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FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026



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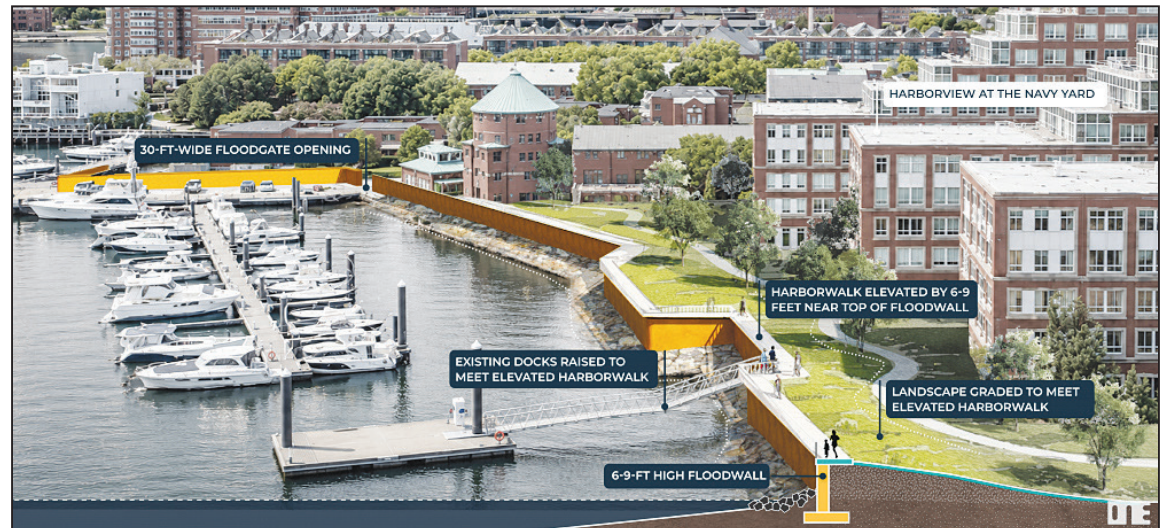
Wu, USACE announce draft plan to protect Boston against sea-level rise and extreme weather

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the release of the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) draft Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, a once-in-a-generation study to protect Boston against coastal flooding and sea level rise. This study, projected to be completed by 2028, will allow

the City of Boston to access up to 65% federal cost-sharing to construct coastal resilience projects to prevent an estimated \$41 billion in damages from coastal flooding. The proposed projects outlined in the draft report are open to public comment from July 24 through September 18. Residents and stakeholders can

(SEA-LEVEL, Pg. 11)



COURTESY IMAGE

Example of what a USACE project could look like for Charlestown Navy Yard.

NEW HEALTH BOARD MEMBERS HONORED



PHOTOS COURTESY MASSACHUSETTS LEAGUE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

NEW Health board members Denise Clancy and Marilyn Stempler were presented with the Joseph M. Smith Board Member award by Michael Curry and Sue Levine during the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers' Courage to Care Gala. See Page 9 for story.

Successful Healthy Rides program expands to help Boston's older residents

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston's Age Strong Commission, the Biogen Foundation, the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts (ULEM), and Lyft announced the expansion of Healthy Rides, a free transportation initiative for Boston's older residents. Supported by a collaborative investment of \$150,000, the expanded program builds on the success of the pilot to tackle

social isolation, expand medical access, and improve the quality of life for older adults. Following the pilot's success, the Biogen Foundation joined as a funding partner, contributing \$50,000 toward program expansion. The City of Boston and Lyft each matched Biogen's contribution, bringing the total investment to \$150,000.

"Every elder in Boston should be able to easily visit friends and family, attend social gatherings,

and get to medical appointments. The success of our initial pilot program shows how important it is to continue providing these services, removing barriers so older residents can live healthy, independent lives," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am grateful to all of our partners for their leadership and support in ensuring that Boston remains a home for everyone."

(HEALTHY RIDES, Pg. 7)

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EDITORIAL

WHERE IS TEDDY ROOSEVELT WHEN WE NEED HIM?

The constant cacophony of bumbling babbling from our leaders in Washington these days with regard to the ongoing conflict with Iran brings to mind the wisdom of former President Theodore Roosevelt. On September 1, 1901 -- just two weeks before he became President upon the assassination of President William McKinley -- Roosevelt offered timeless foreign policy advice in a speech he delivered at the Minnesota State Fair:

"Speak softly and carry a big stick -- you will go far. If a man continually blusters, if he lacks civility, a big stick will not save him from trouble; and neither will speaking softly avail, if back of the softness there does not lie strength, power. In private life there are few things more obnoxious than the man who is always loudly boasting; and if the boaster is not prepared to back up his words his position becomes absolutely contemptible. So it is with the nation. It is both foolish and undignified to indulge in undue self-glorification, and above all, in loose-tongued denunciation of other peoples."

Today, the United States finds itself mired in a costly conflict with Iran. Even Israel, which has the most direct interest in subduing Iran, is sitting this one out, content to let the U.S. carry the ball.

Yet our leaders are pursuing a policy that is the antithesis of Roosevelt's counsel. We boast loudly, but our diplomatic and military strategy lacks a true "stick" against an enemy comprised of zealots and fanatics who know they can outlast a traditional military campaign.

This approach fails to serve our national interests, threatens the stability of the global economy, and risks severe domestic financial fallout. Most importantly, the brave members of the military are putting their lives on the line for a vague and ill-defined policy that has no clear military objective.

Now, as both Washington and Tehran dig in their heels following a collapsed truce, we must reject empty bluster. Our leaders must return to a strategy where measured diplomacy replaces pointless and endless bombing.

THE MIRACLE OF A BAIRN

No, we are not Scottish. But we are big fans of the hit TV show *Outlander*, and "bairn," the Scottish word for a newborn or a young child, has permanently entered our vocabulary.

Two weeks ago our family welcomed a bairn of our very own. Georgia, our first grandchild, is a beautiful baby girl named in honor of her maternal great-grandmother. Her arrival has cast our world in an entirely different light.

As adults, we take for granted the complex intricacies of our own bodies. By contrast, every feature of a newborn -- from the tiny fingers and toes to the little nose -- feels like a distinct, mesmerizing wonder.

Cradling Georgia in our arms brings an unparalleled sense of calm -- a biological serenity that feels deeply imprinted into our ancient human DNA.

We are not particularly religious (despite 12 years of Catholic school). But if there is anything that might persuade us that a higher power exists in the universe, it is the miracle that is a new born baby.

Governor Healey takes action to cut concert, sports ticket resale and fees

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey announced that she will file An Act Relative to Closing the Great Divide between Ticket Prices and Affordability, or The Great Divide Act, to lower sports and concert ticket resale prices and ensure that fans have a fair opportunity to enjoy the events they love without paying exorbitant prices on the secondary market. The legislation would establish some of the nation's strongest consumer protections for the secondary ticket marketplace, building on reforms recently adopted in states such as Vermont and Maine.

The Governor's proposal, which will be included in her upcoming closeout supplemental budget, caps the resale price of concert tickets at 110 percent of the price of the face value of the original ticket. It also limits the service fees and charges that can be imposed by ticket resellers like StubHub and SeatGeek to no more than 10 percent of the total price of the ticket for resale. It prohibits the sale of speculative tickets, which are tickets that are not in the possession of the seller when they are listed for sale. Finally, it implements additional consumer protections measures, including prohibiting the use of deceptive websites by ticket resellers and misleading consumers about the availability of tickets.

The name of the proposal is a nod to singer and songwriter Noah Kahan, who recently made history as the first artist ever to headline four consecutive sold-out shows at Fenway Park. Kahan has been a vocal opponent against predatory resale practices and successfully advocated for a similar bill in Vermont.

"Far too many Massachusetts residents have experienced the pain of being excited to buy tickets to see their favorite singer or sports team, only to realize that resale prices and fees have driven up the cost to outrageous levels," said Governor Healey. "Or how about when you do purchase tickets from a reseller, only to get to the venue to realize the seller never actually transfers them to you? Enough is enough. We are taking action to lower ticket resale prices so Massachusetts fans can better afford to see their favorite performer or team."

During the press conference announcing the legislation, Governor Healey was joined virtually by Noah Kahan, who threw his support behind the measure: "I heard about what you're announcing today and I just wanted to let you know how excited I am about it. The artist

community and fans will greatly benefit from limiting ticket scalping and the sales of speculative tickets. I love my fans and want to protect them however I can. Artists alone could not tackle the market manipulation of secondary resellers. So, thank you so much for making this a priority in Massachusetts."

Under the proposal, concert tickets cannot be resold for more than 110 percent of their original face value, unless an artist or venue explicitly authorizes a higher resale cap through a written agreement. For example, if a ticket originally cost \$100, it could be resold for no more than \$110.

