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THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## Rooted In dispensary looks to sell single cannabis prerolls

By Dan Murphy

Rooted In, the adult-use cannabis dispensary located at 331 Newbury St., would like to add single prerolls to the menu, but the proposal didn't sit well with some member of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay Licensing and Building Use Committee when the matter was broached during that group's Jan. 6 virtual monthly meeting.

Chief Operating Officer, Brian Keith, then outlined Rooted In's proposal to sell single prerolls for a trial period of three months. (The shop currently sells prerolls in packages of at least two.) During this time, Rooted In would sell only its labeled, house-

brand prerolls, which aren't sold at any other dispensaries, in single servings.

The branding would allow Rooted In to unscientifically track "transgressions" in the neighborhood related to the sale of its prerolls, such as increased litter or an uptick in public consumption, said Keith. And if at the end of the trial period, Rooted In sees any definitive evidence of adverse impacts in the neighborhood linked to its sale of single prerolls, he said the business would then reconsider its request.

Additionally, Rooted In would begin targeting areas beyond its

(ROOTED IN, PG. 3)



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Shown above, The City of Boston is lit up to welcome the arrival of 2025 as scores of revelers greeted the New Year from the Boston Common. Shown to the right, fireworks brighten the night sky over Boston Common as the clock strikes midnight, ushering in 2025. See more photos on pages 6 and 7.



COURTESY OF THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION

Park visitors enjoying a past GroundBeat concert sponsored by the Esplanade Association at the DCR Memorial Hatch Shell.

## Esplanade Association seeking producers, artists for upcoming concert series

By Dan Murphy

The Esplanade Association is seeking producers and artists to participate in the upcoming eighth season of the park's free riverfront concert series, GroundBeat.

"We're thrilled to celebrate the eighth season of this special free series that brings people together through music and culture at the iconic DCR Memorial Hatch Shell," said Samuel Englert, the nonprofit's Senior Manager of Partnerships & Programs. "GroundBeat provides paid opportunities for local producers and artists, showcasing diverse styles and genres in every concert. We can't wait to kick off the season this spring at our Annual Community Day

with free food, seating, and incredible performances for all to enjoy."

For 2025, the Esplanade Association is planning five GroundBeat concerts—two more performances than last year—for the late spring, with dates to be announced. The series is intended as not only a forum for culture but also to connect the community with the Esplanade Association's partners via games, food, and other event offerings. Free seating will be offered at each performance.

The open call for producers and artists reads in part: "The Esplanade Association will file all permits, manage event registration pages, provide marketing support, coordinate planning in advance of the concerts, and

(GROUND BEAT, PG. 2)

# EDITORIAL

## JIMMY CARTER PRACTICED WHAT HE PREACHED

The passing of former President Jimmy Carter at the age of 100 brings to an end the extraordinary life of a man who ascended from the small town of Plains, Georgia (population 552) to the highest office in the world.

Carter's life-story is the political equivalent of a rags-to-riches Horatio Alger novel. He never gave up on anything he attempted, despite long odds and failure. As a boy he aspired to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, which he eventually did (after initially attending the Georgia Technology Institute) and from which he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class.

After completing his military service, he went into peanut-farming (something he had done as a youngster) and almost went bankrupt. However, thanks to hard work and determination, he and his wife Rosalynn eventually turned the farm into a successful enterprise.

Carter served as a state senator in Georgia before running for governor. He lost his first campaign, but won the second, serving from 1971-75 before launching his long-shot bid for president despite being a virtual unknown on the national scene.

Jimmy Carter first came to our attention in an interview in a national magazine just as he was launching his bid for the presidency. Carter's straight talk (in a press conference he described his ideology as, "Conservative, moderate, liberal, and middle-of-the-road") impressed us as being just what the country needed in the immediate aftermath of the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War, two events in which our nation's leaders had lied to us about everything.

Carter was an unconventional president in almost everything he did right from the start. On his second day in office, Carter pardoned all Vietnam War draft evaders. He immediately jump-started peace negotiations in the Mideast that culminated in 1978 when he invited Anwar Sadat, the president of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, the president of Israel, to Camp David and personally shuttled between their compounds for 13 days to work out a peace plan.

He created a national energy policy that included conservation and renewable energy in an effort to wean the U.S. off our dependence on foreign oil. He also undertook the second round of strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union.

However, Jimmy Carter had the misfortune of beginning his presidency during a period of perceived decline in our nation. Our major cities were crime-ridden. New York City was bankrupt. Things went from bad to worse in the second half of his term with the disaster at Three Mile Island, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Nicaraguan Revolution in which avowed Communists took control of the country, and the Iranian Revolution, which not only saw our embassy workers be taken hostage, but which also resulted in another oil price shock, leading to long lines at gas stations all across the country.

