

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2025

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

BASTILE DAY AT THE FRENCH LIBRARY



District D-4 sees slight spike in Part One crime from last year

By Dan Murphy

With the summer of '25 past its midpoint, District D-4 had seen a 2-percent increase in Part One crime from last year.

According to Boston Police, 1,716 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 July 20, 2025, compared with 1,690 incidents during the same timeframe last year. This year's number also marked a more than 10-percent increase from the five-average of 1,554 Part One crime incidents in the district.

The number of homicides

remained the same in the district, with one each this year and last, while the five-year average in this category is 0.8.

Rapes and attempted raped in the district were up more than 53 percent as the number climbed to 23 from 15 last year, while the five-year average for this category in the district is 15.2 incidents.

Robberies and attempted robberies were down nearly 8 percent in the district, with the number falling to 58 from 63 in '24. The five-year average for this category in the district is 64 incidents.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were down more

(D-4 CRIME, Pg. 6)

PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

◀ Shown clockwise from top: Performing French music in a dance hall style from the 1930s through the 1950s was Musette Suzette. French Library President Barbara Bouqueneau and Cultural Programs Manager Sophie Schlenker with Madison Maushart (center). Jamie and Kate Furtado. See more photos on Pages 4-6.

Officials celebrate first 100+ units converted from offices now under construction

Special to the Sun

Mayor Wu, along with City and State officials, last week celebrated the first 141 homes that are currently under construction and being converted from former vacant office buildings, as part of the City of Boston's Office to Residential Conversion Program, 26 of which will be income-restricted. These buildings include 263 Summer Street, 129 Portland Street, 615 Albany Street, and 281 Franklin Street. The building at 281 Franklin Street, which will create 15 homes, will have tenants move

in at the end of the summer.

"Boston is building the foundation for a stronger, more vibrant downtown through our dedication to housing, public safety, and economic growth. As cities across the country look to revitalize and reenergize their downtown neighborhoods, in Boston downtown foot traffic is up and commercial vacancies have been nearly cut in half with a focus on safety, business recruitment, and activation," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Office to Residential Conversion program is critical to this momentum. Today marks a

major milestone for housing creation, with 780 units in the pipeline for the Office to Residential Conversion program and a groundbreaking for 141 of those new homes. Working with the state, the business community, and neighborhood partners, we're bucking national and local trends and transforming underutilized office space into homes for over a thousand new residents."

"Acknowledging the challenges in the construction industry today, it is extremely exciting that we can celebrate the conversion of multiple office buildings

into new homes in our Downtown," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "This program is one part of our multi-pronged approach to expand housing options Downtown to respond to post-pandemic economic shifts and create a vibrant, 18-hour, mixed-use neighborhood."

The building at 263 Summer Street will create 77 homes in the historic district of Fort Point. As part of the conversion, the building will preserve the historic Boston Wharf Co. sign. At 60,000 SF, this is the first Article 80 Large Project to go through the Office-to-Residential Conversion

Program and is located in close proximity to South Station, easily connecting it to the rest of the region.

"I want to thank Mayor Michelle Wu for her unwavering commitment to addressing Boston's office vacancy and housing shortages — not as separate problems, but as one extraordinary opportunity," said Owner of Burns Realty & Investments, Adam Burns. "Your leadership has turned what could have been a crisis into a catalyst for reinvention, and we are proud to stand

(RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

THE REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL IS SET FOR THIS WEEKEND

The Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival is set for this weekend: Friday, July 25, from 10-10; Saturday, July 26, from 10-10; and Sunday, July 27, from 10-8.

Now in its 21st year, the Revere Beach Sand Sculpting Festival is the premier event of the summer season in the Greater Boston area, transforming America's first and oldest public beach into a fantasy-land of dream-like sculptures.

This year's festival once again will sport an international flavor with sand sculptors coming from the Netherlands, Poland, and Canada, and from across the U.S., including Hawaii, who will be competing for cash prizes, as well as an award for People's Choice.

The theme of this year's festival is, "Revolutions Start Here!" in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolution, which included the first naval engagement of the war on nearby Chelsea Creek on May 27-28, 1775.

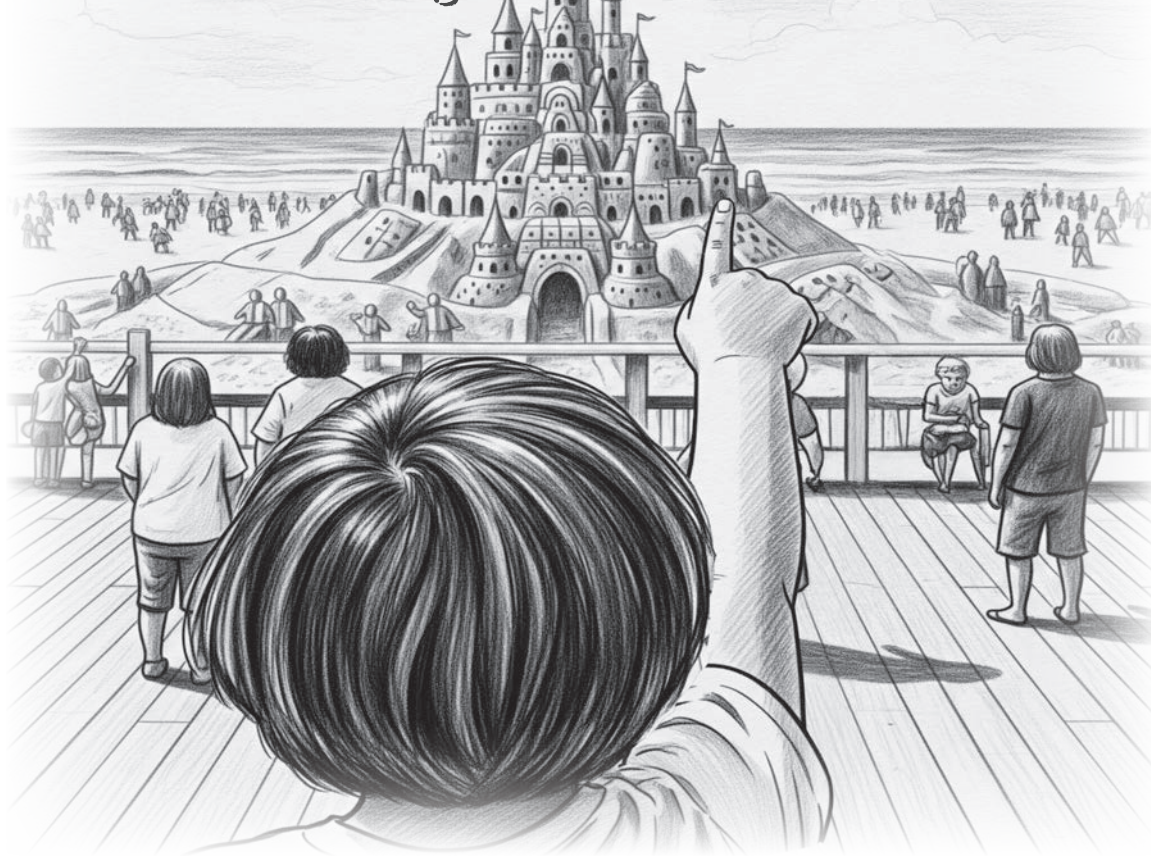
In addition to the sand sculptures, the festival will feature over 75 food vendors, food trucks and exhibitors, interactive activities, and amusement rides. There also will be a spectacular fireworks show, which is scheduled for Saturday evening at 9:00 (weather permitting).

With perfect weather in the forecast (including both Saturday and Sunday), the expected attendance certainly will reach more than 500,000 people and even up to one million. Obviously, automobile traffic will be congested and parking extremely limited (basically only at the Wonderland garage), so it is highly-recommended that anyone planning to attend the festival should take public transportation. The MBTA's Blue Line, with two convenient stops (Wonderland and Revere Beach stations), both of which are a short stroll to Revere Beach, is by far the best choice for festival-goers from the Boston area.

The Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival, which is organized under the auspices of the wonderful folks with the non-profit Revere Beach Partnership, with financial assistance from the City of Revere's City Council and Mayor Patrick Keefe, truly is an event for the entire family.

We guarantee that the amazing creations of these incredibly-talented artists will create memories for everyone, young and old, that will last a lifetime.

