summer Heat” results

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation made 404 arrests over the past three months as part of “Operation Summer Heat,” the FBI’s nation-wide effort to crush violent crime.

FBI Boston ranked #3 among the FBI’s field offices in total arrests during this nationwide operation.

“Operation Summer Heat is a snapshot of what our agents, task force officers, and analysts do daily to target, apprehend, and bring to justice the most dangerous, violent criminals wreaking havoc in our communities,” said Ted E. Docks, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Boston Division. “This record-setting operation removed gang members, drug traffickers, child predators, and bank robbers from our streets. We could not have done this without the strong partnerships we have with our state and local law enforcement agencies. Rest assured, while summer is behind us, your FBI is not letting up.”

Between June 24 and September 20, all FBI field offices participat-



ed in the multi-pronged offensive to crush violent crime. The FBI surged resources alongside state and local partners, executing federal warrants on violent criminals and fugitives, dismantling violent gangs, identifying and rescuing child victims, and resolving violent crime cases in Indian Country.

Nationally, “Operation Summer Heat” led to 8,629 arrests, with more than 6,500 falling under the FBI’s Violent Crime and Gang program. Additional-

ly, agents, task force officers, and intelligence analysts investigating violent crimes against children identified or located 1,053 child victims. These operations also led to the seizure of 2,281 weapons, 44,569 kilograms of cocaine, and 421 kilograms of fentanyl, which is enough to kill 50 million Americans.

Locally, FBI Boston, which includes all of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, made 404 arrests under the

Summer Heat initiative, 129 seizures of deadly drugs, recovered 38 weapons, and identified/located 27 children.

Among the highlights:

FBI Boston’s Western Massachusetts Gang Task Force, along with the Drug Enforcement Administration’s New England Field Office, the Massachusetts State Police and the Holyoke and Chicopee Police Departments targeted neighborhood-based gangs operating in Holyoke and open-air drug dealing at locations where shootings have occurred. As a result, 52 arrests were made this summer, and illegal firearms and drugs were seized, including heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and crack cocaine.

The FBI’s Southern Maine Gang Task Force and its partners made 35 arrests, executed 37 searches, and seized multiple firearms and narcotics, including 4.5 kilos of cocaine, 713 grams of fentanyl, 478 grams of methamphetamine, and 60 grams of crack cocaine.

An FBI Boston, DEA New England, United States Postal Inspection Service and Massachu-

setts State Police investigation, with assistance from the Revere, Boston and Worcester Police Departments, led to the arrests of two Massachusetts men and the seizure of approximately 73 kilos of cocaine worth an estimated street value of over \$1 million.

An FBI Major Offender Task Force in New Hampshire led to the indictments of 12 individuals for allegedly conspiring to distribute methamphetamine, fentanyl, carfentanyl, and cocaine. The Task Force also arrested five others for allegedly conspiring to interfere with commerce by robbery of a business in Londonderry, New Hampshire.

The FBI’s Rhode Island Safe Streets Task Force and its partners arrested 17 gang members, fugitives, and drug traffickers. In one case, seven individuals were arrested on drug trafficking and firearms related charges, and large amounts of fentanyl pills, powder, cocaine, and seven firearms, to include an AR-15, two semi-automatic handguns, three handguns, and a Glock switch, were seized.

Eversource previews bill changes along with programs available to help customers

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(EVERSOURCE Pg. 15)

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CASA greets judges, community leaders, and supporters at open house

Boston Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) hosted judges, community leaders, and supporters at their new headquarters at 151 Merrimac Street, celebrating unprecedented growth while highlighting the urgent need for more advocates. The organization is currently serving 332 children—the most in its history—representing 20% year-over-year growth as part of an ambitious plan to serve 47% of eligible children by 2028.

Executive Director Nicole Stewart outlined Boston CASA's remarkable progress, noting this is the first year the organization has conducted three volunteer trainings, with 75 volunteers trained in the current fiscal year. "Three years ago, we launched this audacious, bold growth plan, and honestly, we didn't see how we were going to achieve it," Stewart said. "But step by step, here we are—serving more children than ever before while maintaining the quality advocacy that makes the difference."