Jimmy Carter's greatest strengths, his dogged determination and belief in his own ability, proved to be his greatest weaknesses. He failed to understand that politics is the art of compromise. When he spoke to the American people about gasoline shortages and the high price of energy, he urged personal sacrifice, such as driving less, turning down thermostats, and wearing extra sweaters. Carter lacked the ability of many great leaders, such as Churchill, Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan, to provide inspiration and hope.

Even though we were young and enjoying ourselves immensely in the prime of our lives during his presidency, whenever we think back to the '70s, we think of a gloomy and depressing era -- ugh, what a mess it was. Jimmy Carter didn't cause any of those problems, but he didn't have any solutions either.

But as much as Jimmy Carter may not have been a successful president, his five decades post-presidency should serve as an inspiration to every American. There is no person in our lifetime who has been the exemplification of the ideals (and we're not getting religious here) expressed by Jesus Christ: Love thy neighbor as thyself; do unto other as you would have them do unto you; let he who is without sin cast the first stone; and especially, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God."

For almost 50 years, Jimmy Carter practiced the ideals that he preached from the pulpit in his small Baptist Church. His work with Habitat for Humanity, his efforts to eradicate the Guinea worm disease through the Carter Center, and his many diplomatic efforts around the world earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

Jimmy Carter served as the conscience of our nation -- and the world.

His presence will be missed. May he rest in peace.

## EVEN WHEN THE PATRIOTS WON, THEY LOST

Heading into the final week of the NFL season, the Patriots were in prime position to claim the #1 draft pick, which held the promise of trading that pick to a team that needs a quarterback in return for a number of other picks that the Pats could have used to restock their team.

All that the Pats had to do on Sunday was lose to the Buffalo Bills -- something the Patriots had done on 13 previous occasions this season.

But they blew it -- they won! -- and thereby dropped to the #4 pick, which is of little consequence in this year's draft.

Despite the victory, the Patriots fired first-year head coach Jerod Mayo. Admittedly, Mayo may have been in over his head as a first-time head coach, but the reality is that he never had a chance given New England's pathetic roster.

The Patriots had been among the elite organizations in pro sports. But today they're a joke, with no light at the end of the tunnel, no matter who their next head coach may be.

The futility of the Patriots this season makes us all the more appreciative of the genius of Bill Belichick and the greatness of Tom Brady. Even though the Pats may not make it back to the Super Bowl for quite a while, we can be grateful for the joy they brought us for almost two decades.

## GROUNDBEAT (from Page 1)

act as the event manager day-of. The Esplanade Association will cover all costs associated with the aforementioned. The Esplanade Association will provide a pre-determined amount of funding...for each concert based on the length of the show. Producers/Artists will provide a budget demonstrating how funding will be used."

Applications must be completed by Friday, Jan. 31, and are available online at <https://esplanade.org/groundbeat/>.

Besides artists and producers, the Esplanade Association is also seeking nonprofits/community groups to vend or distribute information at their own tables during the concerts. If your organization is interested in this opportunity, email [programs@esplanade.org](mailto:programs@esplanade.org) for more information.

Meanwhile, the Esplanade Association extends its gratitude to GroundBeat sponsors, including the Boston Foundation, Audax Charitable Foundation, and Mass Cultural Council for its past and continuing support. As the series continues to grow, so will additional opportunities, along with the need for more

sponsorships and support. If your organization is interesting in sponsoring a portion of the series, contact Jim Diverio, Director of Development, via email at [jdiverio@esplanade.org](mailto:jdiverio@esplanade.org).

Additionally, the Esplanade Association thanks its Volunteer Ambassadors who work tirelessly to ensure that the GroundBeat series is a positive experience for everyone involved. Individuals who are interested in deepening their connection to the park should consider applying to be a 2025 Volunteer Ambassador. Email Molly Ryan, Volunteer & Sustainability Coordinator, at [mryan@esplanade.org](mailto:mryan@esplanade.org), or visit [esplanade.org/ambassadors/](https://esplanade.org/ambassadors/) to learn more about this opportunity.

In 2018, the Esplanade Association initiated GroundBeat in partnership with Catherine T Morris and in coordination with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Past GroundBeat partners and performers have included BAMS Fest, AfroDesiaCity, Keep Ryzin' Entertainment, Veronica Robles Mariachi, and OriginNation Cultural Arts Center, among others.