The bill limits the service fees charged by ticket resale marketplaces to no more than 10 percent of the listed resale price for sporting events and non-sport-

(TICKETS, Pg. 7)



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THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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City of Boston and Boston University announce new landmark five-year PILOT agreement

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The City of Boston and Boston University announced a major Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) agreement. The new PILOT agreement includes a commitment of more than \$104.3 million in voluntary cash contributions and community benefits over the next five years. The agreement is the first written PILOT agreement between the City and Boston University in more than 25 years and the largest in Boston’s history, creating a predictable and reliable schedule of valuable partnership benefits for the City.

“Boston’s success has always depended on strong partnerships between the City and our anchor institutions, rooted in the shared understanding that thriving institutions and a strong, well resourced city go hand in hand,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This agreement reflects Boston University’s continued investment not only in innovation and education, but in the communities we call home. We thank President Gilliam and Boston University for this commitment to invest in our city, learn from one another, and collectively strengthen the foundation that allows our residents, neighborhoods, and institutions to thrive.”

“Boston University is committed to Boston, its communities, and the PILOT program. This new five-year agreement reflects the priority we place on service and partnership with Boston,”

said Boston University President Melissa Gilliam. “We are grateful for Mayor Wu’s leadership and look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen Boston and engage the people and communities that make our city exceptional.”

Boston University has been a longstanding partner with the City of Boston and the lead higher-education contributor to Boston’s nation-leading PILOT program, a system launched in 2012 that governs annual voluntary cash and community benefit contributions from the City’s largest private, non-profit, and tax-exempt institutions. This partnership is based on the mutual understanding that a welcoming, safe, and financially stable City that delivers high-quality essential services is critical to the continued success and financial health of Boston’s large nonprofit institutions.

Under the new five-year agreement, Boston University will increase its annual PILOT cash payments to the City from \$6.3 million in FY25 to \$8.3 million in FY30. This represents a 32% increase over BU’s current PILOT contribution baseline, which has not changed since FY19.

“As one of the largest universities in Boston, BU and its students are an integral part of our city. This new agreement is an important step in strengthening our partnership and reaffirming the shared role our institutions have in supporting our communities,” said City Councilor

Sharon Durkan. “As the Chair of the Boston City Council’s PILOT Agreements Committee, I frequently hear from residents asking our non-profit partners to step up, and I believe Boston University is doing exactly that with this renewed commitment. BU has consistently been one of the city’s strongest contributors to the PILOT program, and as the City Councilor for its Charles River Campus, it has been a privilege to work closely with the University and witness its leadership and dedication to the City of Boston.”

Additionally, Boston University commits to contributing annual PILOT community benefits valued at a total of \$66.8 million over the term of the five-year agreement, benefits that will be reported annually to the City and subject to annual review to align with city and community needs. The new agreement reflects Boston University’s continued work to sustain and grow its baseline community benefit commitments to support public

education, access to public and institutional spaces, and a mutually agreed list of other shared City and institutional priorities. Community benefits eligible to be counted toward this goal are quantifiable and directly benefit City of Boston residents.

“As chair of the Boston University Community Task Force representing the community, I am grateful to BU for its longstanding investment in our city. Through these agreements and its collaborative approach, BU has consistently followed through on its commitments and become a trusted partner in our neighborhoods,” said Pam Beale, Chair of BU Community Task Force. “I appreciate all that the University has done and continues to do to strengthen the communities surrounding its campus and support the residents and businesses that call those neighborhoods home.”

Boston University’s commitment to delivering benefits in close partnership with community members to support the City’s

communities and address local needs predates the PILOT program, including but not limited to the University’s Thomas M. Menino Scholarship and Community Leaders Scholarship. Recipients of the merit-based Menino Scholarship have their full four-year tuition covered by the award. Since its inception in 1973, the scholarship program - the oldest and largest one for BPS graduates - has awarded over \$220 million to over 2,000 students. The need-based Community Leaders Scholarship meets recipients’ full calculated financial need without loans. Each recipient is paired with a faculty or staff mentor to support their transition to Boston University. The award is available to BPS graduates entering BU as first-year students and to eligible transfer students.

Boston University and the City will focus on renewing a mutually agreeable voluntary PILOT agreement before the five-year agreement expires on June 30, 2030.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Satchek, Vladislav	Ralph H Bonnell Iii Ft	10 Lawrence St	\$1,250,000
Oconnor, Olga	Hughston, David Scott	127 High St	\$2,450,000
Spiak, Jake A	Carr Ft	24 N Mead St	\$2,550,000
Gadeberg, Lauren	Lewis, Ryan James	30 Green St	\$2,400,000
Crane, Benjamin L	Rao, Tandhoni	38 Mead St #94	\$645,000
Clausen, Lauren E	Myers, Hannah	57 High St #2	\$1,165,000
Camplese-Rodrigues, J	Aroyan, Garni Talin	8 Allston St #3	\$555,000
Smith, Russell	Spiak, Barbara	81 Pearl St	\$1,275,000
83 High St LLC	Galton, Kenneth A	83-1/2 High St	\$1,825,000
Crane, Benjamin L	Rao, Tandhoni	92-94 Russell St #94	\$645,000
Tompros, Louis	Mchugh, James F	99 Pearl St #16	\$70,000

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Glasgow traffic cone welcomed as a token of hospitality and friendship between Scotland and Massachusetts during the 2026 FIFA World Cup

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu, Governor Maura Healey, Massport CEO Richard Davey and Meet Boston President & CEO Martha J. Sheridan celebrated the arrival of the Glasgow traffic cone to Massachusetts. Inspired by the 40-year Scottish tradition of placing traffic cones on the heads of statues, this traffic cone represents the joy, curiosity, and friendship shared between Boston residents and Scottish fans during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and the bond built between the two cities. Additional photos from this event are available at this link.

Over the two weeks that the Tartan Army visited Boston, Scottish fans placed cones on the Bill Russell statue at City Hall Plaza, the Make Way for Ducklings statues in the Public Garden, the Kevin White statue, and other notable sites.

“The memories from this World Cup in Boston will be passed down for generations. We’ll remember how “No Scotland, No Party” echoed throughout our city for weeks, how fans connected across all different cultures through shared pride and beloved traditions, and how the Tartan Army and Bostonians became one big family,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This partnership is one for posterity, and Boston is honored to receive this hallowed cone as a symbol of the bond we’ve built with the Tartan Army, the City of Glasgow, and the people of Scotland.”

“The World Cup gave Massachusetts an incredible opportunity to welcome visitors from around the globe and show exactly what makes us so special,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We’re excited to welcome this Glasgow icon to Massachusetts and celebrate a connection with Scotland that goes far beyond the World Cup, one that is built on shared history,



Danny Campbell, Mayor Michelle Wu, Massport CEO Richard Davey, Governor Maura Healey, and Andrew Dobbie pose for picture with Glasgow Traffic Cone.

creativity, and a sense of humor. From culture and tourism to business and innovation, we’re looking forward to building even stronger ties across the Atlantic.”

“The Glasgow traffic cone has captured the warmth and spirit that the Tartan Army brought to Boston and to Massachusetts throughout this World Cup. But beyond the fun and goodwill, this cone also represents something more enduring: the deep connections between our peoples, our cities, and our economies,” said UK Consul General to New England David Clay MBE. “Scotland and Massachusetts share a remarkable history, and this moment gives us a wonderful opportunity to build on it. We are proud to support the growing sister city relationship between Glasgow and Boston, and we look forward to seeing that partnership develop in commerce, in innovation, and in friendship for many years to come.”

As part of the ceremony, Mayor Michelle Wu issued a proclamation declaring July 14, 2026 as ‘Boston Cone Day’ in the City of Boston to mark the cone’s arrival. By issuing this proclama-

tion, Mayor Wu encouraged residents to recognize ‘Boston Cone Day’ as a day of celebration and commemoration in the city. The Glasgow traffic cone began its route at Boston Logan Airport, where it was officially signed by Mayor Michelle Wu, Governor Maura Healey, and Massport CEO Richard Davey. It will then travel to landmarks across the city, including the Massachusetts State House, duck boats, Faneuil Hall, the North End, the Freedom Trail, the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the New England Aquarium, View Boston, Fenway Park, and Boston Common, and Dunkin’. The full itinerary of the trip, along with real-time monitoring, is available at bostoncone.com

“Boston and Glasgow have always shared a special bond, but this summer has strengthened that relationship in a truly remarkable way,” said Richard Muir, deputy chief executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce. “The friendships formed during the FIFA World Cup have created a platform for something much bigger. From world-class universities and pioneering life

sciences to technology, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, our cities have enormous potential to work together to drive innovation, attract investment and create high-quality jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. The Glasgow traffic cone is a light-hearted symbol of the warmth and hospitality that brought our people together, but it also represents a lasting commitment to closer collaboration between our businesses, institutions and communities. We are excited about what comes next for Glasgow and Boston.”

