

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Route 55 bus line won't see extended service this month

By Dan Murphy

Route 55 line won't see any service changes when the fall rollout of the MBTA's ongoing Bus Network Redesign program is implemented on Aug. 24, although expanded hours of operation on the bus line are still a future possibility.

"Expanding the hours of service for Route 55 to connect the West Fenway neighborhood to Copley Station, including during weekday peak hours, continues to be under discussion, but there are no new updates to share at this time," wrote MBTA spokesperson Lisa Bat-

tiston in an email. "Future bus improvements continue to be planned and will be implemented during the MBTA's quarterly seasonal schedule adjustments as bus operators and supporting infrastructure are available and ready."

The MBTA suspended service on the 55 bus route when the pandemic hit, and when service on the line was restored in June 2021, the daily hours were reduced to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., from the previous hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The last stop on the line was also changed to

(ROUTE 55 BUS, Pg. 3)



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTO

It was a beautiful Summer evening for the Boston Landmarks Orchestra's latest performance at the Hatch Shell. See more photos on Pages 8-10.

## WLP's Spaghetti Dinner set to return Oct. 9 to Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

By Sun staff

For decades, the annual Spa-

ghetti Dinner has been at the heart of Women's Lunch Place's fundraising efforts, bringing the

community together in a shared commitment to support women facing hunger and hardship.

This year's event, called 'At the Table Together,' is set for 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, in the grand ballroom of the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, located at 138 St. James Ave.

"Spaghetti Dinner is more than a meal—it's our signature event and a powerful catalyst for change," said Melissa Cording, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Women's Lunch Place. "The funds raised help women move from crisis to stability through healing, hope, and housing. We simply could not do this work without our generous community. Join us, take a seat at the table, and be a part of that change."

Visit <https://womenslunch->

[place.org/spaghetti-dinner](http://place.org/spaghetti-dinner) to learn about sponsorship opportunities, reserve a set at the event, or to



City Councilor Ed Flynn is seen at the podium during Women's Lunch Place Spaghetti Dinner held last Oct. 18 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. Councilor Flynn is seen alongside (left to right) Council President Ruthzee Louijeune; Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, Chief Executive Officer of WLP; and City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



KEIKO HIROMI PHOTOS

The staff of Women's Lunch Place at last year's Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.



# EDITORIAL

## WWII ENDED 80 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

This week marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was on August 14, 1945, that Japanese Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender in a radio address to his nation that also was broadcast around the world. A few weeks later, General Douglas MacArthur and representatives from the Japanese government signed the papers that formalized Japan's unconditional surrender on the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Japan's surrender was preceded the week before by the dropping of two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9). Both of those bombs, which fell on targets of minimal (if any) military value, killed tens of thousands of civilians and caused radiation fallout that affected survivors and ensuing generations thereafter.

For those of us whose fathers and uncles served in combat roles in WWII, the marking of the 80th anniversary of the end of that conflagration is bittersweet. They were members of the Greatest Generation who answered the call to rid the world of the evil fascist governments who wreaked death and destruction across the globe, eventually drawing the United States into the conflict with the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

However, our fathers and uncles have long since passed. It is estimated that of the 16 million Americans who served in WWII, only about 60,000 are still alive today -- and if (God willing) we're still around 10 years from now to write about the 90th anniversary of the end of the war, at most there will be only a handful of veterans, who will be approaching their 110th birthdays, who will still be around.

What is most striking to us about the era of the Greatest Generation is that it marked the only time in our nation's history that our citizenry truly was united around a common cause. Even during the American Revolution, about 20% of Americans (known as the Tories) remained loyal to the British Crown. In the run-up to WWII, a substantial number of Americans actually identified as being sympathetic to Hitler and the Nazis, and the country was split 50/50 as to whether we should provide arms to England when it stood alone against Hitler. (President Franklin D. Roosevelt eventually persuaded Congress to approve arms shipments to England with the Lend-Lease Act.)

Our country's unity has been fraying slowly but surely over the past 80 years, leaving us where we are today: A nation that is far from a "United" States that is segregated into red and blue states. When Americans recently were polled as to whether they would approve of their child marrying a person who belonged to a different political party, only four percent said it would be okay. Politics has supplanted race, ethnic background, and religion as the driving force of division among Americans.

