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# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## St. Patrick's Day Celebration



DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS

Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico welcomes everyone to the annual St Patrick's Day Celebration at the Knights Of Columbus Hall in Charlestown. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

Massachusetts State Senate President Karen Spilka, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Cambridge City Councilor and previous Mayor Denise Simmons, and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with help from her daughter Mira sing the Irish folk song Wild Rover.



## BHMA restores busts of George Washington

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Bunker Hill Monument Association (BHMA), Charlestown's oldest civic organization, is proud to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the End of The Siege of Boston (1776–2026) and the founding of our nation with the restoration of two historic busts of George Washington, our first President and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

These busts represent more than art; they embody generations of devotion to the Bunker Hill Battlefield and the enduring mission to honor the Patriots who stood their ground at the first great battle of the American Revolution.

Founded in 1823 as the nation's first monument association, BHMA launched a legacy of remembrance by building the Bunker Hill Monument, the earliest grand tribute to America's veterans. For more than two centuries, the Association has protected this hallowed ground, safeguarded its treasures, and kept Charlestown's proud place at the heart of our nation's story alive for future generations.

The Association is profoundly



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Jaye Hefner, BHMA Board member with the bust of George Washington.

grateful for the steadfast support of Charlestown residents, local organizations, and historians who share its passion for preserving this remarkable heritage. That support has been especially meaningful during a period of transition. In the months leading up to the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 2025, BHMA's office and exhibit space at the Bunker

(BHMA, Pg. 5)

### CNC MEETING DATES

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 7 PM, Knights of Columbus

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus, located at 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. The agenda will include a presentation by the New England Revolution and Kevin Bogle, Boston Parks and Recreation, with an update on Barry Playground. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at [cnc02129@gmail.com](mailto:cnc02129@gmail.com)



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COMPASS

# EDITORIAL

## CLIMATE NEWS JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE

A little while back, we wrote in this space that it seemed likely that climate change would accelerate even beyond scientists' worst-case scenarios. It was clear -- even to non-scientists such as ourselves -- that the negative effects on our environment caused by climate change were creating a positive feedback loop: global warming causes damage, which in turn causes more warming.

For example, as the tundra in the Arctic regions thaws, it releases methane and carbon (which had been trapped in the frozen earth for thousands of years) into the atmosphere, which then makes the planet even warmer, and thus leads to even faster thawing of the tundra.

Similarly, as the world's glaciers begin to melt at the poles, this process leads to even more warming of the oceans (because the exposed darker oceans absorb more solar heat), which in turn leads to even more ice-melt.

In short, it was only common sense, we wrote at the time, that these positive feedback loops inevitably would speed up the process of climate change.

Well, last week, amidst the news of a record-warm winter in Colorado, the record-shattering heat wave in California, and the record floods in Hawaii, it was reported that scientists seem to have reached a consensus that climate change is indeed accelerating faster than expected.

Some scientists had predicted that climate change would result in this sort of crazy weather. We remember a column written by the great New York Times writer Thomas Friedman almost 20 years ago in which he interviewed a climate scientist who said that "global warming" (which was the catchall phrase back then) was a bit of a misnomer.

Rather, Friedman's expert put another term on it -- "global weirding" -- to describe how the effects of climate change would pop up in ways that would prove to be completely beyond what humankind ever had experienced.

Friedman wrote: "I prefer the term 'global weirding,' coined by Hunter Lovins, co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute, because the rise in average global temperature is going to lead to all sorts of crazy things -- from hotter heat spells and droughts in some places, to colder cold spells and more violent storms, more intense flooding, forest fires and species loss in other places."

According to last week's Times, this prediction is exactly what has come to pass, according to another expert:

"Things are getting really outside of what humans have ever seen," said Friederike Otto, a professor of climate science at Imperial College London. "Almost every part of the world is experiencing these extreme events."

This is all bad enough, but there is no indication that the world's carbon emissions, which are responsible for climate change, are declining. Although carbon emissions in the United States have been flat for the past 25 years, emissions worldwide have doubled and continue to grow each and every year, driven by rapid industrialization elsewhere. The U.S. could become carbon-neutral tomorrow and it would only make a small dent -- about 16 percent -- in reducing global emissions.

In short, the most recent climate news brings to mind the title of a 1987 song by R.E.M. The song has nothing to do with climate change, but seems appropriate for what is coming: "It's the end of the world as we know it."

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## USS CONSTITUTION TO GET UNDERWAY FOR USS MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSIONING

USS Constitution is scheduled to get underway from the Charlestown Navy Yard, Massachusetts, on Saturday, March 28, at 8:45 a.m.

This underway is in celebration of the commissioning of USS Massachusetts (SSN 798). The U.S. Navy will commission the future USS Massachusetts (SSN 798), a Virginia-class submarine, at the Black Falcon Cruise Terminal in Boston, Massachusetts.

Following its return to port, the ship will be open to the public at 2 p.m.

During the underway, USS Constitution will render a gun salute off Conley Terminal, followed by a 17-gun salute as it passes U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston, the former site of Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, where the ship was built and launched on Oct. 21, 1797.

The underway will be visible from the Boston Harborwalk, Black Falcon Cruise Terminal, and the Charlestown Navy Yard.

USS Constitution is open for free public visitation Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All guests ages 18 and older must present a valid state- or federal-issued photo ID or passport to board.

As the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State, USS Constitution played a vital role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, safeguarding American sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

## BLUM CENTER OFFERING IN-PERSON EDUCATIONAL AND WELLNESS SESSIONS

The Blum Patient and Family Learning Center (Blum Center) at Massachusetts General Hospital is hosting a few in-person educational and wellness sessions in April that we think would greatly benefit your Beacon Hill community. All are welcome and free to attend. No registration is needed. Can you assist in sharing them in the Beacon Hill Times Neighborhood Roundup?

All sessions are free and will take place at the Blum Center (MGH Main Campus, White 110):

## NEWS BRIEFS

- Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 4PM – 5PM: Preparing for Your Medical Appointments

- Thursday, April 9, 2026, 12PM – 1PM: Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Caregiver Education Series: Supporting Independence

- Monday, April 13, 2026, 12PM – 1PM: Spill the STI Tea: A Conversation with the MGH Sexual Health Clinic

- Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 4PM – 5PM: Aging and Skin Health: Supporting Healthy Skin Over Time

- Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 12PM – 1PM: Impacts of Climate Change on Mental Health: Strategies for Coping and Thriving

- Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 12PM – 1PM: Loneliness and Health: How Social Connections Impact Our Well-Being

- Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 12PM – 1PM: Click with Confidence: Navigating Reliable Health Information Online

- Wednesday, April 29, 4PM – 6PM: Sound Therapy, Reiki, and Acupressure Open House Healing Event

For more information, call the Blum Center at 617-724-7352.

## PROJECT BREAD'S 58TH ANNUAL WALK FOR HUNGER OPENS REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Project Bread's Walk for Hunger, the organization's signature community fundraiser and one of Massachusetts' most enduring anti-hunger events, turning compassion into action. Set for Sunday, May 3 on the Boston Common, the one-day celebration will bring

together thousands of walkers for a family-friendly 3-mile loop featuring food, entertainment, and activities for all ages.

Now in its 58th year, the Walk for Hunger remains a beacon of hope for local families, raising \$1 million to support Project Bread's proven, statewide approach to advancing food security and ensuring access to nutritious food for children and families across Massachusetts.

Like-minded anti-hunger organizations are also invited to participate through Project Bread's co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth. Participating nonprofits can form teams to raise funds for their own missions while contributing to Project Bread's broader statewide impact.


Ready to get involved? Register to walk in-person or virtually, start a personal or team fundraising page, or make a donation at [projectbread.org/walk](http://projectbread.org/walk). For more information, email [walk@projectbread.org](mailto:walk@projectbread.org).

## UPCOMING CLASSES AT WEST END LIBRARY

Aromatherapy: Scent, Memory, and Wellbeing.

This 8-week, 1-hour aromatherapy workshop series is designed to support the emotional, cognitive, and social well-being of adults ages 55+. Through gentle education, sensory exploration, hands-on activities, and community connection, participants will learn how scent can support relaxation, memory, mood regulation, and overall wellness.