The Glasgow traffic cone carries the phrase “No Boston, No Party,” the Red Sox logo, a roll and square sausage, and bagpipes. It also has the signature of Stuart Patrick, marking the City of Glasgow’s intention to twin with Boston, and tap-to-donate technology to raise funds for Scottish Action for Mental Health and the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health.

On June 18, 2026, the City of Boston and the City of Glasgow advanced plans for a formal international partnership, building on the strong connections formed during the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The two cities plan to sign a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding during Tartan Week in April 2027, outlining specific areas of cooperation and establishing a framework for long-term collaboration.

“Since the start of this World Cup, tens of thousands of Scottish fans have been welcomed to Boston having flown through Logan International Airport,” said Massport CEO Rich Davey. “It’s an honor to host a symbol of Scotland here at Logan and raise the Scottish flag in our Hall of Flags, permanently showcasing the special relationship Boston has with Scotland.”

“Boston tourism partners are elated to welcome the Glasgow traffic cone to our city, where

it will enjoy an experience that follows in the footsteps of the famous Tartan Army,” said Martha J. Sheridan, President & CEO of Meet Boston. “We will always remember the magical moments that took place in June of 2026, when an indelible transatlantic bond was formed between Boston and Scotland. The cone symbolizes how that bond endures. A big thanks to our friends at Delta Air Lines for making this visit a reality.”

The Glasgow traffic cone visit and campaign was created by influencer and MadeBrave founder Andrew Dobbie and architect and BBC Scotland’s Home of the Year presenter Danny Campbell, turning the joy Scotland fans brought to Boston during the World Cup into a lasting symbol of connection between Glasgow and Boston.

“I still can’t quite believe the reception we’ve had from the people of Boston. It really does feel like Glasgow and Boston are soulmates. What started as a viral moment has become real life, creating real human connection between people who might never otherwise have met,” said Andrew Dobbie. “So much of what we see online can feel heavy, but this has been the opposite. It has brought people together, made them smile and reminded us that joy can travel a very long way. We have been here for about 24 hours and it has been absolutely bonkers. This amazing cone has connected us with so many brilliant people, one magic duck and a city that has welcomed us with open arms. We are hugely grateful to Mayor Wu, Governor Healey, Massport, MeetBoston and everyone in Boston for their hospitality and for making this feel so special. Now we can’t wait to take the cone around the city, keep sharing that good feeling and raise money for two incredible mental health charities on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Dr. Tommy Welch selected as new superintendent of Salem public schools

By Cary Shuman

Dr. Tommy Welch, Boston Public Schools Region 1 Superintendent, has been named as the new superintendent of the Salem (Mass.) public schools.

An East Boston resident, Welch, 50, was selected by a 6-1 vote of the Salem School Committee at its July 15 meeting.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to have earned the confidence of the Salem School Committee to serve as the next Superintendent of Salem Public Schools," Dr. Welch said. "After more than 27 years as a teacher, principal, and regional superintendent, I am excited to help Salem build upon its strong foundation and move toward an even brighter future."

Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo, chair of the School Committee, praised Welch on his appointment to the preeminent leadership position in the school district.

"Salem was fortunate to have three incredibly strong finalists for this important role," said Pangallo. "I am incredibly optimistic about the future path for Salem Public Schools under Dr. Welch's leadership. He brings the qualifications, the commitment to equity and academic excellence, and – above all – the values that will ensure that the positive trajectory of Salem's schools will continue forward."

Welch's leadership in Region 1, which includes 15 schools in East Boston, Charlestown, and the North End, during his 11-year tenure has been extraordinary. Education professionals have recognized Region 1 as being the most successful district in the City of Boston in attendance, academics, and climate and culture data. In fact, the Bradley Elementary School won the National ESEA Distinguished School Award in 2024 for exceptional student achievement and its success in serving multilingual learners and students with disabilities. Schools in Region 1 have also received the



Dr. Tommy Welch

EdVestors School on the Move Prize for their rapid and significant improvement in academic achievement.

"Our success is a testament to our school leaders sticking to it," said Welch humbly. "We have the longest-serving, tenured principals in our district, an average of nine years, which is remarkable. If you think about how successful teachers work and successful schools work, it's just that, the consistency of the leadership and the people in the building that helps to the problem-solving aspect of what's happening in the schools and the classroom, the ability to work together and collaboratively each day."

Also complementing Welch's superb record of administrative accomplishment is his highly visible presence in the schools, the neighborhoods, and in local organizations and youth sports programs, notably Maverick Landing Community Services, East Boston Little League and Boston Scores (soccer).

"These are all organizations that support families and the students in our region," said Welch. "An important thing also is that as my own children got older and began participating in a lot of the activities in the neighborhood, it was like I had my work hat and my community hat on at the same time. A lot of the problem solving that I worked on with parents and staff members happened not necessarily on school campuses, but at the baseball and soccer fields and in the community."

That hands-on, in-the-com-

munity approach affirms one of Welch's greatest strengths: his accessibility to families, parents, staff members, and even the students themselves who admire him as a coach and mentor.

"My wife has been extremely active in school activities and programs, and that gives a personal touch to how I lead, because since we've been here, we've had children in the system," said Welch.

Welch said he and his family will continue to reside in East Boston. Welch will begin his superintendency in Salem in August. He spoke about the next challenge in what has been a sterling 27-year career in the field of education.

"This moment calls for collaborative, courageous, and student-centered leadership," Welch said. "Academic growth will remain central to our work, but success must also mean creating schools where every student is known, valued, challenged, and supported. Together, we will bring to life Salem's powerful motto: 'Where Belonging Leads to Opportunity.'"

A graduate of Occidental College (a school which President Barack Obama attended) and the University of California, Los Angeles, who received his doctorate in Educational Leadership from Boston College, Welch was a school principal in Los Angeles when he was appointed to a Boston regional superintendent position by then-Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tommy Chang.

Welch commended both Dr. Chang and current Boston Superintendent of Schools Mary Skipper for their support in his administrative roles.

"Mary Skipper has been my boss for the last four years, and she's been great to me, understanding that different parts of the city have different challenges that they're facing. With me being one of the more veteran executive team members, she really gave me the trust and guidance to execute the district's mission and goals with her, but

to do it in a way that I knew what was best for the community because I have been serving in the school district for eleven years. She's been so supportive to me throughout this entire process in Salem."

Congratulatory wishes

State Sen. Lydia Edwards, Rep. Adrian Madaro, and East Boston Little League President Nick Free were among the many officials and residents congratulating Dr. Tommy Welch on his appointment as the new superintendent of Salem public schools.

Following are their statements:

Sen. Lydia Edwards

"As Region 1 Superintendent of Boston Schools, Dr. Welch has

dedicated his career to bettering K-12 schools in Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End. Dr. Welch has made a profound impact on Region 1, and his visionary leadership has led to the improvement of academic outcomes within this diverse network. Within the last few years, Region 1 schools have received a variety of recognitions, including winners of the EdVestors School on the Move Award, three schools designated as a School of Recognition by the DESE, and one school receiving the National Distinguished School Award in 2024.

Dr. Welch's impact is felt

(WELCH, Pg. 16)





Celebrating 25 Years

Four Seasons Recomposed & Mozart's 40th

Wed July 29 7 PM DCR Hatch Memorial Shell	Fri July 31 7 PM Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain	Sat August 1 3 PM Twelfth Baptist Church, Roxbury
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Verdi Requiem

Wed August 5 | 7 PM
DCR Hatch Memorial Shell

Organ Symphony & Fountains of Rome

Wed August 12 | 7 PM
DCR Hatch Memorial Shell

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Healey celebrates new MBTA Harbor Loop Ferry service

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll joined Interim Transportation Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng, legislators and transportation partners to celebrate the new MBTA Harbor Loop Ferry, an affordable weekday ferry service connecting North Station, Aquarium, Seaport and Logan Airport. The new F10 route, which began service on June 29, expands transportation options across Boston Harbor, strengthens connections across the MBTA system and gives commuters, residents and visitors another reliable way to travel throughout Boston.

“We’ve made tremendous progress making the MBTA safer and more reliable, and today we’re giving people another affordable, convenient way to get where they need to go,” said Governor Maura Healey. “For the price of a subway ride, commuters, residents and visitors can travel between some of Boston’s busiest destinations by water. We’ll keep investing in practical improvements like this that give people more choices, save them time, reduce traffic and build a transportation system that works for everyone.”

“Ferries are an important part of our transportation network, and this new route creates faster, more convenient connections between some of Boston’s busiest destinations,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “Whether you’re commuting to work, catching a flight or visiting the city, this service gives riders another affordable option while helping reduce congestion on our roads.”