Celebrate 21 Years of Sand Castle Extravagance!



Wu and Age Strong announce over \$1.2 million in grants

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Age Strong Commission last week announced the recipients of two grant programs totaling \$1,276,000 to support Boston residents aged 60 and older. The first, the Expanding Engagement grant program, awarded \$570,000 to 44 nonprofit community organizations to create new or expand existing programs that promote greater engagement and social connection among older adults. The second, the Behavioral Health grant program, awarded \$706,000 to 11 nonprofits to strengthen behavioral health programs and initiatives for Boston's older adults.

"These important grants will help deliver on our work to make Boston a home for every generation by supporting older Boston residents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These initiatives draw on our incredible partner organizations who have deep roots in the

community and work alongside our residents every day. Through these two initiatives, we are reaching over 50 nonprofits who are in turn reaching thousands of older Bostonians looking for social connection or behavioral health support."

The Expanding Engagement grant program leverages funds to expand social engagement opportunities for older adults in underserved communities, reach individuals not currently served by existing programs, and support recently-launched or new initiatives. The Behavioral Health funding expands access to culturally appropriate clinical support for older adults. These grant initiatives were designed to be responsive to community needs and interests, and this year's grantees reflect the diversity of partners serving older residents across Boston's neighborhoods.

"Every year, interest in both the Expanding Engagement and

Behavioral Health grant opportunity grows, reflecting the need we see in the community", said Age Strong Commissioner, Emily K. Shea. "This was a competitive grant process, but we're excited to support these important programs at community nonprofits across Boston neighborhoods. These grants will go a long way by creating more opportunities for older residents to connect and to increasing clinical access for our diverse older adult population."

"As I travel to senior coffee hours across my district, I consistently hear that our older adults need programming and engagement, as well as supports to address the epidemic of senior loneliness," said City Councilor Brian Worrell. "It's a priority for a large number of our residents, and that's why I was proud to increase Age Strong's budget for this in FY26, and I'm

(GRANTS, Pg. 7)

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

The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group.

*Text or attachments emailed to
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OR deb@thebostonsun.com are preferred.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS MAKE CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee recently endorsed the following candidates for election and reelection: Mayor Michelle Wu; City Councilors at-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, Julia Mejia, Henry Santana, Alexandra Valdez; District 7 City Councilor Mavrick Afonso; and District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AT SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK CONTINUES

Friends of the South End Library are sponsoring a series of summer concerts, featuring Pat Loomis & Friends playing jazz and blues, on Tuesdays, July 29, and Aug. 12 and 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in South End Library Park.

BEAT THE HEAT AND DISCOVER NEW ART AT SoWa THIS AUGUST

The art is as hot as the weather this month. And you'll love purchasing it from our many innovative artists, in air-conditioned comfort.

First Friday is August 1st, so save the date:

Friday, August 1, 2025, 5pm-9pm

And plan to shop with us Sundays starting at 11am. There are five SoWa Sundays in August.

You'll meet the artists in person. You'll be the first to see their new works. You'll love everything about this unique experience.

SoWa ARTISTS GUILD HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST SUNDAYS AS PREMIER ART DESTINATION

There is only one 450 Harrison Ave.

In our climate-controlled building, there are good reasons to shop for art this month every Sunday starting at 11am. And

there are five wonderful SoWa Sundays, including Labor Day weekend.

You'll shop with people from all over the world. Share your experience, including the outdoor markets, with friends and loved ones. Purchase new works direct from the makers.

And the first Friday of every month is still and always will be First Friday Open Studios, 5pm-9pm. See you First Friday, August 1st! See you every Sunday!

RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION *(from Page 1)*

with you in that effort with this project at 263 Summer Street to redevelop this historic office building into 77 new homes."

The project at 129 Portland Street in the Bulfinch Triangle will create 25 homes. This is the first conversion project in the Bulfinch Triangle, made possible by recent zoning changes that made residential an allowed use in the neighborhood, which will help to facilitate more office-to-residential conversion projects.

The project at 615 Albany Street in the South End will create 24 homes. It is the first conversion project adding an additional floor on top to increase the number of housing units,

while remaining consistent with the surrounding buildings in the historic South End neighborhood, and preserving what was originally the old Naval Blood Research Laboratory building.

"We feel extremely lucky to be able to participate in Mayor Wu's Office to Residential Conversion program," said Owner of Construo Development Greg McCarthy. "We are excited to bring dozens of new homes to both the Bulfinch triangle neighborhood and the South End, while also hopefully bolstering the activity in these neighborhoods. We are currently working with staff on two more conversion projects that will hopefully have the same or even stronger

impacts on the community. I believe this program provides solutions to multiple issues that are critical both now, and for the future of Boston."

"Revitalizing the downtown area by converting office space to residential units will be a tremendous boost to the area and will help create more housing units throughout the city," said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). "I want to thank Mayor Wu and her administration for the vision and foresight into making these conversations a reality. I look forward to more events like this as we work together to create more much needed housing units across the city."

The program, which formally launched in October of 2023, has so far received 16 applications to create a total of 780 units of housing, 142 income-restricted, across 21 buildings and convert 620,000 SF of office space to residential space. Of those applications, 595 units have been approved by the BPDA Board. More than 100 units are also expected to begin construction this fall.

"We are thrilled to see the progress the Wu Administration has made on the Office-to-Residential conversion program in Downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods," said President of the Downtown Boston Alli-

ance Michael J. Nichols. "The proximity our workforce lives to their Downtown jobs is the single strongest correlating factor in catalyzing higher rates of office visitation, while adding residences near Downtown offers improved local foot traffic to support Downtown restaurants and retailers. This program is making a meaningful difference in providing workers and families with new opportunities to live in the heart of our city and continues to have our full support."

The Office to Residential Conversion Program provides a 75% tax abatement for 29 years as an incentive to developers to convert vacant office spaces into residential units. This spring, the City expanded the program to

include student and workforce housing. The goal of this program is to support owners and developers of older commercial office building spaces in converting them to residential units, while also increasing the housing stock in Downtown Boston. The program is also designed to respond to post-pandemic economic shifts that will prioritize expanding housing options Downtown, creating an 18-hour, mixed-use neighborhood.

The application will remain open through the end of the year, with approvals given on a rolling basis. Applicants to the program would commit to pull a full building permit and start construction by Dec 31, 2026 to get these much needed units built as fast as possible.

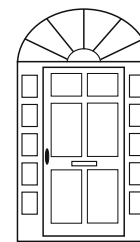


MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Mayor Michelle Wu joined local leaders to celebrate the official ground-breaking of an Office to Residential Conversion at 263 Summer St. in the Seaport. The project will be beginning construction this summer, creating 77 new homes.

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SEND YOUR NEWS

The Boston Sun encourages readers and residents to submit their local news! Engagements, weddings and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Submitting does not guarantee publication that week. Content will be printed on a space available basis. Items should be e-mailed to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com and deb@thebostonsun.com

FRENCH LIBRARY HOLDS ANNUAL BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION



Sandy Lemite, Sharyn Corbett, and Ingrid Desaulle.



Michelle Robichaud, Pascal Scemama, Lucy Rivera, and Yves Schabes.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The French Library held their Annual Bastille Day celebration at their historic location on Marlborough Street. Guests enjoyed French food, music, dancing, and more. It was an excellent evening of honoring a prestigious holiday of our nation's oldest ally.



Lily Smith, soprano vocalist and French instructor at the Library preformed French and American songs, in French of course.



Julie Perron of the band Musette Suzette on guitar and vocals.



Kathleen McGowan and Mimi Cheung.



Grier Dienstag with her kids Sybi and Whit.

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FRENCH LIBRARY HOLDS ANNUAL BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION



Dave Magliozzi of the band Musette Suzette on accordion.



Debbie Wiess serves up champagne.



Epitomizing the French spirit is Adeline Merigan.



French Library instructor Lily Smith and President Barbara Bouquegneau lead the room in singing La Marseillaise, the French National Anthem.



Georges Sulak and Roysi Gureli.



George Born, James Mahoney, and Matthew Hast are looking fashionable at the entrance to the French Library.



Jadrian and Maria Sardinas.



Jane Willis and Sandra Gilpatrick .



Muriel and Eric Gregory .



Olaf Dammann of the band Musette Suzette on percussion.



Michael and Catherine Rioles.