The judicial system's strong support was evident with Suffolk County judges in attendance, including Terry Craven, Recall Judge and Former First Justice of Suffolk County Juvenile Court. Research shows that 92% of judges say CASAs improve long-term outcomes for children, 83% say CASAs help ensure children access critical services, and 80% say CASAs promote psychological well-being.

"CASAs are the secret ingredient in difficult cases," Craven said. "You are the eyes and ears in the court. Oftentimes we'll get a set of facts, and somewhere in between those roles are these canyons of facts, these dark canyons that we don't get to see. Because of you, we are able to make the best decision for that child in that moment."

The evening featured powerful testimony from El'Asia Williams, a member of Boston CASA's Youth Advisory Board, who shared her experience entering foster care at age eight. "Most of these kids are

coming out of really traumatic experiences, and not all of them are really taken out of that experience, but put into another traumatic experience," Williams said. "It's important to recognize that you're working with a tiny human being just like yourself [...] and we have the resources and things that we could be using to help these children."

Williams praised her CASA, Erin Margolius: "She really shows me that I have a voice, and I'm a human being as well, and I have feelings too, and that I'm really just trying to live life like everyone else."

Margolius, who has served as a CASA since 2017, emphasized the organization's commitment to long-term relationships. "This is an organization that allows relationships to flourish over years, if necessary. You don't have a term limit. You stay and you get the job done, and you help your child," Margolius said.

The Youth Advisory Board, now in its third year, represents Boston



COURTESY OF BOSTON CASA

Recall Judge and Former First Justice of Suffolk County Juvenile Court Terry Craven (right) speaks as Boston CASA Executive Director Nicole Stewart (left) listens during Wednesday's celebration of the organization's new headquarters and unprecedented growth.

CASA's commitment to centering youth voices in their work. Williams is preparing a presentation titled "Understanding the Whole Youth in the Foster Care System" for the organization's Youth Advisory Board forum on November 1 in Cambridge. The forum will amplify foster youth experiences and share their recommendations for creating a better system.

sory Board forum on November 1 in Cambridge. The forum will amplify foster youth experiences and share their recommendations for creating a better system.

Governor Healey proclaims October 5-11 as Fire Prevention Week

Governor Maura Healey has declared October 5-11, as Fire Prevention Week in Massachusetts, joining the nation's longest-running public health and safety observance and promoting this year's theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

"This year's Fire Prevention Week theme promotes the safe use, charging, and disposal of the lithium-ion batteries that power countless consumer devices in homes across the Commonwealth," Governor Healey wrote in a proclamation.

"Lithium-ion batteries can pack a large amount of power into a very small device," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "This means that damaged or defective

batteries can fail rapidly and violently. A lithium-ion battery fire can release sparks, flames, burning cells, and toxic, flammable gases. I want to thank Governor Healey for bringing attention to the steps we can all take to protect ourselves and our loved ones."

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme educates residents on buying, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries safely to prevent fires and explosions. The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services and the National Fire Protection Association, which coordinates Fire Prevention Week each year, offer these battery safety tips:

- When buying lithium-ion batteries or devices that use them, choose products that are listed by an independent testing laboratory.

Look for a certification mark from an independent lab such as UL or Intertek/ETL. This means the product meets important safety standards.

- Charge devices safely. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and use the cords and charging equipment that came with the product. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device, and unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

- Recycle batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in household trash or recycling bins. Batteries crushed or damaged in a compactor truck

or transfer station could start a fire that becomes difficult to control. Instead, recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Take them to a household hazardous waste collection event in your community or visit www.call2recycle.org for a recycling spot near you.

In late 2023, the Department of Fire Services launched a data collection tool to help officials track the extent of fires, explosions, and other lithium-ion battery incidents. This investigative checklist is used by the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit, and local fire investigators are encouraged to use it as well. While previous reporting through the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System suggested about 20 lithium-ion battery fires per year, the new tool identified that many in its first two months. About 135 lithium-ion battery fires were reported in Massachusetts last year, and even that number is believed to be a significant undercount.

DFS also held a lithium-ion battery symposium in 2023, bringing subject matter experts together with fire service leaders to discuss hazards, strategies, investigations, medical concerns, and other aspects of the lithium-ion battery issue that firefighters are confronting across the country and around the world.