“We have seen how water transportation has been embraced by the public and under the Healey-Driscoll Administration, we are commit-

ted to improving water transportation options for all,” said Interim Secretary and General Manager Phillip Eng. “Year over year, we have enhanced water service and this year is no different. I’m proud that we can offer this new route to be served by the MBTA as we welcome both old and new riders this summer.”

The Harbor Loop is the latest investment in the Healey-Driscoll Administration’s effort to expand transportation choices and better connect people to jobs, housing, businesses and Logan Airport. By making greater use of Boston Harbor as a transportation corridor, the new service provides another affordable, reliable travel option while helping reduce congestion and strengthening connections across the MBTA network.

Operated by Bay State Cruise Company, the F10 Harbor Loop provides weekday service between four of Boston’s busiest destinations:

- Lovejoy Wharf (North Station)
- Central Wharf (Aquarium)
- Seaport (Commonwealth Pier)
- Logan Airport

Designed around peak commuter travel, the Harbor Loop operates weekdays approximately every 30 minutes during the morning and evening rush periods. Morning service runs counterclockwise from 6:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and evening service runs clockwise from 3:55 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. There is no service between 11:30 a.m. and 3:55 p.m. or after 7:50 p.m.

One-way fares are \$2.40 for full-fare riders and \$1.10 for reduced-fare riders, matching subway and Zone 1A pricing. Riders may pay using Tap to Ride, cash or credit card onboard, the mTicket app, or an eligible Zone 1A through Zone 10 Commuter Rail pass. Charlie-

Cards cannot be used on MBTA ferry routes.

“The Harbor Loop is an exciting addition to our water transportation in the City of Boston. As an added ferry route with year-round service, I’m excited that the MBTA has delivered this long-awaited service route thoughtfully timed with commuters in mind – giving riders additional travel options during peak commuting hours while improving connections to the subway and Commuter Rail,” said Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Boston). “I’d like to thank the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority for securing this win for the Boston community, and to Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll for their consistent support in strengthening the Commonwealth’s transportation infrastructure.”

“The Harbor Loop Ferry is an exciting investment in the future of transportation across Greater Boston,” said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-Boston). “Through the expansion of both reliable and affordable connections between Downtown, the Seaport, Logan Airport, and surrounding neighborhoods, we’re helping residents and visitors get where they need to go. I’m grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the MBTA, and all of our partners for helping to unlock the full potential of the Boston Harbor as a vital transportation corridor.”

“Water transportation and the Harbor Loop Ferry Service will be key extensions for public transit,” said Representative David Biele (D-Boston). “I am grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration for partnering with colleagues in the Legislature to increase public transportation options for riders.”

The Harbor Loop complements—but does not replace—the existing Seaport Ferry oper-

ated by the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. The new route gives riders additional travel options during peak commuting hours while improving connections to the subway at North Station and Aquarium Station, Logan Airport, and other MBTA ferry routes serving Hingham/Hull, Lynn, Winthrop, Quincy, Charlestown and East Boston.

The Harbor Loop is the latest milestone in the Healey-Driscoll Administration’s ongoing work to modernize and strengthen the MBTA. Over the past two years, the Administration has eliminated systemwide slow zones, expanded ferry and commuter rail service, and delivered major infrastructure projects that are making the system safer and more reliable for riders every day.

“The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy celebrates the leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the MBTA on the launch of the Harbor Loop Ferry Service,” said Chris Cook, Executive Director, Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy. “As recent major special events have activated our City this summer, it is clear the Commonwealth is focused on connecting visitors and residents alike with our beautiful Boston Harbor and its world-class destinations. We look forward to welcoming even more visitors to the park as the Harbor Loop Ferry strengthens connections between the Harbor and downtown destinations like The Greenway.”

“The new F10 Harbor Loop is a smart, strategic expansion of our regional water transit network,” said Kate Dineen, President & CEO of A Better City. “We applaud Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, and Interim Secretary Eng for prioritizing this link, which significantly enhances access to

major employment hubs and bolsters connectivity across the MBTA. By bridging North Station, Central Wharf, the Seaport, and Logan Airport, this service will help reduce congestion and ensure our region remains a competitive, thriving destination for residents and visitors alike.”

“The launch of the Harbor Loop Ferry represents another important investment in giving people more choices for how they travel around Boston Harbor,” said Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director, Seaport TMA. “By connecting neighborhoods, employment centers, and destinations by water, this service expands mobility, strengthens our transportation network, and makes it easier for residents, workers, and visitors to leave their cars behind. We applaud Governor Healey, the MBTA, and all of the partners who helped bring this new connection to life, and we’re excited to see water transportation continue to play a larger role in the Commonwealth’s transportation future.”

This summer, the MBTA has delivered historic transit service for the FIFA Club World Cup, including completing the fastest commuter rail station construction project in MBTA history to support service to Foxborough and safely transporting more than 100,000 fans to the matches. The MBTA has also supported millions of trips to major events across Massachusetts this summer, including Sail Boston, MA250 celebrations and concerts, demonstrating the progress that has been made building a more reliable, resilient and connected transportation system.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration will continue investing in public transportation that gives riders more affordable, reliable and convenient ways to travel throughout Massachusetts.

HEALTHY RIDES *(from Page 1)*

Healthy Rides was initially launched in November 2024 through a partnership between the City of Boston, ULEM, and Lyft. Over its four-month pilot period, the program provided over 1700 rides to more than 600 older adults, demonstrating strong demand and meaningful impact. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), social isolation and loneliness can severely impact an older adult's health and well-being and are associated with an increased risk of heart disease, depression, and cognitive decline. Research shows that isolated older adults face longer hospital stays, have higher readmission rates, and have lower life expectancy than those with meaningful and supportive social connections. By expanding transit options for Boston's older adults, the Healthy Rides initiative aims to reduce these exact risks and promote healthier aging.

Boston residents, age 60+ are eligible for up to 4 free rides per month (while funds are available) to health and wellness activities and destinations within Boston. Eligible trips include medical appointments, pharmacies, fitness/wellness classes, senior centers, social programs, and support groups.

"We're thrilled to help expand the Healthy Rides program," said Emily K. Shea, Age Strong Commissioner. "Our Age Strong Shuttle team is fully ready to assist residents schedule rides, ensuring this service is accessible to everyone, including those who may not be comfortable booking through the Lyft app. This initiative is a welcome addition to our existing transportation programs (Age Strong Shuttle, and Taxi Coupon programs). Reliable transportation gives older residents the freedom to stay active, which we know is vital to

living longer, healthier lives."

"This breakthrough initiative has proven its ability to address a significant unmet need among older adults in our community," said Teresa Cachero, Ph.D., Biogen Vice President of Asset Development and Portfolio Management and the Chair of the Biogen Foundation's Board of Directors. "Aligned with the Biogen Foundation's mission to promote better health in our communities, we are proud to support the expansion of the Healthy Rides program, improving access to care and enabling stronger connections to essential health and wellness services."

"The Healthy Rides program mirrors the Urban League's mission: helping adults to overcome racial and social barriers and economic inequities," said Urban League of Eastern MA President/CEO Rashaan Hall. "This unique partnership allows needed transportation for our older residents to access necessary health and wellness services, fostering self reliance and independence."

"At Lyft, our purpose is to serve and connect, and we believe transportation shouldn't be a barrier to staying healthy or independent", said Brendan Joyce, Senior Public Policy Manager at Lyft. "The Healthy Rides program has shown what's possible when a city truly invests in its residents, and we're proud to expand this program alongside Mayor Wu, the Urban League, and the Biogen Foundation."

Healthy Rides may be booked by calling the Age Strong Shuttle at 617-635-3000. Shuttle staff can schedule the ride on behalf of residents or provide a ride code for those who prefer to book independently using the Lyft app. For more information, visit www.boston.gov/healthy-rides or call 617-635-3000.

CAVA OFFICIALLY OPENS AT LOGAN'S TERMINAL B

MarketPlace Logan, which manages the concessions program at Boston Logan, and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) celebrated the official arrival of CAVA to the concessions program at Boston Logan International Airport's Terminal B.

CAVA has officially landed at Boston Logan, bringing its signature Mediterranean-inspired cuisine to passengers traveling through Terminal B. Known for its fresh, customizable bowls, pitas, and salads, CAVA's menu is rooted in bold Mediterranean flavors and a commitment to

serving food that's both wholesome and craveable—making it the perfect option for travelers looking for a healthy, flavorful meal before takeoff.

Please find attached photos with caption information below (Photo credit: Michael Blanchard Photography).



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL BLANCHARD PHOTOGRAPHY

Shown (left to right) Michael DiCosola, President, MarketPlace Development; John Jamison, President, Paradies Lagardère; Rich Davey, CEO, Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport); and Wade Sterns, Senior Vice President, Operations, CAVA.