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# THE BOSTON SUN

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# District D-4 on track to see 4-percent drop in Part One crime in '24

By Dan Murphy

With 2024 drawing to a close, District D-4 had seen a 4-percent decrease in Part One crime from the previous year.

According to Boston Police, 3,174 incidents of Part One crime were reported in the district, which includes the Back Bay, South End, Lower Roxbury, and the Fenway, between Jan. 1 and Dec. 29, 2024, compared to 3,306 during the same timeframe in 2023.

Part One crime in the district was up more than 6 percent in '24 from the five-year average of 2,987 incidents, however.

Four homicides were reported in the district in '24, compared to two the previous year. The five-year average for this crime category in the district was three incidents.

Rapes and attempted rapes were down more than 23 percent as the number of incidents dropped to 23 from 30 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 26 incidents.

Robberies and attempted robberies saw a nearly 12-percent reduction as the number fell to 111 from 126 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 121 incidents.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were up more than 16 percent as the number climbed to 65 in '24 from 56 the previous year. The five-year average for this category in the district was 51 incidents.

Conversely, incidents of non-domestic aggravated assault were down more than 8 percent as the number fell to 201 from 219 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 217 incidents.

Commercial burglaries saw a slight uptick as the number climbed to 47 in 2024 from 45 the previous year. Both years were a drastic reduction for the

five-year average for this category in the district of 78 incidents.

The rate of residential burglaries remained the same, with 74 incidents each year reported in both 2023 and '24. Again, both years marked a significant reduction for the five-year average for this category in the district of 111 incidents.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle were up nearly 8 percent as the number climbed to 463 from 430 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 424 incidents.

In contrast, other larcenies were down more than 4 percent, with the number falling to 2,048

from 2,143 in '23. The five-year average for this category in the district was 1,819 incidents.

Incidents of auto theft were down almost 24 percent as number fell to 138 in '24 from 181 the previous year. The five-year average for this category in the district was 161 incidents.

Citywide, Part One crime was up 1 percent in '24, with 16,553 incidents, compared to 16,413 in 2023.

Part One crime was also up citywide around 3 percent in '24 from the five-year average of 16,653 incidents.

## ROOTED IN (from Page 1)

block during regular cleanups to help further mitigate any potential litter from its products during the trial period, said Keith.

Keith pointed out there currently is “no statutory ban” which prohibits Rooted In from selling single prerolls, although Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, noted this was one of the agreed-upon conditions when NABB voted not to oppose the

business initially in 2022.

Moreover, Keith suggested that Rooted In is now at an unfair disadvantage, since he said most other dispensaries in the city already sell single prerolls. (The Back Bay’s other adult-use dispensary, Ayr, located at 827 Boylston St., also doesn’t sell single prerolls in accordance with NABB’s request, however.)

Echoing Armstrong, Elliott

Laffer, a member and past chair of the committee, as well as a longtime NABB board member, likened the requested ban on selling single prerolls in the neighborhood to NABB’s similar request that new liquor stores in the Back Bay not sell single-serve ‘nips.’

“It’s not a reflection on you guys,” said Laffer, adding that Rooted In has had an unblemished track record in the neighborhood since opening on Dec. 8, 2022. “But [the restriction on selling single prerolls] was important and remains important as far as I can see.”

In another matter, The Learning Project, a small, private elementary school based at 107 Marlborough St., wants to repurpose a five-story building it owns at 263 Clarendon St. to create more classroom and administrative space for the school.

One floor of the Clarendon Street property could accommodate the kindergarten class, which is currently operating out of the First Baptist Church of Boston at 110 Commonwealth Ave., said Justin Hajj, head of school, while another floor would likely be devoted to administrative uses.

Possible uses for the other floors are still under consideration, added Hajj, though classroom space is anticipated, especially for the art and science programs.

Vehicles wouldn’t be allowed to stop on Clarendon Street for any pickups or drop-offs, said Hajj; instead, parents or guardians would either drop off their



A property at 263 Clarendon St., which The Learning Project intends to transform into additional classroom and administrative space.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Rooted In at 331 Newbury St.

children at the main building on Marlborough Street, or park at a metered spot before walking their children over to the Clarendon Street building.

Trash would be handled privately and not stored in the alley, said Hajj, while the project is expected to generate less trash than the building does today,

with its five rental units. (Trash from the rental units is now stored in the alley ahead of collection, he said.)

Meanwhile, Armstrong told both applicants he would inform them of NABB’s position on their respective applications (i.e. to oppose or not oppose) sometime next week.