Shown above, Julie Merrigan (right) with her kids Adeline, Alvin, and Julien as they hit the coloring book activities.

Shown left, French Library President Barbara Bouquegneau and M Fine Arts Gallery founder and managing partner Madison Maushart show off some cool Summer fashion.

FRENCH LIBRARY HOLDS ANNUAL BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION



Marcy Maycock and Marilyn Snyder.



Maria Shabanova.



Sagar Kumar and Tauta Zeneli.



Spring Clinton with French Library Cultural Programs Manager Sophie Schlenker.



Steven Galante, the chairman of the French Library, encouraged attendees to express a sense of fraternity in a social landscape of division.



After an elegant performance of singing, Lily Smith (center) relaxes with her fiancé Rob Berglamd (2nd from right) and their friends Emma Zeligson, Chris McMahon, and Juana Nantez.

NeighborHealth awarded funding to increase pipeline of behavioral health professionals

Special to the Sun

NeighborHealth has been awarded \$324,000 in funding through Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Behavioral Health Supervising Clinicians Incentive Program (SCIP) to support the health center's ongoing commitment to enhancing the capacity and quality of behavioral health services across the Commonwealth.

According to a news release from EOHHS, the goal of the program is to help students create a stronger network of support early in their career development, increasing the pool of available behavioral health professionals working in Massachusetts and addressing the behavioral health workforce shortage.

Funding will offset the otherwise unreimbursed time clinicians spend providing supervision to students and clinicians in-training who are working towards certification or licensure.

With this award, NeighborHealth can significantly contribute to the program's objectives to support clinical supervision of aspiring and advancing behavioral health professionals.

"Supervising clinicians are the backbone of our behavioral health workforce, shaping future professionals while upholding the highest standards of care. Yet, they're often stretched thin—facing heavy caseloads, limited development opportunities, and financial strain" said Tracey Weeden, Vice President and Chief Behavioral Health Officer

at NeighborHealth. "This incentive program is our commitment to reversing that trend. By investing in their growth and well-being, we're strengthening the entire system—making behavioral health care at NeighborHealth more resilient, effective, and accessible for all."

Funding will benefit NeighborHealth's behavioral health program by supporting the expansion of a diverse and qualified behavioral health workforce and expanding supervising clinicians' capacity to devote more hours to mentorship.

"We need more qualified behavioral health providers to deliver needed care in our communities," said Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey. "The Behavioral Health Trust Fund

improves recruitment and retention of providers by providing them with an experienced, trusted supervisor while in training. At the same time, it provides additional financial support to our hardworking licensed clinicians. We're proud to deliver this funding which will improve behavioral health care across the state."

"These awards prioritize funding clinical supervisors who provide behavioral health services in underserved areas, giving these communities more professionals who are trained to support mental health care," said Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Investing in this way will reduce barriers for those seeking to become new clinicians or advance in their cho-

sen field and support current clinicians who dedicate their time and expertise to mentoring and training a diverse, qualified and well supported behavioral health workforce."

NeighborHealth was selected as one of 71 recipients out of 519 applicants. The award supports the health centers' work to address health disparities in a community-based setting and commitment to building a linguistically diverse and culturally attuned clinical team.

NeighborHealth is dedicated to continuing its leadership in behavioral health care in collaboration with EOHHS and other program participants to create a more resilient and accessible behavioral health system in Massachusetts.

D-4 CRIME (from Page 1)

than 34 percent as the number fell to 23 from 35 last year, while the five-year average for this category in the district is 28.2.

Incidents of non-domestic aggravated assault saw a nearly 10-percent decline, with the number falling to 104 from 115 in '24. The five-year average for this category in the district is

113.8 incidents.

Commercial burglaries saw a more than 15-percent uptick as the number climbed to 30 from 26 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 46.8 incidents.

Residential burglaries saw a more than 30-percent reduction, with the number falling to

32 from 46 in '24. The five-year average for this category in the district is 54 incidents.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle saw a negligible increase as the number climbed to 256 from 254 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 222.6 incidents.

Other larcenies were up more than 6 percent, with the number climbing to 1,117 from 1,052 in '24. The five-year average for this category in the district is 930 incidents.

Auto theft saw a more than 13-percent reduction as the number fell to 72 from 83 last year, while the five-year average

for this category in the district is 77.8 incidents.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 3 percent as the number dropped to 8,586 from 8,874 last year, although this year is still slightly above the five-year average of 8,520 incidents.

Boston Harbor Now announces first-ever overnight camping experience on Spectacle Island

Special to the Sun

For the first time ever, campers can sleep under the stars on Spectacle Island. Boston Harbor Now invites you to Camp Spectacle—a one-of-a-kind overnight adventure packed with s'mores, stargazing, ranger-led walks, and breathtaking views of the Boston skyline. With round-trip ferry service from Downtown Boston included, this is your chance to experience the Harbor Islands like never before.

Whether you're a seasoned outdoor explorer or just looking for a unique summer escape, Camp Spectacle is your ticket to unplug, unwind, and enjoy nature without ever leaving the city.

Camp Spectacle is an overnight group camping experience on Spectacle Island, complete with fun programming and classic camp vibes.



Camping is set for Saturday, August 2 – Sunday, August 3, 2025. The ferries depart Long Wharf at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., or 4:30 p.m.

Campers may set up tents after 5:30 p.m.

•Return ferries on Sunday: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., or 5:30 p.m.

Included With Ticket:

•Roundtrip ferry transportation

•One-night group campsite

•Continental breakfast

•Ranger and Boston Harbor Now led games and nature walks

•S'mores

What To Bring: Everything you need for a backcountry-style

campout: tents, sleeping gear, food, utensils, and outdoor clothing. ZaZ Restaurant will be open for concessions until 8:00 pm and light snacks and beverages are available on the ferry, and food can be picked up from Luke's Lobster at the Welcome Center on the Greenway before boarding.

Learn More & Register: Tickets and full details available online by scanning the QR code.

Boston Harbor Now works in partnership with public agencies, communities, and private and nonprofit partners to ensure a vibrant, accessible, and resilient Boston Harbor, waterfront, and islands. From ferries and festivals to climate planning and park access, Boston Harbor Now connects people to the Harbor and works to protect it for future generations.



GRANTS (from Page 2)

happy to see these grants awarded."

The following community organizations were selected to receive Expanding Engagement grants:

1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Commemoration Initiative

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

Bay Cove Human Services, Inc.

Benevolent Fraternity of Unitarian Churches

Boston Project Ministries, Inc.

Boston Public Housing Corporation

Boston Senior Home Care

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Cape Verdean Community UNIDO

Castle Square Tenants Organization, Inc.

Central Boston Elder Services, Inc.

Community Centers of Jamaica Plain

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

DotHouse Health

Fenway Civic Association

Fenway Community Center at Viridian, Inc.

FriendshipWorks, Inc.

Four Corners Main Streets

Friends of the Codman Square Library Branch

Friends of the Rafael Hernández School, Inc.

Greater Boston Chinese Gold-

en Age Center

Jamaica Plain Community

Connections/Tree of Life

Haley House, Inc.

Hawthorne Youth and Community Center Inc.

La Alianza Hispana, Inc.

LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Boston, Inc.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design Foundation, Inc.

Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Inc.

Maverick Landing Community Services

Mission Hill Health Movement

Museum of Fine Arts

North End Community Health Committee Inc.

Pine Street Inn, Inc.

Rogerson Communities

Shaloh School Oholei Torah

Sherrill House

Southwest Boston Senior Services d/b/a Ethos

The Home for Little Wanderers

Urban Edge

Veronica Robles Cultural Center

Wakullah Street Community Garden, Inc.

West Broadway Task Force, Inc.

YardTime, Inc.

The following community organizations were selected to receive Behavioral Health grants:

2Life Communities Inc.

Boston Medical Center Corporation

Central Boston Elder Services, Inc.

Community Caring Clinic, Inc.

Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)

Pine Street Inn, Inc.

Samaritans, Inc.

Southwest Boston Senior Services d/b/a Ethos

The Community Builders, Inc.

Trustees of Boston College

"This generous support from Mayor Wu and Age Strong will allow DotHouse Health to strengthen and expand our Senior Program, offering older adults more opportunities for connection, wellness, and community engagement," said Dirk Bovell, Director of Community Programs at DotHouse Health.

"It's an important investment in ensuring our seniors feel seen, supported, and valued.