You can learn more about lithium-ion battery safety at the Department of Fire Services' website.

You can learn more about lithium-ion battery safety at the Department of Fire Services' website.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times 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.

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Legislators, community partners to host 'Supper & Sealing' event

State Senator Lydia Edwards, State Senator Liz Miranda, and State Representative Chris Worrell have partnered with Big Hope, Codman Square CDC, North Suffolk Community Services, Greater Boston Legal Services, and more community partners in hosting a cost-free and judgment-free space for those who wish to seal their eviction records on Monday, Oct. 20 from 4:30 - 8 p.m.

This event will be held at 31

Erie St, Dorchester, MA.

This event comes after passage of the Affordable Homes Act (May 2025), which included Senator Edwards' bill to let tenants petition to seal certain eviction records. The new law aims to break down housing barriers for families who have faced eviction. This event will act as a free hub for the community to connect with local resources to get their eviction records and CORI sealed.

USS Constitution Museum names Draeger as President & CEO

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The USS Constitution Museum announced that, after a comprehensive national search, its Board of Trustees has unanimously appointed Jeff Draeger as the Museum's next President and Chief Executive Officer. Draeger brings a rare blend of museum leadership experience, a distinguished naval career, and operational expertise across nonprofit and corporate sectors. His commitment to service and learning aligns deeply with the Museum's mission and will serve visitors, partners, and the broader community.

Draeger joins the Museum from the Seattle Art Museum, where he served as Interim CEO following his tenure as Chief Operating Officer, overseeing a three-site institution with an annual budget of nearly \$40 million and a staff of approximately 350. He helped craft and implement a five-year strategic plan, advancing programs, exhibitions, and operations alongside major improvements to facilities and community engagement.

A distinguished graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Draeger served as Installation Commanding Officer, supporting six Navy sites across D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, leading a 350-member team that was recognized for "Installation Excellence" by Naval District Washington. He previously served as Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron 26, and as a congressional liaison and legislative advisor in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In the private sector, Draeger led facilities planning, construc-



Jeff Draeger, President & CEO, USS Constitution Museum (Charlestown, MA). Photo credit: Courtesy USS Constitution Museum.

tion, and operations at Blue Origin across four national sites, directing a 70-person team and annual capital and operating budgets exceeding \$120 million. He delivered a new 230,000-square-foot headquarters and implemented more standardized systems to scale.

Draeger holds an MS in Operations Research from The George Washington University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College.

"We are confident that Jeff's breadth of experience and thoughtful leadership will guide the Museum with strength and vision," said Dean H. Steeger, Board Chair, USS Constitution Museum. "His record of service and his focus on people, operations, and mission are exactly what this moment calls for."

Draeger began on Monday, October 6. The Museum looks forward to introducing him to the broader community in the coming weeks.

LIQUOR LAWS (from pg. 1)

major source of money and influence from Curley's allies. Historians say the decision reflected deep political and ethnic divisions that many people believe still shape Boston's liquor laws today.

For Kevin Flemming, president of the North End Neighborhood Council, the reform is long overdue. He said the restrictions were "really a ploy by the old Yankee legislators at the State House to control the Irish politicians in Boston."

The number of North End restaurants allowed to sell liquor could more than double under the new law, according to data published by the city. Currently, only 32 of 87 restaurants with alcohol licenses are allowed to sell spirits.

Flemming said the change could be a boom for businesses.

"Clearly they feel like they can increase their revenues by having full alcohol," he said. "So, I don't really see any downside in it because at least in the North End, everyone applying for these are pretty much established restaurants. No one's trying to open a nightclub or change their hours."

Testimony ran strongly in favor of allowing beer-and-wine license holders to convert to full alcohol service at a city hearing last month. Mimi Chan, co-owner of Dynasty Restaurant in Charlestown, told councilors the change would let her serve traditional Chinese spirits such as baijiu or rice wine, which are not permitted under her current license.

"It would allow a more authentic dining experience for our customers," she said.

City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune also voiced support for the new bill. "By creating opportunities for these businesses to grow," she said, "we're investing in the future of our neighborhoods - raising the bar for equity and opportunity."