TICKETS *(from Page 2)*

ing events like concerts. For example, if a ticket is listed for resale on a resale platform for \$300, the service fee charged by the resale platform cannot exceed \$30. Today, many resale platforms charge service fees of roughly 20 percent or more, adding hundreds of dollars to the cost of tickets. This proposal is expected to cut resale service fees typically paid by consumers

today in half.

The legislation also prohibits the sale of speculative tickets, meaning tickets that a seller does not actually have when they list them for sale. Too often, consumers pay for these tickets only to find out they are never delivered. During this summer's World Cup matches at Gillette Stadium, some fans who purchased tickets through online resale platforms

were turned away after discovering the tickets they bought never existed.

The bill includes additional consumer protections to prohibit deceptive resale websites that falsely suggest they are affiliated with artists or venues and to prevent resellers from misleading consumers about ticket availability or scarcity.

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\$20,000 in grants awarded to 14 youth teams at 2026 SCI Pitch Event

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Social Capital Inc. (SCI) hosted its 2026 Pitch Event at Roxbury Community College, showcasing the innovative ideas of local high school students from 10 communities across Greater Boston. At the event, 14 youth teams presented original social impact projects to a live panel of judges, competing for up to \$2,000 each in grant funding from a total pool of \$20,000.

"It was an amazing opportunity to show what I've learned and worked on for the community," said Anderson Alfaro, a youth team member of Building Over Blocks in Chelsea. Another youth participant, Elamin Elamin with Fortune Avenue in Boston, shared, "I loved the opportunity to meet so many people from such different backgrounds. Additionally, my team and I had a great opportunity to connect with one another on a level we otherwise couldn't have."

SCI welcomed nearly 200 people to the Pitch Event in Roxbury, with youth participants, program volunteers, family, supporters, and invited guests in attendance. In total, 99 young people aged 13-19 years old were involved in the 2026 SCI Youth Grant Pitch Contest. Out of the 14 participating teams, 3 were awarded the maximum grant award of \$2,000: EVkids Youth Leaders (Boston), Fortune Avenue (Boston), MA Youth Climate Coalition (Malden/Greater Boston). Each youth team will have until December 31, 2026 to complete their respective projects and will submit a project impact report by the end of January 2027.

Below is the full list of participating teams in the 2026 SCI Youth Grant Pitch Contest with their award amounts:

Arts & Culture Track

- Community Health Cohort from La Colaborativa in Chelsea. Awarded \$1,900.

- ECO (Environmental Chelsea Organizers) from GreenRoots in Chelsea. Awarded \$1,680.

- Green Jobs from La Colab-

orativa in Chelsea. Awarded \$1,420.

- Connor's Kindness Project from Connor's Kindness Project in Woburn and Winchester. Awarded \$1,000.

Bridge-building Track

- EVkids Youth Leaders from EVkids in Boston. Awarded \$2,000.

- Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition from Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition in Greater Boston. Awarded \$2,000.

- Soley from Immigrant Family Service Institute in Mattapan. Awarded \$1,500.

- Camp Warm Welcome, a youth-led initiative in Boston. Awarded \$750.

- Con Manos Unidas We Change from De Nosotros Foundation and Eastie Coalition in East Boston. Awarded \$750.

Mental Health Track

- Fortune Avenue from Fortune Avenue in Boston. Awarded \$2,000.

- Lynn Lady Leaders from Boys & Girls Club of Lynn. Awarded \$1,900.

- Building Over Blocks: House of Health from La Colaborativa in Chelsea. Awarded \$1,100.

- GrowWithGuidance from GrowWithGuidance INC. in Natick. Awarded \$1,100.

- BGCD Keystone from Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester. Awarded \$900.

SCI's Youth Grant Pitch Contest provides youth with access to adult-mentoring relationships, financial support, and network-building resources, while intentionally cultivating connections across socioeconomic barriers in Greater Boston. Since launching in 2021, SCI's Youth Grant Pitch Contest has supported 53 youth-led projects through \$69,000 in grants that have benefited over 6,000 community members across 14 Greater Boston communities. The 2026 Pitch Event was supported by 1981andCo Photography, the Ironside Group at Morgan

(GRANTS, Pg. 9)



EVkids Youth Leaders (second from left to right), Alexa Santana, Mariama Bangoura, Blake Dacosta, Fatoumata Balde, and Souleymane Diallo pose with Team Advisors, Dede Evans (third from right) and Ashley Clavel (right); Pitch Coach, Sam Gerry (background, left); SCI Program Coordinator, Vitalie Memeus (left); and SCI President, David Crowley (second from right).



Fortune Avenue youth members (left to right) Elamin Elamin, Rebecca John, Daniel Idenudia, David Huang, and Daniel David pose with Team Advisor, JAKE Small (left) and Mental Health Track Judge, Seth Libert (background, center).

NEW Health board members honored by Mass. League of Community Health Centers

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers recently hosted its Annual Awards Gala with the theme, "The Courage to Care." Among those awarded were two long-time NEW Health board members and North End residents. The Joseph M. Smith Board Member award recognizes board members who demonstrate leadership and a commitment to supporting access to care in their communities. Denise Clancy and Marilyn Stempler were honored for their dedication and support to NEW Health over many years. Clancy and Stempler are the two longest-serving NEW Health board members. NEW Health has sites in both the North End and Charlestown.



NEW Health leaders, staff, and board members at the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers' Courage to Care Gala

GRANTS (from Page 8)

Stanley Wealth Management, Roxbury Community College, the YMCA of Greater Boston, and TITIN (Extra Virgin Olive Oil). For more information visit socialcapitalinc.org/ygpc.

The 2026 SCI Youth Grant

Pitch Contest is made possible by the generous support of Boston Bridges Initiative, Winning Home, Inc., State Street Foundation, The Brooks & Joan Fortune Family Foundation, M&T Bank, The Boston Foundation, Kick It

For A Cause, Boston Children's Hospital, and a Massachusetts state budget line item (thanks to the advocacy of State Senator Cindy Friedman). Major support for SCI's youth programs is provided by Cummings Properties.

SCI's mission is to strengthen communities by connecting diverse individuals and organizations through civic engagement initiatives. SCI's goal is to develop 1,000 youth + adult Social Capital Cultivators™ by 2028

who will increase social connection through civic engagement initiatives to build thriving, inclusive communities. Visit socialcapitalinc.org to learn more.



Soley's youth team members, Emalee Milcet (second on the left), Neicka Mathias, Liany Martinez, Jakyra Johnson, and Mumina Osman, pose for a fun photo with Team Advisor, Ethan Mitchell (background, left); Pitch Coaches, Jonathan Feldman (background, center) and Kenny Weill (background right); SCI Program Coordinator, Vitalie Memeus (left); and SCI President, David Crowley (right).



MA Youth Climate Coalition youth leaders, Rylan Workman (center-left) and Kidus Tsige (second from right), pose with Pitch Coaches, Jolly Pradhan (second from left) and Jack Nedelman (center-right); SCI Program Coordinator, Vitalie Memeus (left); and SCI President, David Crowley (right).

BizUnlocked Boston Business Access Program celebrates 14 graduates

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On Saturday, June 28, the Office of Small Business celebrated the 14 graduates of the BizUnlocked Boston Business Access Program. This is the inaugural year of BizUnlocked Boston, which is executed by Tessi Consulting.

BizUnlocked Boston is a business access program that connects small business owners to the resources, expertise, and relationships they need to build lasting businesses that create jobs, stability, and sustainability in our communities. Designed for early-stage entrepreneurs, the program connected the selected business owners with resources, expertise, and peer support to help strengthen and grow their businesses.

The pilot program took place from May 13 to June 27 and blended collaborative in-person workshops, interactive virtual sessions, and group technical assistance with small business experts.

"This program came from a need to equip early stage businesses with the information and resources to avoid common pitfalls businesses make in their beginning years," said Director of Small Business Aliesha Porcena. "It has been years in the making. Over the years, we have learned a lot from businesses and their varying experiences, and adapted that information into this program. We wanted businesses to feel part of the Boston small business ecosystem from the start, and support them as they unlock their full potential."

Applications for BizUnlocked Boston launched on March 17 and attracted 168 applicants. Applications were reviewed based on demonstrated commitment, readiness to fully participate, and alignment with the program's goals. The Office of Small Business and Tessi Consulting selected 14 business owners for the pilot cohort. The par-



The 14 graduates from the inaugural year of BizUnlocked Boston Business Access Program.

ticipants represented a diverse range of industries, including print and publishing, education and social impact, and health and wellness.

"Entrepreneurs thrive when they have access to the right tools and support at the right time," said Christie Lindor, Founder and CEO of Tessi Consulting. "BizUnlocked Boston was created to equip entrepreneurs with the knowledge, confidence, and community they need to navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and grow thriving businesses. It has been an honor to partner with the City of Boston to help make that vision a reality."