"We are grateful to receive funding from Age Strong for our Caring Connections: Mental Health Navigation Program," said Megan Cheung, Associate Director of the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center.

"Which is specifically aimed at strengthening behavioral health support for our Chinese-speak-

ing older adults. These services make a significant difference in our community and greatly enhance overall quality of life."

SCARS IN HEAVEN

4TH ANNUAL

Adopt--Pole

BOWS WITH TAGS WILL STAY ON POLES THROUGH AUGUST (OVERDOSE AWARENESS) AND SEPTEMBER (RECOVERY MONTH)

PARTICIPATING TOWNS INCLUDE: CHARLESTOWN, CHELSEA, LYNN, EAST BOSTON, SOUTH BOSTON, MALDEN, ROXBURY, REVERE & WINTHROP

ALL SUBMISSIONS BY AUGUST 19, 2025 (PLEASE SPECIFY TOWN)

PLEASE CONTACT: ROSE STONE RSTONE@NORTHSUFFOLK.ORG
SLUNDIN@CHAPTERSRECOVERYCENTER.COM (CHARLESTOWN ONLY)

DONATIONS WELCOMED PLEASE VENMO @SCARSINHEAVEN

Boston Lyric Opera announces its 49th season, bookended by Verdi's 'Macbeth,' and Donizetti's 'Daughter of the Regiment' set during the American Revolution



Special to the Sun

Boston Lyric Opera (BLO) announced its lineup for the 2025/26 Season – its 49th – with a diverse range of productions from classic opera to innovative contemporary works and a number of collaborations with other high-profile Boston cultural institutions. Full season details are below and on BLO.org/season.

BLO's main season features Giuseppe Verdi's *Macbeth*, Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* in collaboration with Boston Symphony Orchestra, Gustav Mahler's *Song Of The Earth*, Gaetano Donizetti's *Daughter Of The Regiment*, and the new opera revue *Ride Of The Valkyries*!

Three concerts are part of the BLO's 2025/26 Season including: Mahler's *Symphony NO. 3* in collaboration with Celebrity Series of Boston; Raehann Bryce-Davis at BLO's Opera + Community Studios in Fort Point; and *She Was There*, a concert presented in partnership with Castle of Our Skins that blends opera, spirituals and contemporary works to illuminate the overlooked stories of revolutionary Black women in America.

BLO continues its ongoing series of free and affordable community music events, including this summer's return of the popular free mobile opera program *Street Stage*, which will be produced across the city of Bos-

ton with a variety of partners.

"Our 49th season strengthens bonds across neighborhoods, generations, cultures and ideas," says Stanford Calderwood General Director & CEO Bradley Vernatter. "From the ambitious grandeur of opera at the historic Emerson Colonial Theatre to the innovation of our signature installation performances and collaborations in community spaces across the city, this season reflects the heartbeat of Boston Lyric Opera. Together, we engage hearts and minds, and embrace new possibilities for ourselves and the communities we share."



MACBETH

Opening the season is Giuseppe Verdi's powerful tragedy, *Macbeth*, based on William Shakespeare's classic play and performed at the Emerson Colonial Theatre October 10 and 12, 2025. Conducted by David Angus and directed by Steven Maler (who helmed BLO's free *Romeo and Juliet* on the Boston Common in 2022), this production stars Norman Garrett in the tyrannical title role and Alexandra LoBianco as the scheming Lady Macbeth. Blending Shakespearean drama with Verdi's compelling music, *MACBETH* offers a dark and supernatural tale of ambition and fate. Additional casting includes David Junghoon Kim as Macduff, Zai-kuan Song as Banquo, Omar Najmi as Malcolm and Vera Savage as Lady in Waiting.

RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES!



On November 12, 2025 BLO will premiere the new operatic revue, *Ride Of The Valkyries!*, with a distinctive take on epic arias and popular stories through unexpected mashups and high-flying musical moments. With Christine Goerke and Morris Robinson leading the cast, and BLO Music Director David Angus con-

ducting members of the BLO Orchestra, the show hurtles audiences from the heights of Wagner's mountaintops to the serene canals of Venice in a fast-paced show that promises great music and extraordinary singing. Performance takes place at the SoWa Power Station in Boston's South End neighborhood, a new venue in BLO's 20-year history of installation performances at unique locations.

VANESSA



On January 8 and 10, 2026, BLO presents Samuel Barber's 1958 masterwork *Vanessa*, with a libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti, in collaboration with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall. BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons leads a team of highly acclaimed opera stars in this cosmopolitan and nostalgic Pulitzer Prize-winner about lost love and the consequences of self-delusion. The *VANESSA* cast includes soprano Jennifer Holloway in the title role, mezzo-sopranos Samantha Hankey (as Erika) and Anne Sofie von Otter (as the Old Baroness), tenor Pavel Černoch (Anatol), baritone Thomas Hampson (Old Doctor) and bass Wei Wu (Major Domo/Footman). The production features the Tanglewood Festival Chorus (James Burton, Conductor) and Boston Lyric Opera Chorus (Brett Hodgdon, Chorus Director).

SONG OF THE EARTH



Spring starts with Gustav Mahler's *Song Of The Earth* (*Das Lied von der Erde*), to be staged as an installation from March 20-29, 2026 – the first such performance in BLO's renovated Opera + Community Studios in Fort Point. The performance will be conducted by David Angus and directed by Anne Bogart (BLO's *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Bluebeard's Castle*/*Four Songs*, and *Carousel*). Raehann Bryce-Davis and Brandon Jovanovich star. Using the Arnold Schoenberg arrange-

ment of Mahler's score, with text from poet Hans Bethge's collection *Die chinesische Flöte*, this 1909 work for two voices and orchestra is a meditation on the transience of life, the inevitability of death, and the beauty and sorrow of earthly existence.

DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT



BLO returns to the Emerson Colonial Theatre April 24-May 3, 2026 for a production of Gaetano Donizetti's *Daughter Of The Regiment*, featuring new English dialogue by playwright Kirsten Greenidge (who revised the spoken word text for BLO's *The Anonymous Lover*). Greenidge resets the story of a young woman adopted by a troop of soldiers during the American Revolution and models the young woman after Massachusetts native Deborah Sampson. The production aligns with the national 250th commemoration of American independence. Conducted by Kelly Kuo and directed by John de los Santos, *Daughter Of The Regiment* features Brenda Rae in the title role of Marie, Spencer Britten as Tonio and Kenneth Kellogg as Sulpice. Additional details and casting will be announced soon.

"This season, strong women are at the center of our stories," says BLO Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen. "From Lady Macbeth's fierce ambition to Marie's joyful defiance in *Daughter of the Regiment* and the emotional odyssey of *Das Lied von der Erde*—these are portraits of strength in all its forms. That same spirit resonates in the comic reimagining of dialogue by Kirsten Greenidge, the bold theatrical vision of Anne Bogart, and the powerful artistry of Christine Goerke. The insight, creativity and resilience of women guides us toward new perspectives and enriches the heart of the stories we share."

More Performances

The Boston Lyric Opera Chorus (Brett Hodgdon, Chorus Director) joins with St. Paul's Choir School (Brandon Straub, Music Director) for a performance of Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* by the Budapest Festival Orchestra at Symphony

Hall on February 10, 2026. This one-performance event, conducted by Iván Fisher and featuring mezzo-soprano Gerhild Romberger, is presented by Celebrity Series of Boston in collaboration with BLO.

Acclaimed mezzo-soprano Raehann Bryce-Davis inaugurates BLO's recital series March 24, 2026 with Raehann In Recital in the intimate environment of its Opera + Community Studios theater in Fort Point. Bryce-Davis – "one of the best mezzo-sopranos of this generation," *New York Observer* – leads a performance spanning opera, art song and contemporary works, including selections from her recent release "Evolution" (Lexicon Classics). Bryce-Davis says the album reflects stories of her family, her Mexican/Jamaican roots, and her upbringing as "a Black girl in a small Texas town." 7:30pm, BLO Opera + Community Studios.

In collaboration with Castle of Our Skins, the Museum of African American History (MAAH) and the West End Museum, Boston Lyric Opera will co-produce a performance of *She Was There* on June 14, 2026, the culmination of a two-day event aligned with America 250 commemorations. Inspired by the African American spiritual, "Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord)," the performance reimagines the stories that live in cultural memory and centers those of Black women present at historical moments. Performance is at MAAH.