The Boston Licensing Board is drafting regulations for converting beer-and-wine licenses into full alcohol licenses. The city will sponsor outreach events and workshops to help eligible restaurateurs understand the process. To qualify, business owners must file a petition with the licensing board and submit required forms to the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. The first wave of upgrades could be approved within months, city officials say, meaning some restaurants may begin serving cocktails by early 2026.

Applicants will be required to pay a \$200 state fee, \$100 to the licensing board and \$170 to cover the cost of publishing a legal notice in the local newspaper. The board will hold a public hearing, send

certified mail to neighbors, and evaluate whether there is a "public need" in the location. After local approval, the application will be forwarded to the state for final consideration.

The new law does not sanction an unlimited pool of new liquor licenses. Under Massachusetts law, the number of full-alcohol and beer-and-wine licenses Boston can issue is still capped by the state Legislature. The reform simply allows existing beer-and-wine license holders to apply to upgrade to full-alcohol service, creating a new class of nontransferable licenses that cannot be sold on the private market. Boston's older transferable licenses, established under the state quota decades ago, still exist and can be bought and sold with state approval. Supporters say the new non-transferable licenses make the system more equitable, even as the overall cap on liquor licenses remains in place.

Full liquor licenses have sold for \$200,000 to \$600,000 on Boston's private market in recent

years, according to city records. Beer-and-wine licenses have cost about \$50,000. By contrast, the new nontransferable licenses will only cost standard filing fees. The wide gap illustrates why many small business owners say they were locked out of the system until the recent changes.

Councilor Coletta said the new policy marks a turning point for a neighborhood long known for its restaurants but has been hemmed in by outdated liquor rules. "It's an opportunity for them to share in the economic prosperity," she said, adding that full licenses can help businesses stay competitive and expand their profit margins. "These are places centered around food and the culinary experience. This reform just lets them serve what their customers are already asking for."

Kiran Rajamani is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between Charlestown Patriot-Bridge and the Boston University Journalism program.

KELLY (from pg. 3)

and basic city services to launching Boston's multi-year zoning reform and permitting transformation efforts.

Inside City Hall, she built a powerful culture around people management and collaboration, introducing best practices such as creating the City's first People Operations Cabinet, focusing on professional development, and driving stronger hiring and recruiting processes to reduce vacancies

and sustain a high-performing workforce.

Before serving as Mayor Wu's first Chief of Staff, Chu was the former CEO & Co-founder of Remix, a software platform for transportation planning used by over 500 cities worldwide. After transitioning this role to Kelly in November, Chu plans to take a sabbatical and spend more time with her family.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

STANDINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/4/2025

	W	L	T
Duce 2	3	0	1
A -1 Convenience	3	0	1
Massport's Finest	2	1	1
Halligan Club	1	2	1
YMCA	0	3	1
McCarthy Bros	0	3	1

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR 10/4/2025

A-1 Convenience - Liam Moreno, Finn Doucette
Duce2 - Brody Burke, Graham Kinneen
Halligan Club - Luke Marcella, Brody Lawton.
Massport's Finest - Carli Alexandre, Jack Lapage.
McCarthy's Bros.- Jack O'Brien, Matty Masucci.
YMCA - Quentin Jones, Sonny Toboni.

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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.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Fritter away meal planning



Clam Fritters, also known as “Clam Cakes” or “Sinkers” in Rhode Island, are perfect for dipping into a bowl of Rocky Point Clam Chowder.

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

For eons, cooks from many cultures have looked at what they have on hand and decided to turn leftovers into fritters. Today, we consider avoiding food waste a social and economic benefit, but for many, it is a matter of survival.

What is a fritter? We often turn to our copy of *The Food Lover's Companion* for culinary definitions and explanations. Here, the authors call a fritter “A small, sweet or savory, deep-fried cake made either by combining chopped food with a thick batter or by dipping pieces of food into a similar batter.”

Our only disagreement with this description is that, most recently, deep-frying has often been replaced by pan-frying or air-frying. Perhaps that's the reason so many food sites are featuring new takes on fritters.

Types of Fritters

This time of year is the perfect time to try local apple, corn, or zucchini fritters. These are three of the most popular in this part of the USA. Or, if you find yourself at a Rhode Island clam shack, try our favorite fritter, “Clam Cakes”, which are perfect for dipping into a bowl of chowder.