So let us salute the brave Americans who overcame the evil that existed in the world 80 years ago. We never should forget that their sacrifices enabled America to become the greatest nation on earth for those of us who are alive today -- their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

## SIGNS OF SUMMER'S END

All in all, this has been a pretty good summer. Despite a tough start (when it rained every weekend), the weather has been as close to perfect as we could expect for summer activities -- and the weatherman is predicting continued dry and seasonably-warm weather for the coming two weeks.

The mornings along our coastline have been pleasantly placid for those of us who row on the ocean (we belong to a rowing club on the South Shore that ventures up and down the coast and as far out as Minots Light), while the breezes typically have been picking up in the afternoon for the sailors.

Our vegetable and flower garden -- which is entirely contained in large pots on the deck of our condo --- once again has been superb. We've had more tomatoes than we know what to do -- and nothing beats the pop in our mouths of fresh-picked tomatoes in the summer (as opposed to those tasteless tomatoes that we have to settle for in grocery stores in the winter months).

However, all good things must come to an end, and so too it is with summer. The days now are noticeably shorter, and with the sunset inching southward each day, the shadows cast in the late afternoon and early evening are far different than they were in June and July.

The blooms of the purple loosestrife (though it is an invasive species, we have to admit it is quite striking with its spiky purple flowers) are another harbinger of the back nine of summer. So too, are the tips of the marsh grass, which a few weeks ago were verdant green, but which now are golden-yellow, yet another indication of the inevitable downward trajectory of the summer of 2025.

So sadly, with just three weeks to go until Labor Day (which occurs very early this year on September 1), yet another summer season is winding down.

But for those of us who treasure the hot and humid summer months, we're heartened by this realization: Memorial Day, 2026, is just nine months away!

THE BOSTON SUN

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## Sen. Collins' bill to reform involuntary commitment law moves on Beacon Hill

Special to the Sun

Senator Nick Collins announced that his legislation, An Act Relative to Life-Saving Treatment (S.1042), is advancing through the legislative process. Recently, the bill received a unanimous vote of approval from the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. The bill aims to reform the state's civil commitment laws, increasing access to treatment and improving oversight of medical discharges from care.

"This bill is about acting at the critical moment when someone survives an overdose and is most in need of intervention and treatment. The system we have now isn't working, and people are falling through the cracks," said Senator Nick Collins, the bill's sponsor.

S.1042 would reform the state's civil commitment process for individuals with substance use disorders, addressing key gaps that currently delay or disrupt care. Under current law, family members, physicians, police officers, court officials, and social workers may petition a judge to civilly commit someone who poses a danger to themselves or others due to their substance abuse. According to Trial Court statistics, there has been a 50% drop in civil commitment petitions in Boston over the last five years, with the 544 petitions filed in FY25 representing the lowest amount per year in over a decade.

This trend coincides with approximately 15,000 patients being brought to the hospital after surviving an overdose over the last five years.

With over 90% of the petitions made by family members, according to Trial Court statistics, this legislation would create a clearer path to treatment for patients before they are discharged after surviving an overdose.

Right now, people are being discharged without treatment and sent right back to the streets. This legislation seeks to change that by ensuring that patients are discharged into a safe environment.

S.1042 introduces a comprehensive package of reforms. It allows for virtual Section 35 court hearings, enabling patients who are hospitalized after an overdose to participate in proceedings without delay. The bill also mandates an evaluation by a social worker before a patient is discharged from the hospital after surviving an overdose.

Additionally, the bill adds judicial approval for early discharges from civil commitment facilities to ensure that individuals are not released prematurely. This provision aims to prevent patients from being released without the proper level of treatment or a safe place and plan for discharge.

The need for these reforms has only become more urgent. Recent reports have highlighted the public health and safety crisis that has spread beyond Mass & Cass and into surrounding neighborhoods of Boston.

The current system often misses the opportunity to intervene effectively.

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

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SOUTH END BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEETING

Special to the Sun

The South End Business Alliance (SEBA) hosted a business meeting on Wednesday, August 6, at Burro Bar to discuss the ongoing issues at Mass & Cass. The event was a significant success, drawing over 70 attendees despite short notice. The gathering brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including property owners, nonprofits, local businesses, and South End neighborhood association leaders.