Community Programs


Street Stage

BLO's mobile opera performance series *Street Stage* comes to East Boston, the South End and the Greenway, South Boston and Jamaica Plain this summer, bringing the power of live opera directly to Boston residents. What began as a creative response to the pandemic has grown into a beloved tradition across the city. Whether staged in charming neighborhood settings or on BLO's custom-built mobile stage, *Street Stage* brings world-class live performances that are free and open to all. Additional *Street Stage* locations will be announced soon.

Boston Public Library

In summer and fall of 2025, Boston Lyric Opera contin-

(BLO, Pg. 14)



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Rugg Road Paper Co. finds new home on Beacon Hill's Charles St.

By Dan Murphy

Rugg Road Paper Co. is leaving its longtime home on Beacon Hill at 105 Charles St., at the end of July, but owner Geraldine O'Hagan wants her many loyal customers to know that the beloved neighborhood stationary shop isn't closing – in fact, it'll be relocating in mid-August to a much bigger space, just across the street at 130 Charles St.

O'Hagan, who took over as managing owner of Rugg Road in May of 2018, had long had her eye on the new space, which was previously the longtime home to Marika's Antique Shop, and with her current lease soon set to expire, the move seemed like a natural transition for the business.

Rugg Road opened on Charles Street in April 1994, after relocating from the Brickbottom Artists Building in Somerville. But the business got its start years earlier, however, on its namesake Rugg Road in Allston-Brighton.

The shop's expanded storefront, which is now undergoing an extensive renovation, will offer additional room for more "high-end products," said O'Hagan, allowing Rugg Road to provide patrons with an even greater variety.

Within the new space, O'Hagan also aims to replicate the cozy atmosphere of the old store.

"I loved the quaintness of the store when I took over," said O'Hagan, adding that she wants to recreate the "feel" of the old store within the new space, which, spanning nearly 1,750 square feet across the ground floor and basement, is more than twice its size.

Maureen McGrail, O'Hagan's 17-year-old daughter who is about to enter her senior year at Thayer Academy in Braintree, will continue to be an integral part of Rugg Road in her role as retail assistant.

Though she was only a young child when her mother assumed ownership of the shop, Maureen began pitching in at Rugg Road almost right away, and her role within the business has grown substantially since then, with Maureen now working after school, on weekends, and during vacations.

"Maureen has a lot of ideas for designing the new space and a lot of input on what [products] we take into the new store because of her youthful perspective," said O'Hagan.

The impending move to 130 Charles St. will also put Rugg Road on the same block (but opposite sides of the street) as O'Hagan's other retail business, Paws on Charles, a boutique pet supply store at 123 Charles St.

Paws on Charles opened in September of 2021 and was



D. MURPHY PHOTOS

Shown left: Geraldine O'Hagan, managing owner of Rugg Road Paper Co., stands outside the shop's soon-to-be former home at 105 Charles St. Shown right, Geraldine O'Hagan, managing owner of Rugg Road Paper Co., is seen outside the shop's new location at 130 Charles St.

named top-place winner in the category of Best Pet Accessories in Boston Magazine's annual 'Best of Boston' editions for two consecutive years in 2023 and again in '24.

And although Rugg Road will be absent from Charles Street for about three weeks between the time the shop decamps from

105 Charles St. at the end of this month and when it opens at the new location at 130 Charles St. in mid-August, O'Hagan wants her loyal customers to know how much she appreciates their ongoing and unwavering support.

"The store has had so much community support with the

previous owner and since I took over," said O'Hagan, who looks forwards to soon seeing her loyal customers at Rugg Road's new Charles Street location.

For more on Rugg Road Paper Company, visit ruggroadpaper.com, call 617-742-0002, or email them at hello@ruggroad-paper.com.



Geraldine O'Hagan outside her other retail business, Paws on Charles, a boutique pet supply store at 123 Charles St.

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2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 25
Festival Hours: 10AM-10PM
8:00 AM- 5:00 PM: Sculpting Competition

SATURDAY, JULY 26
Festival Hours: 10AM-10PM
8:00 AM- 2:00 PM: Sculpting Competition
4:00 PM: People’s Choice Voting Ends
6:30 PM: Awards Ceremony
AT THE WILLIAM G. REINSTEIN BANDSTAND
9:00 PM: Fireworks Extravaganza

SUNDAY, JULY 27
Festival Hours: 10AM-10PM

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Freedom Trail Specialty and Expanded Tours

Special to the Sun

As we settle into the peak of summer, the Freedom Trail Foundation's 18th-century costumed guides are out on the Trail in full force, offering an expanded menu of fun and educational tours, including Walk Into History®, African American Patriots®, Rainbow Revolutionaries tours and more.

The Freedom Trail Foundation's current summer tour schedule offers Walk Into History® Tours from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center on the hour, daily, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as well as 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Additionally, the Foundation offers tours departing from the ArtsBoston booth, including Walk Into History® Tours daily at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m., as well as North End Paul

Revere Tours daily at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

For the first time in history, Foundation-led specialty tours will also step off this summer on Saturdays at 10:45 a.m., including African American Patriots® Tours on July 19 and August 26, and Revolutionary Women Tours departing on July 26 and August 23 from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. Rainbow Revolutionaries Tours will depart on August 9 behind the Robert Gould Shaw & 54th Regiment Memorial in the Boston Common.

"Boston's iconic Freedom Trail, its historic sites, and the Foundation offer an array of activities to experience more Boston history year-round," said the Foundation's Executive Director Suzanne Segura Taylor. "The expanded tours schedule including the addition of specialty tours this summer

gives residents and visitors more opportunities to enjoy learning about 250 years of history on the Freedom Trail, as the Commonwealth, and City commemorates the sesquicentennial."

Walk Into History® Tours are the official 90-minute walking tour of the Freedom Trail featuring tales of high treason, mob agitations, revolutionary actions, and partisan fights, walking to 11 of Boston's historic Freedom Trail sites to and from Boston Common and Faneuil Hall. The North End Paul Revere Tour features stops along the Trail including the Paul Revere House, Old North Church, Copp's Hill Burying Ground, and other historic places in Boston's oldest neighborhood. The African American Patriots® Tours invite visitors to view history through the eyes of African American revolutionaries such as Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Prince

Hall, Peter Salem, and more to discover the immense contributions of Black Bostonians during the American Revolution and beyond. Revolutionary Women

Tours allow tour goers to discover the women who took part in the American Revolution, and the generations of women that followed, inaugurating their own struggles for freedom and equality. Boston Freedom Trail's newly launched Rainbow Revolutionaries Tours illuminate the lives, loves, and fights for liberty of Boston's LGBTQ+ community, and explore how queer individuals have been making history for centuries.

Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children, and include a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund. Tickets may

be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center and The BOS Traveling Mobile Visitor Center (various locations), the ArtsBoston Booth, Samuel Adams Downtown Boston Taproom next to historic Faneuil Hall, Old Town Trolley locations and ticket booths, and online at TheFreedomTrail.org.

All walking tours are available for group tours year-round by appointment and are perfect for tourist groups, family outings, birthday parties, company parties, corporate activities, team building, and more, and may be booked via phone reservation at (617) 357-8300.

For more information about the Freedom Trail and Freedom Trail sites, please visit TheFreedomTrail.org or call (617) 357-8300.

State retailers set for sales tax-free weekend on Aug. 9, 10

Special to the Sun

Saturday, August 9, 2025, and Sunday, August 10, 2025, are the official dates of Massachusetts' annual sales tax holiday thanks to actions taken by the Massachusetts Legislature today. During the holiday, the state's 6.25 per cent sales tax is suspended for most retail items priced under \$2,500.

A 2018 state law, which made the sales tax holiday permanent, requires the Legislature to vote to set the dates of the holiday each year. Both branches adopted resolutions setting this year's dates (S.2530 / H.4220), sponsored by Senator Adam Gómez (D-Springfield) and Representative Carole A. Fiola (D-Fall River).

"Lowering costs for Massachusetts residents and supporting local businesses is critical for our communities in this time of economic uncertainty," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I'd like to thank

Senator Gómez, my colleagues in the Senate and our partners in the House for their work to set this year's sales tax holiday."

"This year's temporary suspension of the sales tax will bring consumers needed economic relief while boosting revenue for small businesses and retailers," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I want to thank Chair Fiola and my colleagues in the House, along with our partners in the Senate, for their annual support for this economic development initiative."