# Old South Church in Boston to present 'Holding Up the Sky' documentary film series

Special to Sun

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 12, Old South Church in Boston will offer a five-week forum series engaging with the powerful documentary film 'Holding Up the Sky.' The series will take place at the church at 10 a.m. each Sunday, with in-person viewings and discussion opportunities, including conversation with the film's director, Bob Nesson.

This 55-minute documentary tells the remarkable stories of Ed Jordan and Jimmy Costello, two formerly incarcerated men who, despite contrasting social and family backgrounds and the difficult circumstances of their crimes, found purpose, hope, and success through mentorship and persistence. The film highlights their intertwined journeys through and beyond the prison system, shedding light on issues of social justice and reforms needed in our criminal justice

system.

'Holding Up the Sky' focuses on the systemic challenges of incarceration and the transformational power of mentorship and education. The film's broader mission is to spark awareness and inspire meaningful action, such as policy changes, increased support systems, and job creation for formerly incarcerated individuals.

While in development, the documentary has been screened at fundraisers at influential venues, including the Massachusetts State House, Tufts University's Tisch College of Civic Life, and others. The film is supported by key local and national organizations and individuals, such as the LDB Peace Institute in Dorchester, Haley House, and Truth & Reconciliation Conversations (https://trconversations.com) based in Florida. Its founder and chair is activist Kahlil Osiris, who mentored one of the film's

subjects while both were in prison.

The five-week series is designed to educate, inspire, and catalyze meaningful conversation and action. The film will be screened in three sections, each followed by discussion.

The introduction to the series and a screening of part one of the three-part documentary are set for Jan. 12: The second and third parts of the documentary will then be screened on Jan. 19 and 6, respectively.

A conversation on 'Exploring the Broken Systems Exposed by the Film' is scheduled for Feb. 2, while a conversation on 'How Old South Church Can Deepen its Justice Work' is set for Feb. 9.

Each session will provide additional educational materials,



including context, statistics, and reflection prompts. Discussions will focus on systemic issues, such as racism, neurodiversity in the prison system, and the generational impacts of trauma. Par-

ticipants will also consider ways to take action, both as individuals and as a community.

For more information, contact Kate Nintcheu at kate@old-south.org.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### DISCOVER MGH'S BLUM CENTER ON TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Discover the Blum Center,

in Partnership with the Slavin Academy, on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Blum Center, White 110, on the MGH main campus.

At this time, information on upcoming programs, a

Q&A sessions to answer your questions, and insights into the educational resources will be available to patients, families, and the community. A clinician will also be available to educate attendees on checking their blood pressure at home and understanding how it relates to their heart health, as well as on monitoring their health at home.

All are welcome at this event where light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact the Blum Center at 617-724-7352 or via email at PFLC@partners.org.

### REP. LIVINGSTONE SWORN IN FOR ANOTHER TERM



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

Rep. Jay Livingstone was sworn in for another term on Jan. 1 at the State House.

Rep. Livingstone has represented the Suffolk 8th District since 2013, when he won in a Special Election to succeed Marty Walz. He has been reelected six times since then, in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024, respectively.

"I'm honored to start another term serving as the State Representative for the 8th Suffolk," said Rep. Livingstone. "I look forward to working to enact enforcement tools to regulate scooters, improve civil rights, and make Massachusetts more competitive."

### FENWAY CDC TO HOLD FIRST COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON JAN. 30

Fenway CDC will hold its first of three Community Conversations on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the 300 The Fenway (Simmons College), as well as virtually.

Among the topics of discussion will be the group's future plans for affordable housing, organizing, and community programs.

Reserve your spot by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-vision-conversation-tickets-1116836842059?aff=oddtcreator>.

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## MAYOR WU KICKS OFF BOSTON FAMILY DAYS AT GARDNER MUSEUM

Mayor's Office Photos by Isabel Leon

Mayor Michelle Wu visited the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on Sunday, Jan. 5, for the launch of Boston Family Days - an expansion of BPS Sundays pilot program.

Via Boston Family Days, students in Grades K-12 who live in the city, along with two guests, can gain free admittance to nine of the city's cultural institutions, including the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, on the first two Sundays of each month.

Visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture/boston-family-days> for more information and to register for Boston Family Days.



Shown above and left, A look inside the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's courtyard.



Pictured, left to right, are Mayor Michelle Wu; Peggy Fogelman, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Norma Jean Calderwood Director; and District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



Mayor Michelle Wu and Peggy Fogelman, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Norma Jean Calderwood Director.