Wikipedia has a long list of

fritters from around the world that you may have enjoyed but never thought of as one. From the Middle East and North Africa, we enjoy falafel made with chickpeas or fava beans. From South Asia, we love pakora and onion bhaji. Penny's uncle from the Philippines made banana fritters at family gatherings. Japan has takoyaki stuffed with octopus. The Bahamas are known for conch fritters. In the UK, fish and chip shops will fritter anything from mushy peas to a Mars Bar.

Fritter Basics

To discover the importance of fritters in the past, we consulted the 1896 *Fanny Farmer Cookbook*. The section on fritters begins with five numbered recipes for fritter batter, and then suggests which ingredients will work best with each of the five.

Most home cooks from cuisines less reliant on precise measurements and recipes have used traditional ingredient ratios for fritter batter and then adjusted by eye to achieve the perfect batter for the fritter they were making. You can follow a recipe or search for “fritter batter ratios” to learn the traditional method.

For example, in his book *Ratio*, food educator Michael

Ruhlman recommends a ratio of two parts flour to two parts liquid and one part egg for fritter batter. He also wrote, “Every time I make fritters, I ask myself why I don't make them more often. Crisp and tender, sweet and spicy. A fritter batter, which is a muffin batter without the butter, is a vehicle, like a crepe or a dumpling, for a tasty main garnish and seasoning, whether corn or clam or apple or zucchini. Use just enough batter to hold the garnish together.”

The flour used to make a fritter can alter the flavor, nutrition, and accommodate dietary limitations. You can use all-purpose flour, but consider the difference cornmeal flour could add to a corn fritter, or chickpea flour for an onion bhaji.

The next time you face the “what's for dinner” question, fritter away a few minutes to scan your pantry and refrigerator for staples and leftovers perfect for fritters. Mix up a batter, add the goodies you found, and serve up your own delicious version of a long-time favorite food!

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

EVERSOURCE (from pg. 11)

anyone who may be struggling with their bill.”

Based on the filings that have been submitted to the DPU, beginning Nov. 1, an NSTAR customer using 126 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$6.22 or approximately 2% in the supply portion of their bill, a total bill increase of \$34.47 or approximately 11% within maintenance and infrastructure investment, and a total bill increase of \$0.57 or approximately 0% in public benefits. Compared to the average peak season rates for last winter, NSTAR customers using 126 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$41.26 or approximately 13%. Separately, EGMA customers using 127 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$14.87 or approximately 5% in the supply portion of their bill, a total bill increase of \$26.65 or approximately 9% within maintenance and infrastructure investment, and a total bill increase of \$7.02 or approximately 2% in public benefits. Compared to the average peak season rates for last winter, EGMA customers using 127 therms per month will see a total bill increase of \$48.54 or approximately 17%.

How an individual customer's bill will be affected ultimately depends on their usage and weather conditions. Bill impacts above are based on the average usage during a normal winter, which is 126 therms for NSTAR and 127 therms for EGMA. Due to the much colder temperatures last winter, customer usage increased significantly, to an average of 143 therms for NSTAR and 168 therms for EGMA. This increase in usage ultimately accounted for approximately 40% of the bill increases that all customers saw last winter.

Help is available for customers who need it.

“We know that any rate increase

can be difficult for our customers, which is why we're encouraging them to prepare before the heating season begins by taking advantage of the programs and plans we have available – including Budget Billing, which can smooth out the spikes that usage and rate changes can have on a bill to keep your monthly bill more predictable, and energy efficiency programs like weatherization to reduce usage,” Kelley continued.

Eversource encourages customers to enroll in one of its payment plans or assistance programs if they need help with their energy bill by calling 866-861-6225 (NSTAR) or 800-688-6160 (EGMA), or online.

- Budget Billing Plans are also available and can help customers avoid seasonal spikes on their energy bill by paying a level amount each month based on their average annual usage.

- A Discount Rate is available to customers receiving public assistance benefits and have a household income at or below 60% of the state median income. These customers may be eligible for a 25% discount on their monthly natural gas bill.

- The New Start Program for NSTAR customers and the Residential Arrearage Management Program (RAMP) for EGMA customers can help income-eligible customers reduce or eliminate their outstanding balance in as little as 12 months when they make on-time monthly payments. Eversource will eliminate or forgive a portion of the total balance enrolled in the program – reducing the amount owed each month.