"The sales tax holiday is a wonderful opportunity for our residents to get out into their communities, support local businesses, get their kids ready for school in fall or make a purchase that they've been putting off," said Senator Gómez, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses. "I am glad that our leaders here in the Legislature have been able to work and get this done again for our res-

idents this year, and I look forward to hearing how residents are able to make the most of the tax reprieve."

"I was proud to sponsor the legislation establishing this year's sales tax holiday that helps boost our economy and provides support and relief for our residents and small businesses," said Representative Fiola, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. "This is an important weekend that helps bolster our economy and I applaud my colleagues in passing this legislation to provide individuals, families and businesses across the Commonwealth with some relief."

"The sales tax holiday benefits consumers and businesses alike. I am pleased to support the tax free holiday and look forward to working with my clients to continue to build upon the one billion dollar tax cut the Massachusetts legislature enacted into law just a couple of years ago.

Tax relief benefits all residents of the Commonwealth and is one of my continued priorities as we work to make Massachusetts affordable again," said State Representative Jeffrey Rosario Turco (D-Revere).

A spike in consumer activity routinely boosts indirect tax revenues. According to the Department of Revenue, the 2024 sales tax holiday generated \$3.54 million in indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity.

At a time when consumers are seeing prices on store shelves spike, driven in part by federally imposed tariffs, this year's Massachusetts sales tax holiday will give shoppers a much-needed break. The holiday also encourages families looking to shop for back-to-school season to support local small businesses and retailers.

Information about eligible purchases is available on the Department of Revenue website.

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Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The columns in the last clue are located on the Harvard Medical School (HMS) building, Gordon Hall, at 25 Shattuck Street. HMS was founded in 1782. Today's answer is in a Thomas E. Marr photo of the building from 1910, taken soon after the school relocated to this location.

You'll find the next clue in the South End,

Do you have a favorite building or detail that you would like to be featured? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Daylor, Susan R	Carroll, John F	10 Dartmouth Pl #1	\$845,000
Rohtstein, Rhonda A	Wang, Rui	111 Marlborough St #1	\$1,580,000
Dodyk, Marcus	Barber, Matthew C	176 W Canton St	\$6,100,000
333 Highland Avenue LLC	Andrew Gordon 2011 T	180 Beacon St #4A	\$1,550,000
First Comm Intl LLC	Stanzler, Marjorie C	2 Commonwealth Ave #16B	\$15,000,000
First Comm Intl LLC	Stanzler, Marjorie C	2 Commonwealth Ave #16C	\$15,000,000
First Comm Intl LLC	Stanzler, Marjorie C	2 Commonwealth Ave #16D	\$15,000,000
Caragher, Seamus	Mcmoran, Shona E	21 Beacon St #4I	\$800,000
Makhlouf, Usama	Ellis L Phillips Fndtn	233 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$630,000
Makhlouf, Usama	Ellis L Phillips Fndtn	233 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$630,000
Cline, Michael B	Shaw I Rt	259 Marlborough St #7	\$4,500,000
Mccourt, Conor F	276 Marlborough LLC	276 Marlborough St #G1	\$675,000
Lados, Diana A	Gao, Huajian	280 Beacon St #42	\$880,000
Bryant Back Bay 302 LLC	Elizabeth Ramos RET	301-319 Columbus Ave #302	\$2,650,000
337 Marlborough St LLC	Macgrath, Mark H	337 Marlborough St #3	\$2,600,000
Van Dorp, Peggy H	Walden Investments LLC	400 Stuart St #17H	\$1,175,000
Horbaczewski, Henry Z	Trinitarias Corp	400 Stuart St #18B	\$2,040,000
Hastings, Emma	Hexagon Enterprises LLC	408 Beacon St #2	\$4,875,000
410 Beacon Street Rt	410 Coinpurse Rt	410 Beacon St	\$12,000,000
Andrews, Clark	Bartley, Nancy J	42 W Newton St #A25	\$850,000
Rybarski, Alec	Weerasiri, Rachel D	462 Beacon St #2	\$525,000
Mukherjee, Atashi R	Benchikni, Abdellah	483 Beacon St #12A	\$450,000
Leland, Todd	Kwon, Young-Min	50 Commonwealth Ave #302	\$1,465,000
Pan, Yuping	Zhang, Feihan	520 Beacon St #4C	\$575,000
Shi, Bin	Walter Weibrecht T	534 Beacon St #707	\$789,000
2 Propco LLC	Boston Blue LLC	93-95 Newbury St	\$37,800,000
BEACON HILL			
Rodrigues, Adrian	Maritz, Paul	10 Bowdoin St #406	\$1,550,000
Hoenig, Jennifer P	River Street Place 3 Rt	3 River Street Pl	\$1,900,000
Lall, Vikas	Yu, Kenneth	3531 Washington St #326	\$970,000
Penny Investments LLC	Ivy Smith Lt	49 Hancock St	\$850,000
Nassery, Najlla	Wan Ft	580 Washington St #8E	\$950,000
Hendrickson, Meghan	Todd L Goldberg RET	602 Tremont St #1	\$2,800,000
Maisie Nt	South Russell Limited LL	65 Anderson St #2C	\$2,600,000
Merkenschlager, Julia E	Garrity Stephen T Est	654 Tremont St #2	\$840,000
Hull, William N	Marilyn B Mccurdy T	73 Pinckney St #7	\$825,000
Studio Kuro LLC	Fischer Mcmorrow Prop LL	76 Charles St #76	\$625,000
Dang, Nhat X	Saraf, Sharad	8 Whittier Pl #22B	\$575,000
Patton, Edward B	Christine Kromer RET	94 Chestnut St #2	\$4,205,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Veselinov, Zhorzh V	Chen, Kuo-Hao	1 Franklin St #1402	\$990,000
Klaus, Stephen	Waldern Investments LLC	1 Franklin St #1409	\$1,080,000
Arikan, Omer	Samhold Inc	1 Franklin St #2806	\$1,175,000
Aquilino, Kenneth S	Dillon, Michael P	120 Lincoln St #3C	\$707,000
Rockland T Phoenix LLC Sh	Anchor LLC	21 Merchants Row #1	\$2,100,000
Du, Yan	Malik, Ashish	3 Avery St #606	\$850,000
Mustafa, Merita	Quinn, Sarah	357 Commercial St #219	\$495,000
Bayliss, Theodore P	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #PH1K	\$2,999,000
Wheeler Road Rt	Frangos, Cassandra A	65 E India Row #18G	\$1,074,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Kilmartin Jr, Peter J	Nancy Clark Mundel Irt	11 Appleton St #1	\$995,000
Mcmoran, Shona E	Kelley, John J	112 Union Park St #2	\$815,000
Navnetus1 LLC	Raja P & Aruna P Reddy L	188 Brookline Ave #21D	\$1,370,000
Bongard, Victoria A	Smith Joint RET	24 Greenwich Park #1	\$1,700,000
Riddikulus LLC	Smith Joint RET	24 Greenwich Park #2	\$600,000

Healey-Driscoll administration offering \$180,000 in grants to support higher education students with disabilities

Special to the Sun

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced it is opening applications for public colleges and universities to apply for \$180,000 in grant funding to support students with disabilities participating in Massachusetts Inclusive Postsecondary Education (MAIPSE) programs. MAIPSE enables certain students with severe disabilities to take part in undergraduate academic courses, extracurricular activities, internships, work experiences, and on campus student life activities.

Higher education institutions can apply for MAIPSE planning or implementation grants and can use the funding for a variety of program supports, including student transportation costs, technology costs to ensure students have full access to curriculum, textbooks and course-work materials, consultants like employment specialists and peer mentors, training supplies, and staff salaries.

“These grants will lift barriers for students with disabilities, enabling learners to experience college, whether it’s in a classroom, through an internship or as part of a campus club,” said Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. “Through MAIPSE, we are committed to supporting the development of more high-quality, inclusive programs so students of all abilities have access to the transformational opportunities of going to college.”

“Students, campuses, and communities alike benefit when as many learners as possible can experience the tremendous personal and professional growth that higher education brings,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega. “I’m proud that Massachusetts and its campuses are dedicated to growing inclusive post-secondary opportunities, and these grants play a crucial role in delivering high-quality learning experiences.”