Over five weeks, these businesses participated in a dynamic blend of collaborative in-person workshops and interactive virtual sessions. This pilot program included a combination of live instruction, technical assis-

tance, and self-guided assistance designed to support their learning and business development. Through the program, business owners strengthened business operations, leveraged technology to improve efficiency, developed marketing plans, and built a stronger foundation for long-term growth.

"Throughout the program, we gained useful tools and knowledge that successfully helped me develop a full business plan and pitch deck to support the operations and functions of my business," said Shawn McNamara of Odd Jobs Media LLC. "It was a huge success in further developing the business to make it better serve the Boston community and beyond."

During the program, business owners gained a clear understanding of business planning, operations, marketing, and

financing. They also completed an initial business plan that will serve as a roadmap for growth or be used to pursue funding opportunities. After the program, participants have access to six months of support sessions led by technical assistance service providers. Following graduation, business owners will continue to receive support through six months of group technical assistance sessions led by small business experts.

The BizUnlocked Boston cohort is as follows:

Bak and Beverage, Food and Beverage

BlackBrownBoston, Education and Social Impact

Boston Fire Escape Pros, Construction & Safety Services

BostonToSalemTours, Tourism & Hospitality

Corte Visual, Media and Creative Services

DMS Consulting, Professional Services

Groovy Thrifty LLC, Retail and E-commerce

Locd in Boston, Beauty

Lovey Ledgers, Professional Services

Mats Boston, Health and Wellness

Odd Jobs Media LLC, Printing and Publishing

Salon25, Beauty

Tugboat Toy Company LLC, Retail and E-commerce

Valet Waste Solutions LLC, Cleaning Services

"I truly appreciate the support and exposure BizUnlocked provided during my startup journey. The encouragement from fellow participants and the connections I made along the way were invaluable," said Sofia Baliakhova of Tugboat Toy Company. "The program challenged me to think outside the box and consider diverse perspectives, which helped me grow immensely as an entrepreneur. Having such a comprehensive wealth of knowledge consolidated into a single program was incredibly helpful. Ultimately, I feel like BizUnlocked gave me the exact key I needed to unlock both my personal potential and the full potential of my business."

The Office of Small Business is dedicated to connecting entrepreneurs with tools, resources and guidance to successfully start, grow, and build a business in Boston. Through the Office of Small Business, the City seeks to provide support to business owners to enhance their economic impact on our communities. Since 2022, the Office of Small Business has provided over 11,608 hours of one-on-one Technical Assistance for over 530 businesses; funding over 70 storefront signage and facade renovation projects; and streamlining the process and reducing financial barriers for participation in the annual Outdoor Dining program.

SEA-LEVEL *(from Page 1)*

submit their feedback and learn about upcoming community meetings and webinars at boston.gov/flood-prevention.

“Boston leads with bold action to protect our communities and our future,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The future of our city depends on the steps we take now to build resilient communities. With more frequent flooding in vulnerable areas during extreme weather events, the Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study is critical to understanding how to protect inland neighborhoods most at risk and unlocking resources to take action. I’m grateful for all our partners working to ensure Boston is resilient, prepared, and beautiful.”

“Today marks a major milestone in our shared mission of community resilience,” said Lieutenant Colonel David MacPhail, Deputy Commander of the New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “The reality is that doing nothing is not a viable option. Without action, the costs to public safety and economic vitality from coastal flooding will only be compounded.”

Flood Risk in Boston

Roughly one sixth of Boston is built on filled tidelands and is in danger of flooding due to sea-level rise and extreme weather. Since 1991, Boston has experienced 24 severe storm events that triggered federal or state disaster declarations, 14 of which caused major flooding. Flooding already affects many coastal neighborhoods even on blue sky days, and flood paths on Boston’s low-lying land will carry coastal storm flooding deep into neighborhoods in the decades to come.

Boston is at greater risk of coastal flooding due to expected increasing storm intensity and sea-level rise. According to USACE, over 40 percent of Boston residents (an estimated 284,000 total) live in areas that are at risk of coastal flooding, and approximately 20,000 buildings are at risk of severe flooding.

Building coastal infrastructure is critical to protect inland parts of Dorchester, Roxbury, the South End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, East Boston, Charlestown, and even Allston, as well as access to hospitals, the MBTA, I-93, the Mass Pike, Logan Airport, and more. Without any action, some neighborhoods over a mile away from the ocean could experience severe flooding in the next 25 years.

USACE Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

The draft Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study outlines a multi-decade scope of work consisting of over 20 infrastructure projects along 16 miles of Boston’s 47-mile coastline, largely in alignment with Boston’s Climate Ready Boston neighborhood plans. These projects would permanently close 20 long-term coastal flood pathways (inland areas that could flood during extreme weather events). These sites have been identified by the federal government as key areas of risk that could compromise the safety and economic future of both Boston and the country at large.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) estimates \$54 billion in projected losses by the end of the century if Boston takes no action to improve its coastal resilience. However, USACE estimates that every \$1 invested in Boston’s resilience through these projects will save residents, businesses, and the public sector at least \$4 in future avoided disaster losses. According to USACE’s draft report, it will cost approximately \$10 billion for the baseline infrastructure to close all of Boston’s coastal flood pathways. This draft report does not include additional cost estimates for project upgrades to improve public access to Boston Harbor. As these projects are further designed in the years to come, the City expects to invest billions of additional dollars through federal, state, and private funding streams to enhance USACE’s baseline coastal resilience infrastructure and improve residents’

access to green space and recreational opportunities along Boston Harbor.

By partnering with USACE, the City of Boston can access up to a 65% federal cost-share for construction of the baseline infrastructure to protect Boston from flooding. Boston will work closely alongside the Commonwealth and private-sector partners to secure the remaining funding needed to finance these critical projects as they are further designed and delivered over the coming several decades. On June 1, the Boston Green Ribbon Commission announced the launch of a one-year study to identify how Boston and its government and private sector partners can fund and finance the 35% non-federal cost share to deliver on these critical coastal resilience projects. This study will analyze the total cost of inaction, the benefit and Return on Investment (ROI) of resilience investments, the funding gap to fill, funding and financing options from public and private sources, and a recommended financial strategy.

The USACE draft Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study report contains:

- Locations for projects to protect Boston against coastal flooding
- Different types of infrastructure projects proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers, such as floodwalls, berms, and flood-gates
- Neighborhood characteristics, such as the environmental resources, cultural institutions, and local history, that will affect what types of projects are constructed.

Public Feedback

The locations for coastal resilience infrastructure proposed by USACE in this study are not final. As of today, the public can visit boston.gov/flood-prevention to see:

- A summary of the USACE draft study report,
- A storymap, an immersive multimedia presentation highlighting maps, proposed coastal infrastructure projects, and nota-

ble features of the draft study report,

- Proposed neighborhood plan summaries, including the possible locations and types of coastal infrastructure projects, and

- Upcoming community meetings and webinars, including a webinar on best practices for providing public comment on August 6 at 10 AM.

USACE will publish the full draft Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study on their website later this week. Residents and stakeholders can submit their feedback by September 18 at 5 PM.

Coastal Resilience Planning in Boston

This work to protect Boston would not be possible without the collaboration and perspective of our communities. Over the last decade, the City of Boston has engaged thousands of residents and stakeholders across coastal neighborhoods, making this one of the most extensive community-driven resilience planning processes in the country.

In 2016, the City of Boston published its Climate Ready Boston plan, which outlined the adaptation efforts to protect Boston from extreme heat, stormwater flooding, and coastal and river flooding. It also identified climate resilience initiatives to enable Boston to address these risks and continue to thrive in the face of climate change.

From 2017-2022, the City of Boston created local Coastal Resilience Solution Plans to identify the location of flood risks and opportunities for flood prevention infrastructure across each neighborhood. As a result, the City developed coastal resilience solutions and an implementation roadmap that outlines the timing by which strategies need to be constructed and next steps for advancing each proposed project in each neighborhood. USACE will be a critical partner in implementing these projects.

Following the completion of the neighborhood coastal resilience plans, the City has taken

action to implement priority projects across the city’s waterfront to reduce near-term coastal flood risk for Boston’s communities. The City projects underway in each coastal neighborhood include 11 projects currently in design, two projects actively in construction, and three projects that have been constructed and are open to the public. Progress on project implementation are available through the City’s Coastal Resilience Project Tracker.

“All of Massachusetts benefits from the protection of Boston’s coastline,” said Brian Swett, Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston. “Failure to protect our city jeopardizes the entire region’s economic prosperity and access to critical infrastructure, including hospitals, higher education, rail networks, highways, and job opportunities. The more we invest in Boston’s resilience now, the more we will all prosper in the future.”

“If we do not act, many people in Boston and across the region could have their home, work, school, commute, or medical care affected by coastal storms and sea-level rise,” said Chris Osgood, Director of the Office of Climate Resilience. “Investing in resilience will not only save lives. It will protect our regional economy and critical services, as well as enhance recreational, and natural spaces along Boston Harbor.”