## Attorney Allison S. Cartwright sworn in as Clerk of Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County

Special to the Sun

Allison S. Cartwright, Esq., was sworn in January 1 as Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk by SJC Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd, in a ceremony that took place in the Great Hall of the John Adams Courthouse in Boston.

Attorney Cartwright was elected in November 2024 by the voters of Suffolk County to become the SJC Clerk for the County of Suffolk, and fills the position being vacated by Maura Sweeney Doyle, Esq. Clerk Doyle was appointed to the position in 1996, and was subsequently elected in 1998, serving for 28 years before retiring on December 21, 2024. Attorney Cartwright is the second woman and first black person to hold this position since its inception in 1693.

"For nearly three decades, we have been fortunate to have Maura Doyle serving in this position, and she has done so

with professionalism, passion, and dedication," said Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd. "Today, we are equally fortunate to have Allison Cartwright stepping into this role. As an experienced lawyer and manager, she is well prepared to lead the county clerk's office, and my colleagues and I look forward to working with her."

The SJC Clerk for the County of Suffolk is responsible for the management of the Court's single justice caseload, which is comprised of petitions seeking review of lower court rulings under the SJC's general superintendency power and various rules of court; bail review; appeals from State registration boards and agencies; all matters relating to Bar Admission and the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and administrative disciplinary matters filed by the Board of Bar Overseers affecting members of the bar.

(CARTWRIGHT, Pg. 6)

# BOSTON RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT FESTIVITIES



Revelers on the Boston Common show their excitement as the fireworks display begins.

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

The City Of Boston celebrated New Year's Eve with First Night events throughout Downtown. A

parade marched from City Hall to the Public Garden culminating with a fireworks show on Boston Common. The city welcomes 2025.



Fireworks provide a brilliant backdrop for the Soldiers And Sailors Monument in Boston Common.

## CARTWRIGHT (from Page 5)

"I am excited and honored to have the privilege of serving as the next Clerk of the SJC for the County of Suffolk," said Attorney Cartwright. "My team and I recognize the important role the Clerk's Office has to ensure that our state's highest court maintains its independence and delivers justice in a manner that is fair, equitable, and accessible to the people of Massachusetts."

Retired Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland served as Master of Ceremonies. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Attorney Cartwright's son, Jonathan S. Cartwright. Mr. Meyer Chambers, the Director of the Archdiocese of Boston Black Catholic Choir, led a musical rendition of America the Beautiful (arr. by Ray Charles). Speakers included

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and State Sen. Lydia M. Edwards. Rev. Rahsaan Hall, Esq., Associate Minister of St. Paul AME Church in Cambridge, delivered the Benediction.

Attorney Cartwright began her career at the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), as a trial attorney, working in the Roxbury office for four years. She then worked for the City of Boston as Assistant Corporation Counsel, before opening Cartwright & Coleman, a civil and criminal litigation law firm, from 1997 to 2001. In 2001, she opened Cartwright Law Office. During that time, she also mentored attorneys for the Suffolk Lawyers for Justice, Inc; from 2011 to 2019, she worked as the organization's Supervising Attorney. In 2019, she returned to CPCS as Attorney-In-Charge and then Managing Director of the Central Region, where she managed offices in in Suffolk and Norfolk Counties.

Attorney Cartwright is a graduate of University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Boston College Law School.

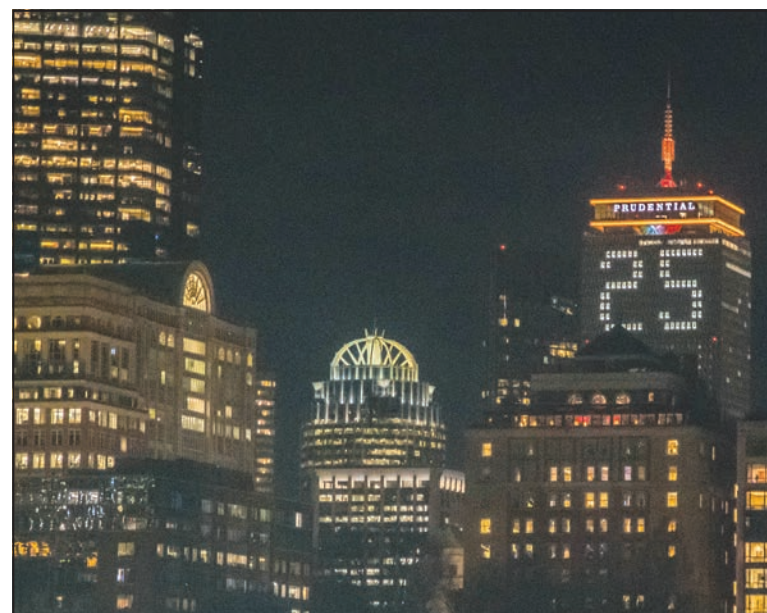


A 1973 Buick LaSabre driven by owner Derek Cunningham is adorned with festive lights.



PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX/BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE

Attorney Allison S. Cartwright is sworn in by SJC Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd.



The City of Boston is lit up to welcome the arrival of 2025.

# BOSTON RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT FESTIVITIES



Fireworks brighten the night sky over Boston Common.



Kara Casey marches with The Puppet Free Library.



Members of the Open Air Circus march in the parade.



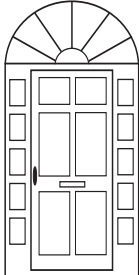
JP Honk marches in the parade.



Parade spectators line up along Charles Street to get a look at the procession.

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Rentals

# BOSTON RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT FESTIVITIES



The Granese and Thomson Families from Beverly.



The Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association marches in the parade.



The Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association marches with a brilliantly lit dragon on Charles Street.



The Mandarin characters read 'Happy New Year' as part of the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association's contribution to the parade.



Members of the Red Rebel Brigade march. The red dresses symbolize the lifeblood that connects all species on Earth as one and to draw attention to climate change.



Spectators watch the parade make it's way along Boylston Street.



The Puppet Free Library has an impressive presence in the parade.



Fireworks add to the visual grandeur of the Boston skyline.



The William Diamond Junior Fife & Drum Corps from Lexington MA.



# Snow-thrower safety tips: keep best practices in mind this winter

Special to the Sun

Clearing snow and ice from driveways, sidewalks and parking lots is no small job. You rely on your outdoor power equipment to do the heavy lifting, and it's important to keep safety in mind. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners to use snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers, safely and offers tips to help.

"Weather today is unpredictable. You need to have your snow thrower serviced and ready to power up," says OPEI President and CEO Kris Kiser. "Review your owner's manual so you can use your equipment

safely." Kiser says preparation is key and that home and business owners should consider the following:

Review the owner's manual. Check the owner's manual for safe handling procedures. If the manual cannot be found, look it up online, and store a copy on your computer so it's available to reference in the future. Review how to operate controls. Be able to shut off equipment quickly.

Check equipment. The snow thrower should be powered off when being checked over. Adjust any cables and check the auger.

Charge batteries. Locate the batteries for your snow thrower and charge them fully before it snows.



The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute reminds home and business owners to use snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers, safely and offers tips to help.

Purchase fuel. Be sure to use the correct fuel recommended by the equipment's manufacturer. For most gasoline-powered snow throwers, that is E10 or less. Often fuel stations are closed after a storm so buy gasoline in advance of storms. Fuel that is more than 30 days old can phase separate and cause operating problems. For more information on fueling properly see [www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning](http://www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning)

Store and use fuel properly. Place gasoline in a proper fuel container and label it with the date purchased and the ethanol content. Store fuel safely and out of the reach of children. Fill the fuel tank outside before starting the engine and while the engine is cold. Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.

Clear the area. Snow can sometimes hide objects. Door mats, hoses, balls, toys, boards, wires, and other debris should be removed from areas you intend

to clear. When run over by a snow thrower, these objects may harm the machine or people.

Dress for winter weather. Locate safety gear now, and place it in an accessible closet or location. Wear safety glasses, gloves and footwear that can handle cold and slippery surfaces when operating the snow thrower.

Key Safety Tip: Never put your hands inside the auger or chute. Use a clean out tool to unclog snow or debris from the snow thrower. Your hands should never go inside the auger or chute.

Turn OFF the snow thrower if you need to clear a clog. If you need to remove debris or unclog snow, always turn off the snow thrower. Wait for all moving parts to come to a complete stop before clearing any clogs or debris.

Operate in visible conditions. Never operate the snow thrower without good visibility or light.

Aim with care. Never throw

snow toward people or cars. Keep children or pets inside and away from your snow thrower when it is operating.

Use extreme caution on slopes and hills. Use caution when changing directions on slopes. Do not attempt to clear steep slopes.

Know where the cord is. If using an electric powered snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times. Avoid tripping.

OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI owns Equip Exposition, the international landscape, outdoor living and equipment exposition, and administers the TurfMutt Foundation, which directs the environmental education program, TurfMutt. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces.