In April, the Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the administration’s proposed state regulations that established MAIPSE. MAIPSE aims to improve inclusive access to post-secondary educational opportunities for students ages 18 and over with severe disabilities who are otherwise not able to achieve the underlying competency determinations needed to secure a high school diploma, including students with intellectual disabilities, severe autism spectrum disorder, and severe developmental disabilities.

All Massachusetts public community colleges, universities, and members of the University of Massachusetts system that have previously been awarded planning grant funding for an inclusive postsecondary program may apply for an implementation grant. Applications must be submitted online by July 31, 2025. Institutions can also apply for planning grants.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Palacio LLC	Alpine Tundra LLC	25 Milford St #1	\$2,600,000
Silva, Jorge A	Okonow, Benjamin I	28 Greenwich Park #3	\$2,295,000
Pelaez, Gina	Thr Acqui Northampton LL	373 Northampton St #102	\$338,290
Lara, Indira	Thr Acqui Northampton LL	373 Northampton St #207	\$428,430
Weisberg, Hannah	Bradley Family Re Vent L	39 Upton St #1	\$1,950,000
Hokari, Yuki	Michael A Goldberg Ft	40 Traveler St #605	\$1,465,000
Vanderpol, Gregory	Jarvis, Michael F	82-84 Waltham St #10	\$1,205,000
T & Jodi Amendola RET	Johnson, Caroline G	9 Hanson St #3	\$1,100,000
Amanda N Davis T	Herrick T	94 Waltham St #4	\$1,215,000
Chisholm, Timothy	Bryant, Kevin A	95 Appleton St #1	\$1,935,000
Elich, Samantha L	Wai, Lawrence	11 Albemarle St #4	\$1,090,000
Chen, Doris	Chen, Perry	110 Stuart St #171	\$635,000
Schultz, Lisa W	Li, Xiaojing	136 Beacon St #3	\$1,180,000
Slifka, Colby	Rauch, Daniel	25 Piedmont St #3	\$2,050,000
Smith Joint RET	Whitla, Elizabeth A	43 Westland Ave #PH3	\$1,910,000
Zhang, Feiyang	Clapham LLC	69 Park Dr #23	\$300,000
Cruz, Sebastian	Lunny, Emily	9 Cazenove St #4	\$775,000

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CITY PAWS

Bred for the job

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

It is estimated that there are around 400 dog breeds recognized by the AKC and other registration groups. We have no idea how many mixes have resulted from intermingling the genes of these 400 breeds. Many breeds were developed initially for a specific purpose, namely to perform a particular job.

Some dogs are surrendered to rescue groups because they exhibit behaviors typical of their breed. The Border Collies you might see used for goose control work are often dogs that're not suitable as family pets because their high energy and strong herding instinct make them unmanageable in a home.

Complex Genetics

Canines are adaptable, and many dogs who trot down city sidewalks and live in small city apartments are well-suited for their current role in life.

Most of us are aware that our dogs' ancestors were herders, hunters, guardians, or royal lapdogs. It follows that even after breeders have selectively

changed some characteristics, other instincts remain. Having an outlet for those drives will make for a happier relationship.

What's Your Dog's Job?

Do you provide play or exercise that allows your pal to express their inner dog? Watching a retriever relentlessly dive into the water to fetch a ball, bring it back, drop it at their person's feet, and then pleadingly dance about, hoping for another round, is the image of a happy pup.

When we see a Cairn Terrier walking along, nose to the ground, sniffing every inch of pavement, we know that this working dog is searching for signs of the vermin their great-great-grandfather was sent to find and dispatch in the cairns of Scotland.

Sturdy little Cairns still have the keen minds and problem-solving ability of great hunters. They also have strong necks, a drive to chase, capture, and give prey a vigorous, fatal shake. Today, they can enjoy this behavior with a stuffed toy. Or, if you are a very indulgent person,



High-energy herding dogs, with their strong herding instincts, can be unmanageable without a task to perform and plenty of exercise.

by taking part in ground competitions that allow terriers to hunt in underground tunnels.

Troublesome Traits

Cairns are also relentless diggers and might escape under a fence—something to keep in mind. The second advantage of knowing your breed's traits is

that it helps you understand the problems common to that type of dog and how to deal with those issues.

Basset Hounds and Beagles have loud voices designed to call the rest of the pack of hunters to them. Aside from singing along with a siren from an emergency vehicle, there are few appropriate opportunities for howling in the city. A howling dog needs early and lifelong training to control this instinct, which is the responsibility of any good neighbor. But, when that siren sound brings on a howl in the park, why not play pack mate to your pup and join in. A good howl might brighten your day, too!

Serious Toys

Even toy breeds that seem

suited only for life as companion animals have secret skills from ancient ancestors. The tiny Papillon is said to be a good little ratter. The Miniature Pinscher is an excellent watchdog and can be pretty vocal when strangers approach.

Large or small, purebred or a mix with a generous gene pool, learning more about your dog and letting them do a bit of the work that is part of their heritage can be fun. Knowing that they are only doing their job can help you deal with some of their ingrained habits.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

BLO (from Page 8)

ues its long-standing creative partnership with the Boston Public Library (BPL) through two engaging public programs, "Concert in the Courtyard" and "Opera Night at the BPL," that offer free performances and conversations that bring opera to audiences of all backgrounds.

"Concert in the Courtyard" takes place August 29, 2025 in the intimate outdoor quadrangle of the BPL Copley Branch's historic McKim Building. The concert features BLO's Jane & Steven Akin Emerging Artists who offer audiences a chance to hear repertoire from the upcoming season and opera favorites.

"Opera Night at the BPL" combines dynamic music with conversations that explore the ideas shaping opera in Boston today. Live performances include show-stopping favorites, re-imagined classics and works from the company's recent and upcoming seasons. Designed for opera fans and newcomers alike,

"Opera Nights" demonstrates music's revolutionary spirit and opera's powerful resonance.

Opera Innovators Series

Presented in partnership with Boston Conservatory at Berklee, the "Opera Innovators Series" is a dynamic educational and professional development program that offers BLO's Jane & Steven Akin Emerging Artists – and Boston Conservatory voice students – access to masterclasses, workshops and collaborative projects with visionary leaders in the field. Masterclasses welcome members of the public to watch as leading guest artists help shape young opera singers' voices, stage presence, and confidence. Previous seasons' guest artists have included Larry Brownlee, Jamie Barton and others. The 2025/26 lineup will be announced later.

Opera on Tour: Opera for Kids in Boston Neighborhoods

Boston Lyric Opera brings lively, one-hour performanc-

es to locations around the city, designed to spark curiosity and creativity in young audiences. Professional singers, musicians and a teaching artist lead these interactive events to get kids on their feet and exploring opera through music, storytelling and movement. This year's tour features excerpts and storytelling from Daughter Of The Regiment – a playful introduction to BLO's April production.

Tickets

Many of BLO's performances are ticketed events. Two-, three- and four-part subscriptions for Macbeth, Ride of the Valkyries, Song of the Earth and Daughter of the Regiment are available now. Subscribers receive early access to tickets for Vanessa, Mahler's Third, and Raehann in Recital. Individual tickets for all performances will be available later. Information on season tickets is available at blo.org/subscriptions.

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MBTA announces August service changes

Special to the SUN

The MBTA has announced service changes in August on the Blue, Orange, Lowell, and Fitchburg lines.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/PlannedWork. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA, @MBTA_CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

On the Blue Line:

The MBTA will perform continued work on the Blue Line in August to continue to rebuild the Line and ensure that additional sections of track are improved to the same state of good repair standards that support reliable and robust service. Crews will accomplish essential infrastructure upgrades, heavy track renewal, and other critical revitalization work. Building on the success of the Track Improvement Program, this regular, planned renewal and revitalization work is ongoing and continuous, ensuring the long-term stability of our infrastructure and preserving the system for future generations of riders.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place:

Blue Line service will be suspended between Airport and Wonderland for nine days, August 9 – 17.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops at all stations during this service change.

Riders using shuttle buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Government Center from Wonderland should budget at least an additional 20 – 30 minutes of travel time in addition to their regular commute.

Riders using regular Blue Line train service between Bowdoin and Airport should also budget extra travel time. The time between each weekday train will be approximately 10 minutes, which is about double what it is typically.