- Flexible Payment Plans are available to all customers, regardless of income, to pay their past-due balance over a period of time.

- The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a free resource offered by the state to help eligible homeowners and renters pay

a portion of their winter heating bills. Customers can apply online.

- The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund provides energy assistance to residents in temporary crisis who do not qualify for state and federal assistance programs. Find your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center to apply.

- Beginning on Nov. 1, Eversource electric customers who use a heat pump to heat all or part of their home can take advantage of a seasonal Heat Pump Rate, which is a new, reduced distribution and transmission rate during the winter months (Nov. 1 to April 30) to help save on winter electric bills.

Eversource is also continuing to schedule in-person bill assistance events across the state, which are also posted online, along with additional information about energy efficiency and assistance programs.

Eversource (NYSE: ES), celebrated as a national leader for its corporate citizenship, is recognized as the #1 U.S. utility on TIME's List of World's Best Companies for 2024. Eversource transmits and delivers electricity and natural gas and supplies water to 2.2 million customers throughout Massachusetts, including approximately 1.58 million electric customers in 159 communities, 647,000 gas customers in 124 communities, and 12,000 water customers in five communities. Eversource harnesses the commitment of more than 10,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and water with superior customer service.

For more information, please visit eversource.com, and follow us on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. For more information on our water services, visit aquarionwater.com.

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Attendees participated in a Tai Chi practice with the Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Academy.

CHARLESTOWN SPROUTS COMMUNITY GARDEN CELEBRATES ANNUAL GATHERING

Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden held its Annual Celebration on Saturday, September 27, welcoming both members and the public to enjoy live music, food from the cultures of the gardeners, a Tai Chi practice with the Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Academy, puppets from the Puppet Free Library, bubbles and art activities for kids, yoga, and an evening movie and to admire the bountiful garden plots alongside the Little Mystic Channel.

A mission to welcome

Since the 1990s, Charlestown Sprouts has been a gathering place for all members of the community and a federally recognized charitable organization. With a mission to be a welcoming natural space in the city that brings together diverse people of all ages to grow, harvest, share and eat healthy food, Sprouts offers gardening families a place to share cultures and learn to grow fresh food and other plants. The gardeners represent a global group of families with origins in Asia, the Caribbean, South and North America.

At the Annual Celebration, Sprouts members shared the many ways the garden enhances their



Scenes from the Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden's Annual Celebration on Saturday, September 27.

COURTESY PHOTOS

lives. Board member Jessica Yu grows vegetables for her kitchen nearly year-round, starting with snow peas in February, bitter melon, sweet potato vines and more through the summer, and snow lettuce planted in November

to harvest in April. "I also enjoy the exercise and sharing seeds and plants with other gardeners."

Ann Reiss, recently moved to Charlestown and in her first season at Sprouts, says that gardening helps her pay attention to the natural world. "The weather doesn't really affect us in cities. But with my garden here, I notice when it's about to rain and when to plant seeds or water the garden." That awareness, she says, "is a God-send."

Creating community

"Building community is hard work," says Gerald Robbins, president of the board for Charlestown Sprouts and gardener since 2010. An experienced community

organizer, Robbins has led volunteers to transform a parcel of neglected land with a historically high rate of vandalism and theft. "It was guerilla gardening back then," he recalls, "every gardener for themselves."

In 2019, the Charlestown Sprouts received a grant from the City of Boston's Grassroots Open Space Program to spur initial physical improvements to the garden and, with important support from Oren Campbell McCleary Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' Urban Agriculture program, and other grantors and donors, Robbins and other volun-

teers have turned the parcel into a thriving community space.

Now hosting 68 well-defined and attractive garden plots, a shed, composting system, and a pergola for educational events and other gatherings, Sprouts is currently partnering with the Mystic River Watershed Association to create a pollinator garden of native plants in the meadow beside the garden.

Get involved

To learn more about Sprouts or to join the waitlist for a garden plot, email charlestownsprouts@gmail.com, check out its Facebook page @charlestownsprouts or take a walk to the Little Mystic Channel to see the garden and meet its community.

★★★★★

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Yoga was another event at the Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden's Annual Celebration.