“The Army Corps partnership is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unlock significant federal funding to protect Boston’s major job centers and our state’s economic competitiveness,” said Lindsey Butler, Executive Director of the Green Ribbon Commission. “With this plan as our foundation, now is the moment for pragmatic collaboration to protect not just the coastline but the economic vitality of our city for generations to come.”

Sign up for project updates on the US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study.



PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES RACHAL, COURTESY OF THE NORTH END HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the museum took place last week, including, pictured left to right: Vito Aluia, Jimmy Pastor, Frank Waldron, Aaron Michlewitz, Tom Damigella, Rita Damigella, Frank DePasquale, and Justin DeMetri.

North End Historical Museum officially opens to the public

Special to Patriot-Bridge

The North End Historical Museum officially opened to the public on Tuesday, July 21, at 3 Prince St. Hours are Tuesday to Sunday: 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The interactive museum, which was conceived and created by the nonprofit North End Historical Society, covers 400 years

of North End history.

Throughout its history, the North End has served as a crucial steppingstone for Boston's earliest settlers. Beginning with the original 1630 settlers of Boston, the North End remained at the heart of the city's development throughout the revolutionary era, and over time, the neighborhood became home to waves

of Irish, Jewish, Portuguese, and Italian immigrants.

Visit northendboston.org for more information, or to donate to the new museum.

Adults: \$10
Seniors, Military, Student (with ID): \$8
Youth, ages 13 to 18: \$5
Children 12 & under: Free
NEHS Members: Free

Wu announces 2026 Civic Summit

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the 2026 Civic Summit, a full day event focused on uniting neighbors, civic leaders, and non-profit advocates to strengthen community and civic engagement in Boston. As Boston commemorates the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding, this year's Civic Summit theme, "We the People," reflects the City's continued focus on community-driven progress and making Boston a home for everyone.

The summit will be held on Saturday, August 1, at Boston University Questrom School of Business featuring a fireside chat with Mayor Michelle Wu, a panel discussion with community leaders, and breakout sessions led by subject matter experts, including faculty from Boston University. Registration and a full agenda are available on boston.gov/civic-summit.

"Boston has always been a leader among cities because of the strong civic leaders in our neighborhoods and communities. Each year, our Boston Civic Summit convenes residents who know our city best to share resources and strengthen connections to ensure Boston is a home for everyone," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thankful for Boston's strong civic leaders who shape our neighborhoods everyday and look forward to seeing everyone at this year's summit."

This year, the Civic Summit invites participants to reflect on the evolving meaning of democracy, their role in civic engagement in Boston, and how our city is a home of belonging for all. While "We The People" is one of the most recognizable phrases in American history, its original interpretation did not include many of the communities that make up Boston today.

The Civic Summit aims to broaden that definition by highlighting the voices, experiences, and contributions of all residents. Through conversation

and collaboration, attendees will explore how civic engagement has evolved over time and how each of us can help build a more inclusive and civically engaged Boston.

"Now more than ever, every voice deserves to be heard and every resident should feel seen and know that they are a part of shaping our city's future," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "The Civic Summit is the Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing's opportunity to invest in Boston's civic leaders, neighbors who look out for one another, and the volunteers whose dedication strengthens our communities every day. Whether you're a longtime community advocate or looking to get involved for the first time, we hope you'll join us as we learn from one another, build new connections, and continue creating a Boston where everyone belongs."

The Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing is proud to work with PurpleFox Events LLC, an event planning company based in Mattapan led by Atiya Charley. Award-winning spoken word artist and community leader Amanda Shea will serve as the host of the Civic Summit. Boston-based journalist, researcher, lecturer, and podcast host Dart Adams will lead the panel discussion "Public Assembly and Civic Action: The History and Evolution of Peaceful Assembly," exploring how the right to gather, organize, and advocate for change has evolved over time.

"I am excited to partner with the Mayor's Office Civic Organizing to plan this year's Civic Summit," said Atiya Charley, Founder of PurpleFox Events. "Our team looks forward to helping create a memorable community centered event for attendees to connect, exchange ideas, and inspire meaningful action in neighborhoods in Boston."

The City of Boston is grateful

(SUMMIT, Pg. 15)

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A conversation with Mayor Michelle Wu: “Boston should be a home for everyone”

By Mia Hart

“Boston should be a home for everyone,” Michelle Wu said, gazing forward with measured confidence as she reflected on the city’s future.

For Wu, that idea has shaped both her leadership and her vision for Boston since first taking office as mayor in 2021. But Wu’s leadership is shaped by more than policy alone. As Boston’s first woman and first Asian American elected mayor, her path to City Hall has carried both historic significance and personal responsibility.

Before becoming Mayor, Wu served on the Boston City Council, where she witnessed firsthand the challenges of navigating leadership in spaces where women were often underrepresented. She recalled that when she was first elected in 2013, she was one of only two women on the council alongside her colleague, Ayanna Pressley, the first woman of color to be elected to the body. Wu noted that for a period of time, the two were simply referred to as “the women councilors.”

Considering this, one question I raised centered on these milestones and whether the labels attached to them have ever created a unique sense of pressure in her leadership.

Wu spoke consistently of the idea of representation not simply as symbolism, but as a responsibility to ensure every resident



Mayor of Boston Michelle Wu, pictured in her office at City Hall with reporter Mia Hart.

feels seen; to make sure every room and space she is in bridges different communities into her decision-making. She emphasized that she is inspired everyday by the leaders throughout Boston’s neighborhoods who are the “firsts” in many areas, culturally, educationally, nationally, and more. And she notes that having a community where these experiences are shared amongst so many people keeps the doors open for a second, and then a third, until it becomes normal for people to see that leadership everywhere.

I also asked Wu to reflect on whether the reality of serving as mayor over the past five years has matched the expectations she held while first campaigning for the office.

Wu acknowledged that she was not new to City Hall when she first ran for mayor, having already served eight years on the City Council, including a two-year term as president. Yet even with that experience, she admitted no one could have predicted the vastly different political and social climate that would define today. From the rapid rise of artificial intelligence to the escalating realities of climate change, the challenges facing city leadership have evolved in ways few could have anticipated.

Still, Wu emphasized that while the government cannot control everything, it remains the place people turn to in times of uncertainty and need. “This is what drives me every day,” she said, explaining that public service matters because it is where meaningful action can directly improve people’s lives.

Finally, as a college student myself, I wanted to raise an issue that feels deeply personal to many students and young professionals in Boston: whether living in the city will remain financially attainable. I asked Wu what progress she hopes to make on housing affordability by the end of her term.

Wu responded with cautious optimism, pointing to ongoing efforts to expand housing supply while acknowledging the scale of the challenge. She highlighted the city’s Office-to-Residential Conversion Program, which seeks to transform empty and underused

office buildings into new housing opportunities, as one example of Boston’s efforts to increase available housing stock. Wu also discussed the Co-Purchasing Housing Pilot Program, designed to help families and households pool resources to purchase homes together and improve pathways to homeownership. In addition, she noted Boston’s broader efforts to rezone key areas and streamline the permitting process in order to accelerate housing development.

As the conversation drew to a close, one idea remained constant throughout Wu’s reflections: the belief that leadership is measured not only by policy, but by people. She stressed that every

single day she gets to experience the greatest sense of inspiration from throughout the city. That it is a wonderful gift that the people of Boston trust their city government to share their biggest dreams, challenges, and fears.

Whether discussing representation, public service, or housing, Wu accentuated her vision, one rooted in belonging and the hope that Boston can build the future that she knows is possible. In that sense, the words that opened the conversation felt just as fitting as its end. Boston, in Wu’s eyes, should remain a home for everyone for the many years to come.

Mia Hart is a student at Boston College.

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“Don’t Look Inside” by artist Joon Park from California.