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 3)



**CHARLESTOWN  
PATRIOT-BRIDGE**

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# Massachusetts Department of Public Health advises extending RSV immunizations for infants for an additional month

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a clinical advisory to health care providers recommending that respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) monoclonal antibody immunizations continue to be administered to eligible infants through April 30, 2026, in response to ongoing RSV activity across the state and throughout the region.

RSV monoclonal antibody immunizations are typically administered from October through March. The current RSV season, however, began later than usual, and it is continuing further into the spring. Surveillance data show sustained RSV activity in Massachusetts and surrounding states, prompting the extension of the immunization window beyond

the usual March 31 endpoint.

“RSV continues to circulate at meaningful levels later into the spring than we typically see,” said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. “Public health guidance must reflect the reality of the moment. Extending access to these preventive tools is about matching data and risk with proven measures that can prevent and protect our youngest residents from the most severe effects of this illness.”

RSV, a common respiratory virus, is a leading cause of hospitalization among infants in the United States. While RSV often begins as a mild, cold-like illness, it can lead to serious conditions such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia. This illness can be particularly problematic for very young infants and those with underlying medical conditions that

make them especially vulnerable to the disease.

In the clinical advisory, DPH urged clinicians to assess the RSV immunization status of infants and encourage monoclonal antibody protection for those who are eligible and have not yet received the immunization during the current season.

Infants younger than 8 months of age should receive RSV monoclonal antibody immunization if their mother was not vaccinated during pregnancy, if maternal vaccination status is unknown, or if they were born within 14 days of maternal vaccination. Certain children aged 8 to 19 months are at increased risk for severe RSV disease – including those with chronic lung disease or prematurity, severe immunocompromise, cystic fibrosis, or other qualifying conditions

– and should also receive RSV immunization.

“RSV remains the leading cause of serious respiratory tract infection in infants, and too many young children still are at risk of preventable hospitalization,” said Larry Madoff, MD, Medical Director of DPH’s Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. “We have a safe, effective way to reduce that risk, and extending access now will help to protect more infants while RSV continues to circulate. We will continue to closely monitor RSV trends and will adjust our approach based on real-time data and what we are seeing in communities across the Commonwealth.”

This extension applies only to infant monoclonal antibody immunization for the 2025-2026 RSV season. The seasonal window

for maternal RSV vaccination – September 1 through January 31 – remains unchanged and should not be extended, as maternal vaccination timing cannot be adjusted once pregnancy has progressed.

In addition to infant protection, RSV vaccination is recommended for older adults. Adults aged 75 and older and those aged 50 to 74 with certain underlying conditions should receive a one-time RSV vaccine dose. Unlike infant immunization, RSV vaccination for older adults is not seasonal and can be administered year-round.

For more information, visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Respiratory Illness Dashboard and review current American Academy of Pediatrics guidance on RSV prevention.

# Healey-Driscoll Administration launches GrantWell, a first-of-its-kind AI-powered tool to assist local communities with applying for grants

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Healey-Driscoll Administration launched a new AI-powered tool to make it easier for communities to apply for grants. The tool, called GrantWell, was developed by the Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office in partnership with Northeastern University’s Burnes Center for Social Change. GrantWell is designed to simplify the process of seeking grant opportunities, understanding their requirements, and writing applications.

“We’ve heard from communities loud and clear that onerous paperwork is a barrier to getting good projects done,” said Governor Maura Healey. “It’s why we’ve launched programs to streamline the process for applying to state grants and established new technical assistance programs through

our Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office. Now with GrantWell, we’re making it even easier for communities to take advantage of those opportunities and apply for the funds they need to deliver for their constituents.”

“As a former Mayor, I know that navigating the complexities of federal and state grants pose a significant hurdle to municipal officials getting good projects over the line,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “GrantWell will allow more municipalities to take advantage of funding opportunities, saving them time and capacity—crucial resources in local government.”

“The Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office built GrantWell to respond directly to what we heard from communities all across the

state: that they lack the resources and capacity to fully take advantage of funding opportunities available to them. GrantWell will free up time and capacity for local officials to obtain the resources they need,” said Quentin Palfrey, Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure. “Thank you to Northeastern University’s Burnes Center for Social Change for working with us to develop this tool, which showcases Massachusetts’ continued leadership in innovation.”

GrantWell allows communities to more easily find federal and state funding opportunities and develop proposals. The tool will scan a grant opportunity and automatically summarize the grant requirements, eligibility criteria, and key deadlines in layman’s terms. Users can ask Grant-

Well to begin a draft of a project narrative, saving communities time and capacity in the grant application process. The tool also features a chatbot that communities can use to ask questions about grant requirements and eligibility. Importantly, GrantWell cannot replace the grant-writing process; rather, the tool is designed to support grant-writers and municipal staff to more quickly find grant opportunities and lay the groundwork for an application.

“GrantWell shows how AI can be used to make government work better, by helping public servants quickly find relevant funding, understand complex requirements, and take action. Developed through our AI for Impact initiative, it reflects a practical approach to building tools that strengthen

public sector capacity and expand access to resources for communities.” — Beth Simone Noveck, Director of the Burnes Center for Social Change

GrantWell complements existing efforts at the state level to streamline the process for applying to state grants, including MassDOT’s Grant Central portal, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ECO One Stop, and the Community One Stop program.

The Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office in partnership with the Burnes Center will continue to update the tool based on user feedback. GrantWell users can and are encouraged to provide feedback on how to improve the user experience by submitting comments on the GrantWell homepage.

## NEWS BRIEFS (from pg. 2)

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.,  
March 31-May19

Spring Yoga Saturdays at the  
West End.

This Spring the West End Library is thrilled to partner with ThriveHub to bring a variety of engaging yoga classes to the community. Each week will feature a different yoga-related topic, exercise, or technique. For full descriptions of each class, see our online calendar of events at [bpl.org/locations/west-end](http://bpl.org/locations/west-end).

Saturdays, 10 – 11 a.m.  
SERIES SCHEDULE:

April 18: Yogalates

April 25: Ball and Socket Joints

May 2: Yoga with Noga Nidra

May 9: Yoga + Mobility with

Joey

May 16: Yoga + Qigong

May 23: Yin/Yang Yoga

May 30: Fun with Props!

June 6: Yoga and Breathwork

June 13: Yoga with Deep Lower Body Stretch

June 20: Welcome Summer with Balance!

To register, please contact Wesley Fiorentino at [wfiorentino@bpl.org](mailto:wfiorentino@bpl.org) or call 617-523-3957

## LANTERNS & LUMINARIES FUNDRAISER SET FOR APRIL 16 AT OLD NORTH CHURCH

As the nation prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of American Independence, Old North Illuminated will kick off Patriots’ Day weekend with Lanterns & Luminaries, a special evening event on Thursday, April 16, at Old North Church in the North End.

The annual fundraiser will honor Keith Lockhart, longtime conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, with the prestigious Third Lantern Award. This recognition celebrates individuals who exemplify the values symbolized by Old North’s legendary lantern signal — leadership, courage, hope, tenacity, and active citizenship.

The evening program, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at 193 Salem St., commemorates Paul Revere’s famous ‘two if by sea’ signal of April 1775. The event will feature a small

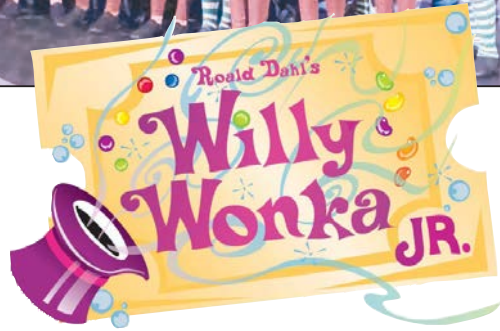
ensemble of Boston Pops musicians, festive music played on period instruments by the 18th century-style duo Tripp and Toddy, a dramatic reading of Paul Revere’s Ride by Roberto Mighty, remarks from Lockhart, the presentation of the Third Lantern Award, and the lighting of the lanterns in Old North’s steeple.

Tickets are available for purchase in advance. For details and to register, visit [www.oldnorth.com/lanterns](http://www.oldnorth.com/lanterns).



The cast of Willy Wonka Jr.