## Exploring the Blackstone River Valley: Recreational Hike Series

Special to the Sun

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) invites the public to participate in the "Exploring the Blackstone River Valley" recreational hike series. These free programs are open to individuals ages 12 and up. Registration is not required, but participants are encouraged to wear sturdy footwear, dress for the weather, and bring water. Bathrooms may not be available at certain locations.

For updated programming information, call (508) 278-7604 or visit the DCR website. ADA accommodations are available by contacting (617) 645-0358 or emailing [moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov](mailto:moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov).

### Upcoming Hikes

Sunday, January 12: Sparrow and Grouse Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Upton State Forest  
Meet at the CCC Camp parking area (205 Westboro Road, Upton).

~3 miles over a rugged forest surface with steep inclines.

Sunday, January 19: Grand Trunk Trail Loop, 1-4 p.m.

Douglas State Forest  
Meet at Carter's Field parking area.

~4-5 miles over a compacted gravel surface with mild inclines.

Sunday, January 26: Long Trail Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Hopkinton State Park  
Meet at the Hopkinton State Park upper beach lot parking

area.

~3-5 miles over rugged forest and loose gravel surfaces with moderate inclines.

Sunday, February 2: Goat Hill Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

Meet at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center parking area (287 Oak Street, Uxbridge).

~2 miles over rugged forest and rocky surfaces with steep inclines.

Sunday, February 9: Mammoth Rock Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Upton State Forest  
Meet at the CCC Camp parking area (205 Westboro Road, Upton).

~2.5 miles over a rugged forest surface with steep inclines.

Sunday, February 16: Morse Pond Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Douglas State Forest  
Meet at Carter's Field parking area.

~3.5 miles over a compacted gravel surface with mild inclines.

Sunday, February 23: Forest Road Loop, 2-4 p.m.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

Meet at the Purgatory Chasm Visitor Center parking area (198 Purgatory Road, Sutton).

~3.5 miles over a rocky surface with steep inclines.

For more information, contact the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park at (508) 278-7604.

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# Old North Illuminated joins prestigious Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program in anticipation of 250th anniversaries

Special to the Sun

Old North Illuminated, the non-profit organization that stewards Old North Church & Historic Site, announced that it has been selected to join the Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program. This initiative helps cultural organizations across the U.S. and U.K. strengthen technology and management practices to improve operations, drive revenue, increase fundraising, engage broader audiences, and deliver dynamic programming.

Old North Illuminated manages all interpretive, educational, and preservation programs at the Old North Church & Historic Site in Boston's historic North End neighborhood. Established in 1723, Old North Church is the oldest surviving church building in the city of Boston and a popular Freedom Trail destination. Old North is famous for the events of April 18, 1775, when two men climbed the church's steeple to hold two lanterns aloft

as a signal from Paul Revere to fellow Patriots that British troops were headed to Concord "by sea" across the Charles River. This coded message and Paul Revere's midnight ride helped spark the Revolutionary War, which erupted the following day with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Old North's lantern signal was immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride" with the phrase "one if by land, and two if by sea."

"The Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program comes at a pivotal time for Old North," says Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated. "As we approach the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's lantern signal in 2025 and America's 250th birthday in 2026, this critical support will help us redesign our website to better serve the hundreds of thousands of visitors expected in Boston. Our website also hosts free curricula, lesson plans, and educational videos used in class-

rooms nationwide. We're grateful to Bloomberg Philanthropies for enhancing the digital experience for history students and global visitors."

Over the past three years, the Digital Accelerator Program has been a catalyst for strengthening nearly 150 cultural organizations across the U.S. and U.K. To date, the 40 institutions that were part of the first cohort cumulatively grew an additional \$20 million in new revenue including through fundraising, reached over 1 million new audience members, and engaged more than 4,000 new artists and partners.

Old North Illuminated is one of 200 nonprofit cultural organizations accepted into Bloomberg Philanthropies' new Digital Accelerator Program cohort, spanning artistic disciplines and organization size in 52 U.S. cities and 28 U.K. cities.

Established in 1991 as the Old North Foundation, Old North Illuminated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site oper-

ations and interpretive, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church & Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church in the City of Boston, Old North Illuminated welcomes approximately 500,000 visitors annually while overseeing the preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. Old North Illuminated serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. ONI works collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S. National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other partners to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church's history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. In 2023, Old North Church & Historic Site was designated as a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), join-

ing a global network of historic sites, museums, and memory initiatives that connect past struggles to today's movements for human rights. For more information, visit: [www.oldnorth.com](http://www.oldnorth.com).

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 700 cities and 150 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on creating lasting change in five key areas: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a philanthropic consultancy that advises cities around the world. In 2023, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$3 billion. For more information, please visit [bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org), sign up for our newsletter, or follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Threads, Facebook, and X.