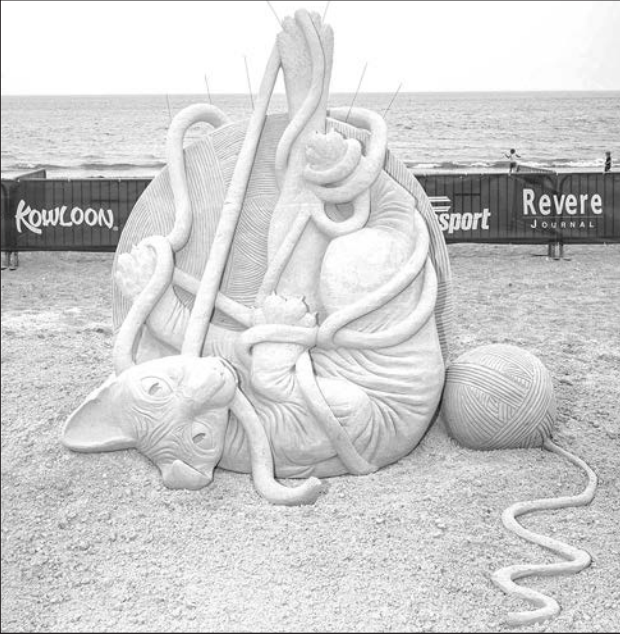
Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

The theme of this year’s Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting

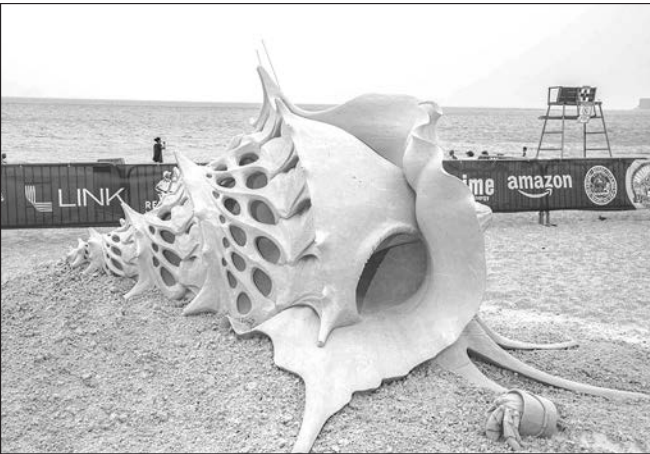


“Digital Hideout (in real life)” by artist Hanneke Supply from The Netherlands took Third Place.

Festival was titled “Boston Welcomes The World” recognizing the World Cup and Sail Boston events in the metro area. The weather was rainy on Saturday evening making the fireworks show happen on Sunday, when the weather was more cooperative.



“Told You So...” by artist Sèveline Beauregard from Canada.



“Odyssey” by artist Jobi Bouchard from Canada took First Place, as well as People’s Choice and Sculptor’s Choice.



“Overprotection” by artist Marie-Line Gagné from Canada took Second Place.



Visitors enjoy the sand sculptures featured at the Festival.



Visitors get photos of the centerpiece sculpture that was made by the community of sculptors of the Festival.



Fireworks light up the sky above Revere Beach.

SUMMIT (from Page 12)

for the continued support of its community partners, whose collaboration makes the Civic Summit possible. For the third consecutive year, Boston University serves as the Summit's lead partner. Since 2025, Cities Forward has also played a key role, helping advance civic engagement and strengthening connections between residents and local government.

"Boston University is proud to partner with the City of Boston for the third consecutive year on the Civic Summit and to welcome this year's gathering back to the Questrom School of Business," said Dr. Melissa Gilliam, President of Boston University. "The Civic Summit creates an important space for residents and civic leaders to come together, exchange ideas, learn from one another, and strengthen the relationships that help Boston thrive. We are grateful to Mayor Wu for her leadership

and honored to support an event that celebrates the power of civic engagement, public dialogue, and shared responsibility in shaping the future of our city."

"Cities Forward is committed to supporting cities across the country that are working to make civic engagement a natural and enduring part of how local government serves and engages residents," said Joseph Arroyo, Executive Director of Cities Forward. "The Office of Civic Organizing and the Civic Summit are examples of the important role local governments can play in bringing together residents, nonprofit leaders, civic leaders, and public servants to strengthen social connection while equipping communities with the knowledge, relationships, and skills needed to build a city that works for everyone."

In its inaugural year, the Summit reached its 200-person capacity in fewer than 12 hours.

In response to overwhelming interest, the City continues to expand this year's event to welcome up to 300 participants. The Civic Summit is free and open to the public with advance registration. Attendees will receive a light lunch, a tote bag featuring City merchandise, and resources to help them stay engaged in their communities long after the Summit. For more information and to register visit boston.gov/civicsummit.

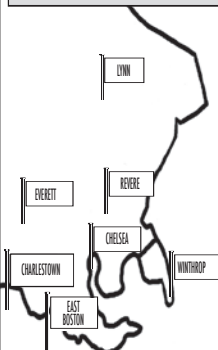
The Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that encourage proactive community engagement, awareness, and service in our neighborhoods. Follow the Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing on social media at [@bostoncivicorg](https://twitter.com/bostoncivicorg) and visit boston.gov/civic-summit to learn more about the Civic Summit and to register.

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.
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Police Station	20 Vine St. Hayes Sq.
Tatte Bakery	40 Warren St.

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CITY PAWS

Pet cleanup, home and away

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

When we brought our first Westie, Sassy, home, Penny was working for a total dog person. Jean, her boss, visited our home within hours of Sassy's arrival. Naturally, she wanted to meet the puppy. However, with her extensive doggie experience, she arrived with a basket of items we didn't know we'd need, since we were new to dog guardianship.

Today, if we were to welcome a first dog into a family, we'd fill our basket with cleaning supplies and items to prevent having to clean up after the dog, both at home and away.

At Home Necessities

Think for a moment about the types of clean up you might have to do for a dog or cat. There will be accidents around the house that require an enzymatic cleaner/stain remover to address evi-

dence of bodily fluids. We use Nature's Miracle Enzymatic Formula Urine Destroyer Plus Dog Stain & Odor Remover. You'll also need a gentle pet shampoo to clean the animal if needed.

Next is a basic animal first-aid kit, which should include a thermometer, self-adhesive bandages, sterile saline wound wash, chlorhexidine wash for skin issues, gauze pads, and scissors or a mini shaver to remove hair around a wound.

Preventative Measures

We've found many ways to prevent the need for cleanup or at least make it easier. We invested in waterproof throws for our furniture and bed. We love the Mambe brand and have sent these as gifts to friends to celebrate the arrival of a new dog. And, we take them with us when we travel to protect the furniture and beds in hotels or rental

homes.

Puppy pads in various sizes are great for incontinence or GI upset. If you've ever tried to pick up loose stools on the sidewalk, you know it's difficult. Our solution is to carry small pads and a plastic bag. We slip a corner of the pad under our dog when she sets up to poop, and do our best to make sure it catches what she produces. If successful, you not only leave the sidewalk as you found it but also prevent the spread of diseases from the waste.

When faced with GI issues inside, we put larger puppy pads around our Poppy's favorite resting spots and can grab one quickly if she shows signs of vomiting or diarrhea. We also used these in rental cars with our last Westie, Maggie Mae, who suffered from motion sickness.

For dogs with incontinence, in heat, or being housetrained, there are belly bands for boys and disposable diapers for girls. If you choose to use these, you have to be very careful to change the absorbent material and clean the area as soon as it is wet to prevent skin damage from the moisture.

Always Pick Up Dog Waste

When you are out and about,



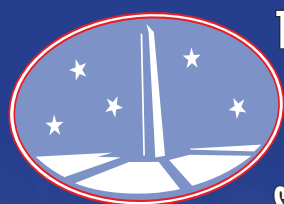
When you are out and about, there's no excuse for not picking up after your dog.

there is no excuse for not picking up after your dog. It's the law, and what's more, not picking up and off-leash dogs are the weapons dog haters use to restrict access to parks, beaches, and other places we would love to take dogs.

Despite having a supply of pickup bags in our pockets, we keep an extra roll on our leash. We can share these with other dog guardians who've run out of their supply and are considerate enough to ask another dog person if they have an extra bag.

However, we also supply bags to potential scofflaws when we catch them in the act. If they know we saw them, we'll ask if they need a bag. If they've already walked away, we use a line that always stops them in their tracks: "Excuse me, you dropped something!" When they turn back, we offer them a bag. So far, this has not proved dangerous for us, but we suggest you use it with common sense and your own safety in mind. We all know how nasty some people can be these days.

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WELCH (from Page 5)

region-wide, and while we will miss Dr. Welch here in Boston, we congratulate him and wish him the best on his new appointment at Salem Public Schools."

Rep. Adrian Madaro

"Congratulations to Eastie's own, Tommy Welch, on being named the new Superintendent of Salem Public Schools! For years, Tommy has been a trusted friend, partner, and leader. His dedication has helped make our schools thrive in East Boston and across the city. He'll now bring

that same commitment, passion, and work ethic to Salem. I'm excited for Tommy and I know he'll do great things with this new opportunity."

EBLL President and
Charlestown schoolteacher
Nick Free

"I congratulate Dr. Welch on his new position as superintendent of Salem Public Schools. I'm very happy for him. It will be a loss for Boston, but it will be a gain for him in his life and career. He deserves to be superin-

tendent of Salem schools, and we wish him all the luck. He's been very valuable to East Boston Little League and Boston Scores, which are two thriving youth sports programs in East Boston. As a schoolteacher, I commend Dr. Welch for running the most successful school district in the City of Boston. Region 1 is going to miss him."

(Information from the Salem Public Schools website and education online sources were used in the compilation of this story).