The meeting saw a strong presence from elected officials and government staff. State Representative John Moran and State Senator Nick Collins were in attendance, along with key staff members from Councilor Ed Flynn's and Councilor Erin Murphy's offices, the District Attorney's office, and Chairman Aaron Michlewitz's team. Other notable attendees included District 7 candidate Mavrick Affonso and representatives from City Hall's Office of Neighborhood Services and the Office of Small



Business.

SEBA leadership was represented by board members Randi Grohe Lathrop, Philip Saul, and Sonora Malik, along with corporate clerk Carolyn Kraut and former board member Ted Pietras. The meeting also included district law enforcement representation from Boston Police Area D, led

by Captain Burns, and the State Police, in addition to a representative from the District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office.

The meeting highlighted the community's commitment to addressing the challenges at Mass & Cass and underscored the collaborative spirit among various local groups, elected officials, and law enforcement.



Burro Bar was filled for the most recent business meeting of the South End Business Alliance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL SET FOR AUG. 16 IN TITUS SPARROW PARK

The 14th annual Ward 4 Ice Cream Social, co-hosted by Mayor Michelle Wu, takes place Saturday, Aug. 16, from 2-4 p.m. in Titus Sparrow Park, located at 75 West Rutland Square.

Bay, the Fenway and Kenmore Square.



CHARLESGATE FARMERS MARKET OPEN SUNDAYS

The Charlesgate Farmers Market returns this summer to Charlesgate Park. The market will be held Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until October 12 under the Bowker Overpass at Commonwealth Avenue between Charlesgate East and Charlesgate West with easy access from the communities of the Back

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AT SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK CONCLUDES

Friends of the South End Library is sponsoring its final summer concert, featuring Pat Loomis & Friends playing jazz and blues, on Tuesday, Aug. 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in South End Library Park.

ROUTE 55 BUS (from Page 1)

Copley Square from Park Street at that time.

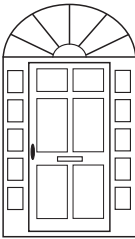
Jamie Culbertson, a Fenway CDC community organizer who facilitates the 55 Bus Route Coalition of residents and neighborhood partners, wrote in an email: "While we're thankful that the MBTA placed longer hours for the 55 bus on their list of potential 2025 route changes, we would have loved for those hours to have been implement-

ed this fall, which would have immediately increased access to this vital transportation route. We hope to see longer hours for the 55 bus implemented in December with the next set of route changes."

The first phase of the T's BNRD changes began in December 2024 in Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Malden, Somerville, Cambridge, and East Boston.

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# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The turret in the last clue is at the intersection of Beacon Street and Commonwealth Avenue in Kenmore Square. Today's answer is a Boston Public Works Department photograph from 1911.