PHOTOS BY WARREN-PRESCOTT PARENTS



## The Warren-Prescott School Students Find the Golden Ticket with Willy Wonka Jr.

The Warren-Prescott School students delivered a truly sweet performance with their recent production of Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr., bringing energy, humor, and heart to the stage.

From the Bucket family's humble home to the grandeur of Wonka's chocolate factory, students kept the story moving with lively pacing and plenty of laughs — all while delivering the show's timeless message about kindness, positivity, and doing the right thing.

This year marked Ms. Willmot's first year at The Warren-Prescott School as music director, guided by mentor and former music director

Ms. Cichon. The production was a strong debut, with students clearly taking pride in every moment of the performance.

The show ran March 20–22 and drew an enthusiastic crowd across all three performances, including Mayor Michelle Wu and other city and school officials. It was a well-earned celebration for the entire Warren-Prescott community.

The school extends its gratitude to all the parent, student, and teacher volunteers as well as community volunteer Doug McDonald, whose support helped make the production possible.



Students portraying a scene from the Wonka Factory.



The Finale.



Ms. Cichon, Ms. Champagne (teacher volunteer), Ms. Davis (Warren-Prescott Principal), Ms. Willmot, Doug McDonald, Mayor Wu (and child), and Dr. Tommy Welsh (Region 1 School Superintendent)



Students as the Bucket family.

**BHMA** (from pg. 1)

ker Hill Museum, where it had worked in partnership with the National Park Service since 1975, were relocated to another NPS facility. As of March 7th, 2026, the Association's Special Use Permit concluded, leaving BHMA without a permanent office. Several of its historic artifacts remain on display at the museum, a lasting reminder of the Association's long stewardship of Charlestown's Revolutionary legacy.

Thanks to the assistance of State Representative Dan Ryan and Bunker Hill Community College, BHMA has established a temporary workspace to continue caring for its archives. The Association remains hopeful that, through ongoing dialogue and collaboration, a future arrangement will allow BHMA to return to the Bunker Hill Museum, a site envisioned by its early members and where its story is most authentically told.

The BHMA invites the public to join in honoring that legacy at the 203rd Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, as local and national celebrations unite to mark America's 250th year of independence.

Charlestown will host many historic events throughout June honoring the courage and sacrifice of the ordinary men and women who stood for independence. A full calendar of events is available at Home - Bunker Hill Monument Association

Charlestown's story is inseparable from the nation's. At the time of the Battle of Bunker Hill, Charlestown stood as a separate city from Boston and endured nine long months of British occupation before both communities



*George Washington marble bust reportedly donated to BHMA in 1851 from Goddard Frothingham. Frothingham was a Charlestown/Boston merchant and a member of a prominent New England family, who gifted the bust after the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument in 1853.*

were evacuated on March 17, 1776, a fact often remembered only in passing. Yet Charlestown's courage, loss, and perseverance in those early days helped ignite the spirit of independence that would define a new nation. As we commemorate 250 years of that struggle and triumph, Charlestown's pride endures, rooted in history, strengthened by community, and ever faithful to the ideals that began on these very hills.

**FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS & EXPERT INTERVIEWS FOR NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH**

NEW Health, a community health center that serves the North End and Charlestown in Boston, recognized National Nutrition Month in March.

NEW Health continues its monthly complimentary produce distributions of a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to Charlestown and North End patients; patients are referred via their primary care providers. Produce distributions take place monthly at the Charlestown site and by delivery in the North End. During March, in honor of National Nutrition Month, an additional produce distribution took place on March 16 at both the North End and Charlestown health centers.

NEW Health's Food Access Program, serving both its North End and Charlestown sites, was established in 2016. NEW Health is Charlestown's first full-service



*A look at some of the produce NEW Health prepares for its patients.*

health center and is committed to improving the quality of health and life for its over 5,000 patients in the neighborhood. The health

center continues to increase their food insecurity efforts to help families in need with the help of the community.

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Easter Sunday	April 5	10am

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Detail of "What Shall We Say  
About Hope" © Sioux Gerow

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## Planning Department advances largest downtown office-to-residential conversion

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Planning Department this month recommended approval of a new office-to-residential conversion project representing approximately 219,200 square feet (SF) to the BPDA Board. The approved project will create 255 new homes, including 52 income-restricted units, and will support approximately 203 construction jobs and 18 permanent jobs. The project is the largest office-to-residential conversion project to be approved by the Board and represents a new scale of conversion projects entering Mayor Michelle Wu's successful office-to-residential conversion program.

Mayor Wu and Chief of Planning Kairos Shen also marked Dr. Ted Landsmark's retirement from the BPDA Board and celebrated his tenure. Dr. Landsmark joined the Board in September 2014 and is currently the longest serving board member. During his tenure, the Board approved nearly 60,000 new housing units, including nearly 16,000 income restricted units. The Board approved projects representing \$48.7 billion of investment and 138 million square feet of development around the City of Boston.

"Ted Landsmark's influence can be seen not only in the city's growth and its skyline, but in the generations of planners, architects,

and advocates he has mentored," said Development Projects

Project at 280-300 Washington Street to create 255 new homes Downtown

Housing: 255 units, 52 income-restricted units

Jobs: 203 construction jobs, 18 permanent jobs

Community: New residents living Downtown

Sustainability: Adaptive re-use and preservation of existing building

Located in the heart of Downtown Crossing, this project will convert vacant office space into 255 new homes, 52 of which will be income-restricted, and will retain existing retail space on the

ground floor. Due to updated zoning regulations Downtown, the project will not require zoning relief, allowing these new homes to be completed more quickly. This project is one of 24 applicants to Mayor Wu's successful Office-to-Residential Conversion Program, which is on track to convert 29 buildings and 1.5 million square feet of empty office space into more than 1,700 new homes Downtown.

In addition to these projects, the Board approved:

- An update to a previously approved project at 69 A Street in South Boston to convert the approved office space into 24 units of housing.

The City of Boston's Planning Department shapes growth that serves Boston's residents and centers their needs. Our mission is to address our City's greatest challenges: resilience, affordability, and equity, and to take real estate actions and prioritize planning, development, and urban design solutions that further these priorities. We seek to build trust with communities through transparent processes that embrace predictable growth and shape a more inclusive city for all. Learn more at [bostonplans.org](http://bostonplans.org), and follow us on Bluesky and Instagram @BostonPlans.

## Governor Healey signs Executive Order to support adults with profound autism

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On Monday, ahead of Autism Awareness Month, Governor Maura Healey signed an Executive Order to establish a state-wide strategy to better support adults with profound autism, or adults who are over 22 years old with diagnosed autism spectrum disorder and require 24-hour support and assistance due to a significant intellectual disabilities and limited or no language skills. The Executive Order aims to improve coordination across state agencies, promote innovation and advance outcomes for adults with profound autism and their families. Adults with profound autism and intellectual developmental disabilities represent

a highly vulnerable and growing population in Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts is committed to care and support for all. This executive order will strengthen coordination across agencies and help ensure that adults with profound autism and their families receive the support they need," said Governor Healey. "I look forward to appointing individuals representing families, providers, clinicians and advocates who bring deep expertise and lived experience to this work."

"Massachusetts has long been a national leader in health care and disability services," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Today's executive order builds on that legacy by

focusing attention and resources on adults with profound autism and ensuring that our systems are better coordinated to meet their needs."

The Executive Order establishes an advisory council led by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, with designees from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Executive Office of Administration and Finance, Department of Developmental Services, Department of Mental Health, Medicaid Director, and the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities. Governor Healey will also appoint up to 10 additional members representing families, clinicians, providers

and advocates with expertise in supporting adults with profound autism.

The advisory council will develop recommendations focused on:

Reporting on the prevalence of adults with profound autism in Massachusetts;

Strengthening coordination across state systems serving adults with profound autism, including reviewing eligibility requirements across service systems;

Promoting person-centered, strengths-based approaches that recognize the needs of adults with profound autism;

Identifying opportunities to improve access to stable housing, health care, community-based

services, and meaningful daily activities;

Encouraging innovative residential living and service models that support safety, stability, and quality of life;

Improving the use of data to better understand population needs, service utilization, outcomes, and efficient use of state resources over time;

Supporting a sustainable and well-trained workforce responsive to level of care and support needs; and

Informing future policy and budget planning in a manner consistent with the state's long-term fiscal responsibility.