## More than one-third of Christmas tree home fires occur in January

Special to the Sun

More than one-third (36 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) strongly encourages everyone to dispose of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday

season.

"As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

According to NFPA data, Christmas tree fires don't hap-

pen often, but when they do occur, they're more likely to be serious. That's in part because fresh Christmas trees dry out over time, making them more flammable the longer they're in the home. A dried-out Christmas tree will burn much more quickly than a well-watered one.

Between 2018 and 2022, there was an estimated annual average of 155 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in four civilian deaths, seven civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage.

"Fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year," said Carli.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For this release and other

announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

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# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Rachlin, Lisa	Joyce, Christopher J	30 Appleton St #1	\$1,315,000
One Charles St S Unit 11a	Barbara J Pados RET	1 Charles St S #11A	\$3,295,000
Kudasova, Marina V	Edward M Brandt Minn RET	290 Columbus Ave #3	\$487,000
Chaston Properties LLC	Robet Porter T	314 Dartmouth St #C	\$7,200,000
Gilchrist, David	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	55 Lagrange St #904	\$1,349,000
Bosco, Robert D	Hostetter Jr, Daniel C	105 Marlborough St #1	\$3,850,000
Ford, Juliana	Kavanagh, Christina	199 Marlborough St #701	\$1,830,000
25j Lightship T	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #25J	\$5,375,000
Hootie Stuart RET	Hatfield, Jeffrey	430 Stuart St #30C	\$7,700,000
Dreyer, Nicholas J	Dibartolomeo, Daniel	61 Warren Ave #2	\$1,131,000
Dudek, Eric A	Trone, Robert J	4 Charlesgate E #605	\$1,500,000
Larsen, Kaiser	Bhagal, Jasbir	327 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$2,330,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Christian Equity Invs LLC	V S Haseotes li RET	70 Brimmer St #335	\$500,000
Fay Jr, James G	James Brks Porter 2018 T	78 Charles St	\$1,025,000
Christian Equity Invs LLC	V S Haseotes li RET	108-114 Chestnut St #335	\$500,000
Garg, Rohit	Luccarelli, Margaret	2 Hawthorne Pl #6M	\$792,000
Lannan, Michael T	Yakimchuk, Dmitry	5 Myrtle St #2	\$1,210,000
New Beacon Realty LLC	Rogoff, Leah	37 Revere St #8	\$885,000
Borshoff, Corey	Cedar Mainsail LLC	67-71 W Cedar St #5	\$1,375,000
Padilla, Lacey	Artola, Eduardo	6 Whittier Pl #7F	\$430,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Crawford, Spencer N	Kilchline, Albert J	87 E Brookline St #3	\$1,040,000
Sewall, Ryan	Klau, Judith	519 Harrison Ave #D316	\$608,000
Doherty, Mark J	Wang, Rui	700 Harrison Ave #401	\$808,500
David J Ferry 2012 Irt	Sweeney, Joseph M	735 Harrison Ave #W108	\$880,000
Humphrey, Jimmy D	Bunnell, Craig A	107 Jersey St #22C	\$470,000
Byun, Alfred	Duff, Ryan L	40 Traveler St #115	\$1,078,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Coyne, Declan	Munnis, Cara	28-32 Atlantic Ave #415	\$1,830,000
Comm120 LLC	Berarducci Vilma Est	120 Commercial St #3-4	\$696,000
Ryan, Maryruth	Oliveira, Duarte N	300 Commercial St #801	\$675,000
Fay, Laura C	Brochetti, Wendy	85 E India Row #25A	\$620,000
Vassi, Danielle	Brocard, Olivier R	16 Foster St #9	\$475,000
Savy, Peter N	Robichaud, Albert J	1 Franklin St #4105	\$2,400,000
Goicuria, Adriana L	Tsang, Elaine	88 Hudson St #603	\$217,012
12 Post Office Square LLC	Gre Liberty Square LLC	10 Liberty Sq	\$10,400,000
12 Post Office Square LLC	Gre Liberty Square LLC	12 Post Office Sq	\$10,400,000

# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The window in the last clue is the only remaining detail from Newbury's Steak House on Massachusetts Avenue. Today's answer is from a 1960s photo of the restaurant. In the early 1990s, a fire closed this popular restaurant. Today, it is the retail store Muji.

You'll find the next clue in The Fenway. Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# DO YOU NEED TO PLACE A LEGAL NOTICE?

Don't Forget to check with the Courts to see if you qualify for a FEE WAIVER

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