On the Orange Line:

The MBTA will accomplish signal upgrade work on the Orange Line in August. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA will significantly increase operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for riders.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place:

Orange Line service will be suspended between Wellington and Back Bay during the weekends of August 2 – 3, August 9 – 10, and August 23 – 24.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate during this service change.

Local shuttle buses will make all stops between Wellington and North Station.

Express shuttle buses will

operate directly between Wellington and North Station.

For service through the downtown area near Back Bay, riders are encouraged to utilize parallel Green Line service between North Station and Copley (which is less than a quarter-mile or about a four-minute walk from Back Bay). The MBTA will increase Green Line service during this time to accommodate Orange Line riders.

There will be free fares with the fare gates open at Back Bay, Copley, Wellington, and North Station.

Riders are encouraged to consider fare-free Commuter Rail service between Oak Grove and North Station as well as between Forest Hills and South Station.

Accessible vans will be available at downtown Orange Line stations between Back Bay and North Station as well as Copley on the Green Line.

On the Lowell Commuter Rail Line:

The MBTA will perform work on the High Line Bridge Replacement Project in Somerville in August. The High Line Bridge carries the Lowell Line over the High Line access road as well as a railroad yard in Somerville between North Station and West Medford. When complete, the project will provide safer, more resilient, more reliable service on the Lowell Line; bring the bridge into a state of good repair;

reduce future maintenance costs; and reduce unplanned service impacts and delays.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place:

Lowell Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between North Station and Lowell during the following dates:

Beginning at approximately 10 PM on Friday, August 15, and continuing through the entire weekend, August 16 – 17.

Beginning at approximately 10 PM on Friday, August 22, and continuing through the entire weekend, August 23 – 24.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be available on mbta.com.

Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace train service between North Station and Lowell.

There will be no shuttle bus service at Winchester Center. Passengers should instead use Wedgemere Station as an alternative shuttle bus location.

On the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line:

The MBTA will perform work in August as part of the North Station Terminal Area Signal System Improvement Project. This project is replacing the obsolete signal system that controls the movement of MBTA Commuter Rail and Amtrak trains in and out of North Station with a new, state-of-the-art microprocessor

system that requires less maintenance and reduces failures and train delays. The area where work is taking place is a complex network of tracks and switches that connect the station tracks at North Station, five major Commuter Rail lines, and the Boston Engine Terminal where trains are stored and maintained.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place:

Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between North Station and Porter Square during the weekends of Aug. 16 – 17 and Aug. 23 – 24.

Passengers can instead utilize existing subway service on the Red and Green Lines.

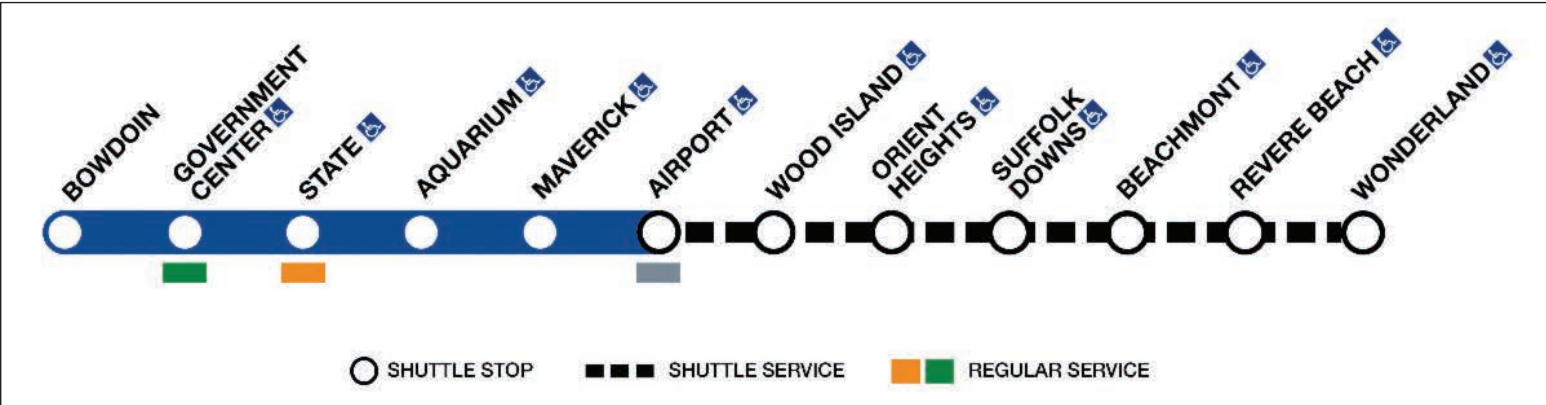
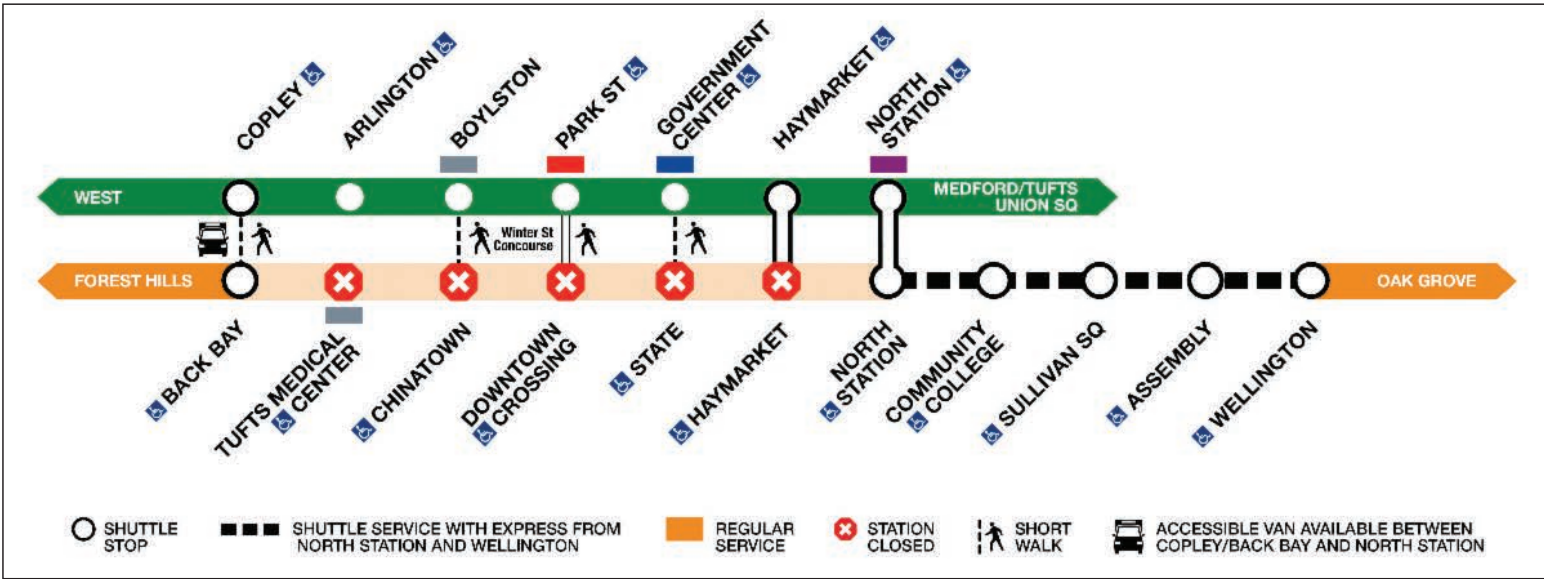
To travel from Porter Square to North Station, passengers can take Ashmont-/Braintree-bound Red Line service to Park Street, connect to Union Square-/Medford/Tufts-bound Green Line service, and disembark at North Station.

To travel from North Station to Porter Square, passengers can take Riverside-/Heath Street-bound Green Line service to Park Street, connect to Alewife-bound Red Line service, and disembark at Porter Square.

The MBTA previously announced service changes in July.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

For more INFO, visit mbta.com/PlannedWork or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.



CAMPION EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

THE RESIDENCES AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL, UNIT E9A, BACK BAY

3 BEDROOMS | 3 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 3,519 SQUARE FEET | 2 GARAGE PARKING
LISTED AT: \$10,900,000



THE RESIDENCES AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL, UNIT E9C, BACK BAY

3 BEDROOMS | 2 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 2,915 SQUARE FEET | 2 GARAGE PARKING
LISTED AT: \$9,350,000



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