## Massachusetts to celebrate 20 years of landmark health care reform at Faneuil Hall

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey, former Governors Mitt Romney and Deval Patrick, and other state leaders will gather at Faneuil Hall on Monday, April 13, to mark the 20th anniversary of Massachusetts's landmark health care reform law, Chapter 58 of the Acts

of 2006.

Signed into law on April 12, 2006, at Faneuil Hall, the historic legislation expanded access to affordable health coverage for hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents. Before the law was enacted, nearly 10 percent of residents were uninsured. Today, Massachusetts has the highest

coverage rate in the nation, with more than 97 percent of residents insured.

The law created a first-in-the-nation health insurance marketplace, introduced key consumer protections, required most adults to carry health insurance, and provided financial assistance to help residents afford coverage. It also reduced uncompensated care costs and strengthened financial protections for patients and families.

Four years after the law was passed, the Massachusetts model was used as the framework of the federal Affordable Care Act, which currently delivers health insurance to more than 20 million Americans, including more than 350,000 people in Massachusetts. The law continues to shape how Massachusetts approaches affordability, access and equity in health care today.

"Twenty years ago, leaders from both parties came together

to prove that we could expand health care and make it more affordable for people across Massachusetts," said Governor Maura Healey. "I'm grateful to Governor Romney and the Legislature for championing the effort to create this landmark law, to the late Senator Kennedy for his leadership, and to Governor Patrick for carrying it forward. Because of that work, more families can see a doctor, fill a prescription and have the peace of mind that comes with health coverage. As we celebrate this milestone, we're reminded of what's possible when we work together and of our responsibility to keep building a health care system that works for everyone."

"I'm proud to have been part of a team that expanded access to health insurance for so many people across Massachusetts," said Governor Mitt Romney. "As a result, over a million residents have been able to receive preven-

tive, wellness, and life-saving care from our world-renowned health-care professionals."

"Health care reform 20 years ago was neither perfect nor unanimous. But it has helped millions of people — first in the Commonwealth and eventually across the country — lead healthier lives," said Governor Deval Patrick. "I am proud of the role my team and I played in standing up and making it better. This anniversary is a reminder that, if we work together, we can do the work that remains to extend affordable, high quality care to everyone, everywhere."

The event is being co-hosted by Governor Healey and the Massachusetts Health Connector, which was created as a centerpiece of the 2026 reform law. The Health Connector is a competitive health insurance marketplace that allows

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# MBTA restores bus service beyond pre-COVID levels and increases subway frequency

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) announced its service updates which go into effect on Sunday, April 5. Service information is available now at [MBTA.com/ServiceChanges](https://www.mbta.com/ServiceChanges).

Riders are strongly encouraged to check schedules in advance and to use the MBTA's Trip Planner as well as the MBTA Go app to view live information.

"People rely on the MBTA every day to get to work, school, doctor's appointments and many of our incredible businesses," said Governor Healey. "Riders deserve service that is frequent and reliable. With bus service now exceeding pre-pandemic levels and more frequent subway trains, riders will see shorter wait times and more dependable trips across the system. This is why my administration and the Legislature have prioritized historic investments in the T. We have more work to do, but these improvements show real progress toward building a transportation system that people can count on."

"Our seasonal service improvements reflect the decisions and process our workforce makes each day. It's the MBTA's priority to increase reliability and deliver more transportation options for our riders," said Interim Secretary and General Manager Phillip Eng. "With more bus service than before the pandemic and increased subway frequency, we are continuing to make the MBTA a system that people can rely on and want to use."

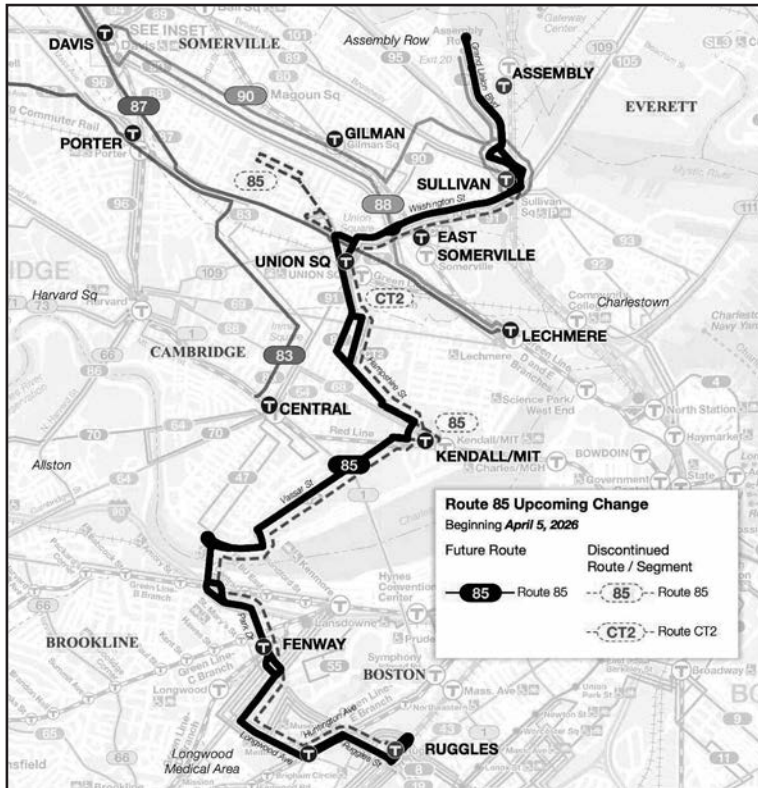
## Subway Updates

This March, the MBTA put into service the final pair of CRRC Orange Line cars. With these new vehicles, as well as track and operational improvements, the number of scheduled weekday Orange Line trips increases by 8% to the highest level seen in recent recorded history—and exceeds the number of scheduled Red Line trips.

**Orange Line:** The frequency of trains is increasing all week due to continued track and procedure improvements.

**Red Line:** The frequency of trains is increasing during weekdays due to continued track and procedure improvements.

Starting around 8 PM each evening, riders should budget an additional 10 – 15 minutes of travel time if traveling between JFK/UMass and Ashmont and Braintree due to work at Columbia Junction. Work is anticipated to complete at the end of April. These efforts will improve the



overall reliability of the Red Line.

**Blue Line:** Trip times will shift slightly to improve weekday reliability.

**Green Line:** Trip times will shift slightly to improve reliability every day on the B and E Branches and weekdays on the C Branch.

## Bus Updates

Keeping the MBTA's commitment to improving overall bus service through incremental operational changes and the Better Bus Project, the agency will continue to implement quarterly service improvements. This season, 37 bus routes across the system will see service increases and two routes will be upgraded to operate every 15 minutes or better. These improvements allow the MBTA to offer service at a level beyond Winter 2020 service levels. The MBTA is proud to offer more equitable service and options for transit dependent riders.

**Route 85 and CT2:** These two routes will be consolidated and called Route 85 beginning April 5. All trips will extend to Assembly. All stops between Assembly and Ruggles on Route 85 will be served.

**Route 9 and SL2:** These routes will become 'Frequent Bus Routes' and can be expected to run every 15 minutes or better on all days.

**Routes 16, 24, 42, 96, 101, 220, 455:** Frequency will increase.

**Route 87:** All trips will extend to Arlington Center, going beyond Clarendon Hill. This makes service simpler, easier to use, and provides new evening and Sunday service along Broadway in Arlington

**Routes 40 and 50:** The evening and Sunday combined 40/50 route will be replaced with more

individual Route 40 and Route 50 service. Hours of service will increase on both routes every day of the week.

**Route 226:** New Sunday service between Braintree and Columbian Square in Weymouth begins.

**Route 350:** All trips will serve Burlington Mall Road. This provides more service to the Burlington Mall, Lahey Hospital, Wegmans, and other retail and medical destinations.

**Route 714 and 716:** A one-year service pilot to expand service on Routes 714 and 716 begins. Select Route 714 trips extend to Nantasket Junction. New Sunday

service begins on Route 716. Seasonal weekend service to Houghton's Pond will return on Route 716 beginning Saturday, May 23, 2026. Read the full release.

**SL1:** Earlier trips will depart at 5:30 AM from both South Station and Logan Airport on weekdays and from South Station on Saturdays.

For other runtime, reliability, and trip shift changes, see [mbta.com/ServiceChanges](https://www.mbta.com/ServiceChanges) for schedules.

## Ferry Schedule Changes

**Hingham/Rowes Wharf** weekday service continues to operate year-round. Weekend service does not exist.

**Hingham/Hull** Ferry weekday service continues to operate year-round. Weekend service will resume on May 23, 2026 (Memorial Day Weekend).

**East Boston** Ferry weekday service will resume on Monday, March 30, 2026. Weekend service will resume on Saturday April 4, 2026.

**Charlestown** Ferry weekday and weekend service continues to operate year-round.

**Lynn** Ferry, **Winthrop** Ferry, and **Quincy** Ferry weekday service will resume Monday, April 27, 2026. Weekend service will resume on May 23, 2026 (Memorial Day Weekend).

For more information, visit [mbta.com/ServiceChanges](https://www.mbta.com/ServiceChanges) or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA\_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA,

Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on while supporting the region's economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, the Better Bus Program, and the Rail Modernization Plan, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders' daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, riders are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact [mediarelations@mbta.com](mailto:mediarelations@mbta.com). For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit [MBTA.com](https://www.mbta.com) or follow @MBTA on social media.

## PAUL REVERE RIDES AGAIN!

Cheer on Paul and Brown Beauty as they ride toward Concord and Lexington at the Friends of City Square Park's Annual Patriot's Day Event on Monday, April 20.

Paul, Brown Beauty, and Deacon Larkin arrive around 10:20/10:30 AM – but with horse traffic, you never know!



@friendsofcitysquarepark for rain cancellation news



# DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AND ROAST



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico held his annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Knights Of Columbus Hall in Charlestown. He and his guests enjoyed roasting each other with good-natured verbal jabs and celebrating the teamwork of state officials in governing Massachusetts.



Jerome Frasier from CASA Association, Boston City Councilors Erin Murphy and Ed Flynn (right), Chinatown community advocate Hung Goon, and Massachusetts State Treasurer Deb Goldberg.



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico with his wife, Tricia, and their sons, Sal and Matthew.



Massachusetts State Rep. Dan Ryan opened the speaking portion of the evening.



Massachusetts State Treasurer Deb Goldberg and Charlestown Neighborhood Council Chairman Tom Cunha.



U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley speaks.



As he introduces Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico presents a photo placard depicting Mayor Wu enacting revenge on State Senator Nick Collins by throwing away his parking totem.



Omar Ross, vocalist with The Platters, sings the National Anthem.



Massachusetts State Senate President Karen Spilka speaks.



Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards speaks.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu addresses the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata speaks.



Cambridge City Councilor and previous Mayor Denise Simmons speaks after receiving the DiDomenico Foundation Golden Shamrock Award.



The blessing was made by the Rev. Robert G. Brown, senior pastor of Zion Church Ministries in Everett.



As he introduced U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley, Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico presents a photo placard of her "kicking ICE."



Massachusetts Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll speaks.



Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe and Rick Scirocco.



Bunker Hill Associates VP John Caldwell and Joe Campanelli are "The Eversource Guys."

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



# DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AND ROAST



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico presents a photo placard of Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ronald Mariano bobsledding in the Olympics.



Everett City Councilor Alcy Jabouin, School Committee member Margaret Cornelio, and Everett Mayor Robert Van Campen.



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico with Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez and Environmental Justice Undersecretary Maria Belen Power.



DiDomenico Foundation Golden Shamrock Award recipient Cambridge City Councilor and previous Mayor Denise Simmons (2nd from right) with US Representative Ayanna Pressley, State Senator Sal DiDomenico, Cambridge City Councilor Mark McGovern, and Lt Governor Kim Driscoll.



Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy, Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan, Jerome Frasier from CASA Association, Chinatown community advocate Hung Goon, New England Revolution mascot Slyde The Fox and Brand Ambassador Shannon Leclerc.



As he introduces Massachusetts Lt Governor Kim Driscoll, Senator Sal DiDomenico presents a photo placard depicting her and Governor Maura Healey delivering their own Super Bowl Halftime Show.



Everett Public Schools employee Rosemary Hughes, Liliana Batino, City Councilor Stephanie Martins, Kelly Kenyon, Matteo DiNunzio with his daughter Angel Marie.

# The Museum of African American History celebrates throughout April with programs and special events

The Museum of African American History | Boston & Nantucket (MAAH) invites the public to take part in a series of vibrant programs, all offered at no cost, at its 46 Joy Street location on Boston's Beacon Hill. From wellness classes and thought-provoking discussions to story hours and film screenings, these events honor Black history, creativity, and community across generations. All programs are open to the public. For more information please visit [www.maah.org/events](http://www.maah.org/events).

**“Glitter Road”: A Reading and Conversation with January Gill O’Neil**  
 Thursday, April 2, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 FREE, Donations Appreciated  
 Join the Museum of African American History for an evening with January Gill O’Neil, author of *Glitter Road*, a Massachusetts Book Awards Hon-



ors winner in poetry. O’Neil will read from this celebrated collection, discuss the legacy of poet Phillis Wheatley, and review the landscape of contemporary Black women’s poetry in Boston and across Massachusetts. The evening includes a Q&A and book signing.  
 FREE, Donations appreciated.  
 EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/glitter-road-a-reading-and-conversation-with-january-gill-oneil-tickets-1985288230540>

**Saturdays with Sheila: Yoga at MAAH**  
 Saturday, April 4, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
 FREE, Donations appreciated  
 Refresh your mind, body, and spirit this April with a morning of mindfulness and yoga. Find your flow with Yogi Sheila Thorne of Bous Yoga at an all-levels class on the first Saturday of each

month. Arrive early to secure a mat or bring one from home.

EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saturdays-with-sheila-take-a-yoga-class-at-maah-tickets-1985289212477>

**Boston Family Days: Rebirth and Renewal Soundbath with Haus of Glitter**  
 Sunday, April 5, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FREE, Donations appreciated.  
 Experience sound and movement centered on self-care, rebirth, clarity, and healing. Participants will be guided through restorative breathwork, deep listening, and gentle movement, immersing themselves in the frequencies of healing and renewal.

EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-family-days-rebirth-and-renewal-soundbath-with-haus-of-glitter-tickets-1985290395014>

**Boston Family Days: Exploring Haitian History with Jean Appolon**  
 April 11, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM  
 FREE, Donations appreciated.  
 Join the Museum of African American History for a Workshop on Haitian Folkloric Dance with choreographer and teacher Jean Appolon. This community-building workshop emphasizes the belief that we can learn about ourselves and one another when we dance together. Suitable for all levels.  
 EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-family-day-exploring-haitian-history-with-jean-appolon-tickets-1985297566464>

**Hidden Histories Workshop: Touching the Past: Historical Artifacts as Portals**  
 April 16, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM  
 FREE, Donations appreciated.

Have you ever wondered how the objects around us can tell stories of the past? Artists Clarese Hill and Elisa Hamilton lead a hands-on workshop exploring how historical objects reveal the stories of Boston’s Black community in the 1800s. Participants will engage with artifacts and documents such as barbers tools from the 1800s, newspaper reproductions of *The Liberator*, and a reproduction of Chloe Russell’s *The Complete Fortune Teller and Dream Book*, uncovering hidden histories and reflecting on the lives, struggles, and triumphs of those who came before us.  
 EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hidden-histories-touching-the-past-historical-artifacts-as-portals-tickets-1985300345777>

eventbrite.com/e/hidden-histories-touching-the-past-historical-artifacts-as-portals-tickets-1985300345777

**Black Boston in Focus: A Public Art Walking Tour**  
 April 18, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Reimagine Beacon Hill through art and history with Elisa Hamilton and Clareese Hill on a walking tour of their public art projects, *Glimpses of Glapion* and *The Black Boston Dream Oracle*. The tour begins at 1:00 pm at Boston Common Visitors Center and is followed by a reception and Q&A at the Museum of African American History at 2:15 pm. Explore digital and XR works that bring Boston’s Black history and stories to life.

EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-boston-in-focus-a-public-art-walking-tour-tickets-1985402741044>

**Living Language: A Poetry Celebration of Voice with Amanda Shea**  
 April 25, 4:00 PM-6:00 PM  
 FREE, Donations appreciated.

Celebrate the liberating power of language when poet Amanda Shea brings her dynamic storytelling to the stage. The evening includes a community open mic for local poets and an interactive mini-workshop, *Poetry as Preservation*, where participants will write a five-line poem inspired by a museum artifact or exhibit piece. The program concludes with a collective reading of audience-created poems.  
 EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-language-a-poetry-celebration-of-voice-with-amanda-shea-tickets-1985302824190>

**World-building Cartography: Reimagining History Through Mapmaking**  
 April 30, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM  
 Free, Donations Appreciated.

Join artists Clarese Hill and Elisa Hamilton for a hands-on mapmaking workshop exploring African, Indigenous, and tarot practices and traditions. Participants will consider the political narrative of mapmaking; examine Boston maps from colonial times and create a map together. All materials are provided.  
 EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/world-building-cartography-reimagining-historicity-through-mapmaking-tickets-1985302238438>

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# Healey-Driscoll administration awards over \$250,000 to help communities manage stormwater pollution

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded \$267,000 to seven regional watershed coalitions and planning collaboratives to help communities better manage stormwater and keep harmful pollution out of Massachusetts waterways.

Stormwater is created when rainwater and snow melt flows over hard surfaces like pavement, collecting pollutants like oil from roadways and bacteria from pet waste. This polluted stormwater runoff travels through storm drains directly into rivers, lakes, and other waterbodies—harming water quality and limiting fishing, boating, and swimming. The funding enables regional watershed coalitions and planning collaboratives to develop innovative programs to limit pollution, better detect illicit discharges, manage construction site runoff, and enhance public education and participation in stormwater management.

“Stormwater is one of the biggest drivers of pollution in our waterways,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “These grants strengthen our commitment to protecting water quality by empowering communities to take action where it matters most so we can deliver real, measurable improvements for everyone.”

“This funding empowers our cities and towns to stop harmful bacteria and pollutants before they enter waterways,” said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. “By supporting proactive stormwater management and bet-

ter controlling sediment, litter, and waste, we’re tackling pollution at its source. Keeping our storm drains clean is one of the best ways to keep our rivers and lakes clean and healthy.”

The awarded projects will help communities meet the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit permits are required to manage stormwater discharges and prevent pollutants from entering storm sewer systems. 260 Massachusetts municipalities are subject to the MS4 permit. The MS4 Permit is issued by the EPA under the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and the projects are selected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

The groups receiving funding are:

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) — \$63,225

- The BRPC will work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and Waterstone Engineering to improve stormwater planning tools for local communities. The project will add new stormwater management designs, create a practical guide to help communities choose the right solutions for specific locations, update cost estimates and provide training for municipal staff on the planning tools. MS4 representatives, as stormwater officials, will help shape the work to ensure the tools are user-friendly and effective for public infrastructure projects.

Charles River Watershed Association — \$55,480

- The Charles River Watershed

Association will help install stormwater controls to help reduce nutrient pollution in the Charles River Watershed. A technical advisory committee and consultant will work to build public-private partnerships that allow municipal stormwater to infiltrate on private land. Participating communities will also pilot a low-cost database to track stormwater controls for municipal reporting.

Greenscapes North Shore Coalition — \$17,212

- The Greenscapes North Shore Coalition will conduct public outreach activities to address and reduce pet waste pollution. And will also implement regional solutions that combine a high visibility public signage campaign with stormwater education and regional advocacy to reduce pet waste pollution and support MS4 compliance for North Shore Communities.

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) — \$33,500

- The MVPC will expand its regional stormwater mapping tool, the LID Viewer, to help municipalities identify priority sites for management, reduce flooding risks and move projects closer to funding and implementation. MVPC will work directly with municipal staff through surveys and outreach to confirm existing data, track progress and identify top stormwater mitigation opportunities. The project will also update the LID Viewer to keep it a strong planning tool for building resilience across the Merrimack Valley.

Neponset River Watershed Association & Neponset Storm-

water Partnership — \$41,860

- The proposed project will create and/or adapt standardized design details for green stormwater infrastructure features and develop a framework for identifying key factors, tradeoffs, champions, and policies around retrofitting priorities in lead partner towns so that retrofitting can be routinely incorporated into other infrastructure maintenance projects. This framework will serve as a model to help other Neponset Stormwater Partnership communities implement a similar approach.

Massachusetts Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition (MSMSC) — \$16,000

- The MSMSC will translate public education graphics, flyers and social media posts from the Think Blue MA Education and Outreach toolkit into four non-English languages. The project will also include updating the Think Blue MA website to include newly translated materials as well as updating the Spanish version of Think Blue MA website.

Old Colony Planning Council — \$39,935

- The Stormwater Partnership

Pilot will bring together Abington, Bridgewater and Plympton to build a shared stormwater asset inventory and develop peer-to-peer training for municipal staff. Through GIS mapping, field assessments and joint workshops, the project will strengthen local capacity to meet MS4 permit requirements. The initiative will also create public outreach materials and prioritization tools to guide future infrastructure improvements.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection’s (MassDEP) mission is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth’s natural resources - air, water, and land - to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of all people, and to ensure a clean and safe environment for future generations. In carrying out this mission MassDEP commits to address and advance environmental justice and equity for all people of the Commonwealth, provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for people to participate in agency decisions that affect their lives; and ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we serve.



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## REFORM (from pg. 6)

residents to compare plans, enroll in coverage, and access financial assistance to help lower costs.

Since the first enrollment period in 2007, more than 1.5 million Massachusetts residents have received coverage through the Health Connector.

“The Commonwealth’s health reform law was a historic, collaboration-based achievement – one that allowed more Massachusetts residents than ever to have the protections of high-value health coverage and to be able to count on the meaningful health care access and financial security that comes with it,” said Audrey Morse Gasteier, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts

Health Connector. “Twenty years later, the law and the Health Connector have proven to be effective and enduring models that continue to make our Commonwealth a healthier, fairer, and more secure place to live.”

The event will feature remarks from Governor Healey, Governor Romney, who signed the bill into law, Governor Patrick, whose administration implemented the reform and later helped advance the Affordable Care Act. Additional speakers will include current and former legislative leaders, as well as Health Connector enrollees who will share how the law has impacted their lives.

Two panel discussions featuring

leaders from the business community, health care industry, government and policy sector will reflect on the collaboration required to pass the law, and then the necessary momentum post-signing needed to successfully implement it

The event will be held at Boston’s Faneuil Hall beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 13, the same location it was signed 20 years ago. Faneuil Hall was opened in 1742 and is known as “America’s Cradle of Liberty” as the site of Revolutionary-era gatherings and protests. The event is open to the press, and more information will be provided closer to the event date.

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## DIDOMENICO CONTINUES HIS ADVOCACY FOR EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

COURTESY PHOTOS

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico recently spoke at the Massachusetts Association of Early Education and Care (MADCA) State House Advocacy Day. MADCA represents more than 600 early education centers and family childcare systems that provide services from North Adams to Boston to the Cape. Each day, they provide high quality early educa-

tion and care for tens of thousands of low-income, at-risk, and high-need children in the subsidized care system. Senator DiDomenico also introduced Senate President Karen Spilka before her speech at the event.

“I am proud to have led on this issue for years promoting the legislature’s commitment to strengthening this sector, stabilizing childcare providers and expanding access across the state,” said DiDomenico in his remarks. “As a father

of two children, I understood the need for high quality early education and care personally. I have worked tirelessly to help make our state the only one to avoid the funding cliff that arose after federal funds from COVID dried up. I am proud to work alongside Senate President Spilka and my colleagues to ensure educators are making more money, we are reducing turnover, programs are stable, and more kids are learning in high quality settings.”



Senator Sal DiDomenico with Early Ed and Care advocates in his office.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with Early Ed and Care advocates in his office.



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking at the Early Ed and Care event.

## Boston Center for the Arts appoints Shey Rivera Ríos as Artistic Director

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Center for the Arts (BCA), 539 Tremont Street, announced the appointment of Shey Rivera Ríos as its new Artistic Director, marking a new chapter for one of Boston’s most vital cultural institutions. Rivera Ríos will lead the artistic vision and programmatic direction of the organization, advancing BCA’s mission to support artists and strengthen Boston’s creative ecosystem.

Rivera Ríos joins BCA with more than a decade of leadership experience at the intersection of arts administration, cultural strategy, and community-rooted artistic practice. Born and raised in Puerto Rico and rooted in New England for more than fifteen years, Rivera Ríos has built a reputation as a collaborative cultural leader who strengthens creative ecosystems



PHOTO COURTESY KERRY CONSTANTINO  
Shey Rivera Ríos

by connecting artists, institutions, and communities.

Prior to joining BCA, Rivera Ríos held a leadership role at AS220, the Providence-based artist-run arts organization known for its interdisciplinary program-

ming and long-standing commitment to artists and creative communities. Their work spans cultural districts, festivals, site-responsive projects, and cross-sector collaborations with municipalities, foundations, universities, grassroots organizations, and independent artists. Rivera Ríos brings significant leadership experience cultivating institutional partnerships, engaging funders, and advancing artist-centered programming that positions the arts as a vital force in civic life.

Rivera Ríos is also an interdisciplinary artist whose work explores ritual, social practice, and cultural memory. Their artistic practice has been exhibited and performed throughout New England, including at the BCA Mills Gallery. This dual perspective—as both artist and cultural strategist—shapes Rivera Ríos’s approach to institu-

tional leadership and creative collaboration.

Rivera Ríos was selected following a national search conducted in partnership with executive search firm DRG Talent. The process engaged BCA staff, artists, campus partners, board members, civic stakeholders, and the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, reflecting a strong alignment around Rivera Ríos’s artistic vision, collaborative leadership style, and commitment to community-centered cultural practice.

“Shey is an extraordinary artistic leader whose work reflects a deep commitment to artists and creative communities. Their appointment marks an exciting moment for Boston Center for the Arts as we build greater alignment across artistic leadership, programming, and the campus experience. This work strengthens

BCA as a vital platform for artists and a cultural convener within Boston’s creative landscape,” said Kristi Keefe, CEO, Boston Center for the Arts.

“I feel deeply honored to serve as the first Artistic Director of BCA and help lead this exciting new chapter. As a cultural anchor, BCA has made the commitment to lead with artist-centered vision. Now more than ever, we must strengthen artists and arts communities, so we can build visionary futures together,” said Shey Rivera Ríos, Artistic Director, Boston Center for the Arts

“With BCA’s dedication as an arts-driven organization, Shey brings the creativity, energy, and experience that our entire ecosystem will benefit from. Together we look forward to Shey’s con-

(ARTS, Pg. 14)

# The 'Quin House Impact Fund awards over \$1m in grants to nonprofits in 2025

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The 'Quin House Impact Fund in Boston announced more than \$1 million in grants to more than 50 nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts in 2025, thanks to member giving. 'Quin House members are critical to the non-profit nomination process with 220 submissions in 2025.

The 'Quin House Impact Fund serves as a financial resource for local philanthropic organizations that are making positive contributions to the Greater Boston community. The 'Quin House is committed to affecting change in the local community and the club is a space for members to not only further their education on important issues, but also be a part of the solution. The Fund was launched in 2019, a year prior to the opening of The 'Quin House, and is now the basis of the club's philanthropy.

The Fund supports six pillars throughout the year: Arts and Culture, Innovation and Discovery, Equity and Opportunity, Health and Wellness, Youth and Education, and Earth 360°. The Fund is hosted by The Boston Foundation and has now awarded over \$4.3M in grants to over 150 Greater Boston nonprofits since 2019.

"The Impact Fund was initially founded thanks to Sandy Edgerley's vision to give back to the community she calls home. Since then, we have been honored to fund organizations that have an indelible effect on our community and have been grateful to have many of these organizations contribute to our programming at The 'Quin as well, with triple the number of 'Quin Impact Fund events in 2025," said Michelle Perez Vichot, Director of The 'Quin House Impact Fund. "We look forward to providing funding for many years to come, thanks to the unending generosity of our members."

Throughout the year, grant winners gather for a celebration and networking event at The 'Quin House as a continued effort of The 'Quin House to provide opportunities to the community organizations it supports.

The 'Quin House members and

staff also participate in volunteer activities throughout the year. In 2025, the number of volunteer events tripled from 2024. Recent highlights include visiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, The Greater Boston Food Bank, Cradles to Crayons of Massachusetts, as well as the annual Winter Walk to end homelessness.

The 'Quin House Impact Fund is also planning special events and initiatives for 2026 to mark the five-year anniversary of The 'Quin House.

More information about The 'Quin House Impact Fund is available here.

The 'Quin House Impact Fund serves as a financial resource for local philanthropic organizations that are making positive contributions to our community. The Fund creates positive social change by engaging The 'Quin House members in giving and community engagement, to support mission-driven organizations making a difference in our community by helping those in need. Donations support organizations under The 'Quin House Impact Fund core pillars: Arts & Culture, Discovery & Innovation, Equity & Opportunity, Health & Wellness, Youth & Education, Earth 360°. The 'Quin House also organizes guest speakers, lecturers and volunteer events to enlighten their members on how their gift and involvement can make a true impact.

- Charlestown**
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (Charlestown Club)
  - Boston PAL
  - Heading Home

- Beacon Hill**
- Vilna Shul, Boston Center for Jewish Culture
  - Museum of African American History
  - Boston Athenæum
  - Friends of the Public Garden (strong stewardship presence across Beacon Hill/Commonwealth Ave)

- East Boston**
- ZUMIX
  - Veronica Robles Cultural Center



COURTESY PHOTO

'Quin House members and volunteers delivering bags of food to area food banks.

- Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción
- Pine Street Inn
- MFA
- North End
- Haley House
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)
- Community Music Center of Boston
- Boston Arts Academy
- Vilna Shul, Boston Center for Jewish Culture
- Animal Rescue League of Boston
- Museum of Fine Arts
- The Boston House
- FamilyAid
- Boston Ballet (Citydance)
- Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción
- Boston Children's Chorus
- Boston Gay Men's Chorus
- South End
- Boston Medical Center
- Kenmore / Fenway
- Jamaica Plain
- Boston Gay Men's Chorus
- The Food Project

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We are pleased to announce the availability of 2026 scholarships. This year, we are offering \$10,000 to two college freshmen, \$2,000 to three college upperclassmen and \$1,500 to four high school students. Applications may be obtained from our website [www.ryanmorrisesyscholarship.com](http://www.ryanmorrisesyscholarship.com). Our annual Awards Presentation Dinner will take place Saturday, June 6th at the Knights of Columbus. Please mark your calendar. Questions: [ryanmorrisesyscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ryanmorrisesyscholarship@gmail.com)



## Charlestown Patriot-Bridge Pick-Up Locations

Basilica.....	106 13th St.
Anchorage Apartment.....	103 13th Ave.
Ace Hardware.....	Bunker Hill Mall
CVS.....	Bunker Hill Mall
Citizens Bank.....	Bunker Hill Mall
Whole Food Market.....	Bunker Hill Mall
Waverly Café.....	229 Bunker Hill St.
Bunker Hill Liquors.....	200 Bunker Hill St.
Kennedy Center.....	55 Bunker Hill St.
Foundation Kitchen.....	32 Cambridge St.
Constellation Wharf Condos	1 Constellation Wharf
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.
Harborview.....	250 First Ave.
MGH Institute.....	26 First Ave.
7/11 Store.....	1 First Ave.
MGH Health Care Center.....	73 High St.
Hood Park (Tradesman).....	50 Hood Park Dr.
Boston Public Library (Charlestown)	..179 Main St.
Schrafft's.....	529 Main St.
7/11 Store.....	269 Main St.
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.
McCarthy's Liquors.....	9 Moulton St.
Bunker Hill Cleaners.....	Moulton St.
Warren Tavern.....	2 Pleasant St. & Main St.
Santander Bank.....	437 Rutherford Ave.
Hood Park.....	500 Rutherford Ave.
Zelma Lacey House.....	9 W School St.
Gatehouse Apartment.....	75 W School St.
7/11 Store.....	Thompson Sq.
Charlestown Liquors.....	Thompson Sq.
Starbucks.....	Thompson Sq.
Cambridge Savings.....	Thompson Sq.
Police Station.....	20 Vine St. Hayes Sq.
Tatte Bakery.....	40 Warren St.

## WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING



On March 12, in anticipation of St. Partick's Day, and in appreciation of the great Irish tenor, John McCormack, a the very emotive tenor Joshua Collier gave charming and deeply moving renditions of traditional Irish ballads with pianist Maria Rabbia for very lively and appreciative audience at St. John,s Church in Charlestown.

### ARTS (from pg. 12)

tribution to elevating the Boston artistic community," said Jennifer Pinck, Board Chair, Boston Center for the Arts

"I'm incredibly excited to welcome Shey Rivera Ríos as the new Artistic Director of Boston Center for the Arts. She is an artist and leader who understands the power of culture to convene people, to think critically about the world around us, and to collectively build new futures.

I admire how they approach their work with thoughtfulness and care for artists and the wider

community. We are looking forward to working closely with Shey, as we continue to grow BCA as a campus for artistic experimentation, connection, and civic life in Boston," said Joseph Henry, Chief of the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture for the City of Boston

As Artistic Director, Rivera Ríos will guide the artistic direction of BCA programming and partnerships while strengthening the organization's role as a civic and cultural anchor in Boston. The position includes curatorial

leadership, artist support initiatives, cross-sector partnerships, and the cultivation of a vibrant artistic community across BCA's historic South End campus.

Rivera Ríos will work closely with BCA leadership, artists, and partners to deepen the organization's impact locally while expanding connections across regional, national, and international networks.

Rivera Ríos began her tenure as Artistic Director on March 23.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Rodiger, Albert A	197 8th St Unit 807 Rt	197 Eighth St	\$1,667,000
Turpin, Danielle	Grewal, Corie	20 Sullivan St	\$1,170,000
22 Havard LLC	Daniel C Smith Lt	22 Harvard St	\$1,862,000
Christopher R Metli Lt	Meadows, Ryan	28 Mt Vernon St	\$3,400,000



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# DCR invites the public to vote in the 4th annual "Park Madness" tournament

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced the return of its "Park Madness" tournament to celebrate the diverse state park system and crown the favorite state park in Massachusetts this year. Modeled after March Madness brackets, 16 parks from across the state will compete, with voting taking place on DCR's Instagram account over the next two weeks.

Voting on the first round of matchups begins Wednesday, March 25. Subsequent rounds will be posted to Instagram, leading up to this year's Park Madness champion being announced on April 6. Voting can only be done through Instagram, and votes must be entered through the voting feature on each post. Votes listed in each post's comments section will not be counted. The tournament gives people a chance to support their favorite DCR outdoor spaces and discover new ones across Massachusetts.

"As the birthplace of basketball

and home to some of the country's most beautiful public lands, it's only fitting that we celebrate the spirit of March Madness with our own Park Madness tournament," said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle. "Our parks and open spaces belong to all of us, and each one offers something unique. Park Madness is a fun way for people to show pride in the spaces they love, discover new ones, and plan their spring outdoor adventures. We look forward to seeing which park comes out on top this year!"

Last year's contest ended with the Boston Harbor Islands being crowned the 2025 champion. Walden Pond came out on top in 2024, while Belle Isle Marsh pulled off a stunning upset over the Charles River Esplanade in the inaugural Park Madness tournament in 2023.

Each year, a new crop of competitors are chosen, pulling from every region of the state. This year's competitors have been matched up for the first round as

follows:

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees nearly half a million acres of land, making up one of the largest and most diverse state park systems in the country. Our work focuses on nurturing the vital connection between people and the environment by protecting, promoting, and enhancing our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all. DCR infrastructure connects people to and through the beautiful landscapes and accessible recreational facilities we care for – strengthening our communities and driving our economy. Our staff strive to build a healthier, more resilient Massachusetts where all residents and visitors can relax, reflect, and feel a sense of belonging in our open spaces and public lands. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) or contact us at [mass.parks@mass.gov](mailto:mass.parks@mass.gov).



16 DCR properties will face off in a March Madness style bracket, with the public voting via Instagram for their favorite parks across Massachusetts.

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

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Mastering small kitchens

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Over the years, we've cooked in a suburban kitchen large enough for all the guests at a party to gather around and make their own tortellini. The kitchen in our first pied-à-terre in Boston was so small that we had to fit a cutting board across the sink because of the lack of counter space.

Our current kitchen has an 8'x 8' footprint. But this is common for city life, and we have many friends who, like us, do a lot of cooking in a small space. It does take some adaptation, but generations of cooks have made do with less and produced great food.

### Our Solution

Since we write about food and do a lot of cooking, we decided to use space in other areas of our condo to house items that would normally be in the kitchen. A long hallway was fitted with shelves

where our pantry items are stored in glass jars.

We converted our dining area adjacent to the kitchen into a combo dining and work space with a counter-height dining bar, a matching console for appliances, and a baker's rack for storing pots and pans.

We store seldom-used items, such as baking equipment, under our base cabinets in covered plastic containers.

### Prioritize and Downsize!

We also moved from two homes to one, leaving us with duplicates of many kitchen items.

One way to make the most of a small kitchen is to reduce your selection of cooking equipment and appliances. Every so often, we all have to think about the items we actually use and prioritize our kitchen storage anew.

In addition to knives, cutting



We converted our dining area adjacent to the kitchen into a combo dining and work space, featuring a counter-height bar with a matching console table for storage.

boards, a few good pans, and a utensil crock filled with basics (like wooden spoons, spatulas, a masher, tongs, and ladles), we have some multi-use items that we use all the time.

For example, full, half, and

quarter sheet pans with matching silicone mats are stored in our oven and serve not just for roasting and baking, but also are routinely placed on our cooktop to extend our counter space.

These pans are used to hold

ingredients as we prep them. Covered with a thirsty kitchen towel, they serve as drying racks for clean equipment. They've been used to spread and sort beans and legumes, and to dry herbs. These sturdy metal trays can be moved to and from our dining table when the kitchen counters are full.

### We Shop More Often

We don't have a car, so we shop almost every day. Even if you do have a car, you might want to do fewer large grocery shopping trips if they mean carrying load-after-load from the nearest parking space and up flights of stairs.

Once you attune your routine to many smaller shopping trips, you'll find you may be spending less money, and you will certainly waste less food. Daily shopping means you pick up what you need for the next day or so.

It makes you more likely to check what you have on hand, so you don't have to carry more than you need. In doing that, you can plan to use up what's already in your refrigerator and buy only what you need to fill out upcoming meals.

You may also find yourself shopping at more small local businesses, farmers' markets, and having food delivered via local services. All of this is good for our community and will also help you become a welcome part of your new neighborhood.

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

## HOLY WEEK

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative  
Join us as we journey through Holy Week  
in prayer, reflection and celebration

### PALM SUNDAY March 28-29

Saturday March 28 -

St Francis 4p.m. St Mary 4p.m.

Sunday March 29

St Francis 9:30a.m. St Mary 8 & 11a.m., 6p.m.

### March 30 - April 1 (Mon-Wed)

8a.m. Mass at St Catherine's Chapel

### EASTER TRIDUUM (April 2-4)

Holy Thursday

9a.m. Morning prayer St Catherine's Chapel

6:30p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (St. Mary)

### GOOD FRIDAY

9a.m. Prayer - St Catherine's Chapel

3p.m. Stations of the Cross - St. Francis

6:30p.m. The Lord's Passion -St. Francis

Holy Saturday

9a.m. Morning Prayer St. Catherine's Chapel

6:30p.m. Easter Vigil St. Mary - no 4p.m. Mass.

### EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20

Mass at St. Francis 9:30a.m.

Mass at St. Mary's 8a.m. & 11a.m.

Offices: 46 Winthrop St. 617-242-4664

charlestowncatholic.org

In honor of Women's History Month  
Charlestown Historical Society presents

## Women of Charlestown

The history of famous women  
in Charlestown through the centuries

The history of famous women in Charlestown  
through the centuries

Bunker Hill Museum Community Room  
Tuesday, March 31st at 6 p.m.

Join us to learn about and celebrate the women of Charlestown