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			
1 Charles St S Assistant	Dray, Isaac	1 Charles St S #16G	\$1,119,000
250 Newton Back Bay Owner	250 W Newton LLC	100 Saint Botolph St #2	\$1,800,000
Camargo, Viviana	Brodie, Eric L	11 Aberdeen St #11C	\$275,000
Goodwin, Erin	Lsf Rt	191 W Canton St #1	\$869,000
Steerforth Rt	Lundgren, Patrick	236 Marlborough St #3	\$2,490,000
Lucent LLC	Anz Investments LLC	257 Marlborough St #7	\$740,000
Mainland Properties Nt	Comm Ave Partners LLC	260-262 Commonwealth Ave #III	\$9,650,000
Williams, Sean	Phillips, Daniel J	28 Clarendon St	\$2,850,000
Shen, Eric	Mark B Hankey RET 2016	285 Columbus Ave #606	\$1,380,000
Dudley, Kathryn	Carlbom-Wagner Ft	3 Melrose St #3	\$675,000
Zhang, Yanli	Nancy A Russell RET 2006	412 Beacon St #6	\$3,380,000
Henry, Jason	Ruff, Zachary M	430 Marlborough St #4	\$1,060,000
Osei, Nana	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	47-55 Lagrange St #PH21D	\$1,905,000
Evelyn Hao RET	Mullins, Aymie	90 Broadway #2C	\$1,050,000
BEACON HILL			
Gonzalez, Mariel A	Chan, Brendon C	1313 Washington St #604	\$486,306
165 Tremont St Dray LLC	Dray, Isaac	165 Tremont St #404	\$510,000
Kim, Byung	Vania Nose RET	165 Tremont St #604	\$1,200,000
165 Tremont St Dray LLC	Dray, Isaac	165 Tremont St #704	\$510,000
Bacaksiz, Zehra S	Rivet, Mary E	165 Tremont St #903	\$3,075,000
Liu, Huajun	Quesada, Robert	17 Bowdoin St #2B	\$560,000
Gateman, Jackson	Odonnell, Brian	253-261 Tremont St	\$500,000
Daniels, Justin J	Szymborski, Zdzislaw J	449-463 Washington St #3A	\$1,195,000
Lehan, Connor	Schiff, Daniel J	5 Spruce Ct	\$6,000,000
Washington 10a Re LLC	Mcgraw, Douglas M	580 Washington St #10A	\$1,455,000
Lehan, Connor	Schiff, Daniel J	7 Spruce Ct	\$6,000,000
Reed, Robin	Robbins, Amber J	8 Whittier Pl #15A	\$600,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Pasa, Mehmet	Shebani, Ali	2 Avery St #23G	\$1,400,000
Kundrat, Edward	Schaut, Paul L	2 Westland Ave #512	\$1,900,000
Genevieve M Spagnuolo T	Patricia A Spagnuolo RET	370-380 Harrison Ave #PH2L	\$2,020,000
Gray, Charles	Warren, Lisa S	386 Commercial St #4A	\$560,000
Rehm, Cynthia A	Pazuk Lt	50 Battery St #311	\$2,400,000
Willner, Melissa	Prince St LLC	57 Fleet St #2	\$1,332,500
Katzenstein, Andrew	Leong, Andrew	70 Lincoln St #L214	\$604,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Baburoglu, Oguz N	Tiara Realty LLC	21 Father Francis Gilday St #406	\$885,000
Gordon, Ryan	Reepmeyer, William F	35 Fay St #411	\$1,020,000
Meseha, Daniel J	Joyce, Mary B	114 Fenway #2	\$1,010,000
Tilberg, Linnea	Pantalone, David W	210 South St #11-2	\$1,140,000
Kinsman, Lauren	Grivaz, Cecile A	94 Saint Rose St #1	\$1,035,000



# Eight grants awarded via inaugural round of Friends' Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks

By Sun staff

Eight community-led projects were selected last month to receive the inaugural round of grants via the Friends of the Public Garden's Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks to improve and restore greenspaces across Boston.

Grantees include the Fenway Civic Association for the repair of the Johnson Memorial Gates Lion's Head; Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) of the South End for its Betances Mural Preservation Project; Mary Ellen Welch Greenway of East Boston for its Flower Garden and Little Library; MissionSAFE for improvements to the Community Teaching Garden at Town Field in Dorchester; Neponset River Watershed Association for their Doyle Park Interactive Play Structure in Hyde Park; Shirley-Eustis House of Roxbury for landscaping improvements; and We Tree Boston for the restoration of Thoreau Path in the West End.

"Henry Lee believed deeply in the power of parks to bring people together, and this Fund reflects that legacy," Liza Meyer, president of the Friends, said in a press release. "It's about investing in ideas that come from the ground up – neighbors who know what their park needs and are ready to make it happen. Supporting these grassroots efforts not only strengthens individual spaces, it reinforces the entire ecosystem of Boston's parks. As someone who has worked alongside communities across this city for many years, I'm proud to help carry this vision forward."

Established in June 2024, the Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks fulfills community-driven ideas for investments in Boston's parks and greenspaces by supplementing city resources with private dollars. With a mission of empowering local groups and seeding sustained community engagement around greenspaces,

the Fund helps neighborhood groups and nonprofits deliver meaningful improvements to Boston's urban parks and greenspaces.

Catherine Cathy Griffin, founder of We Tree Boston, Inc., said her organization's work wouldn't be possible without the support of these grants.

"Our work would not be possible without the support of grants," said Griffin in a press release. "This crucial funding allowed us to prune more than 20 trees over 50 feet tall, plant 10 new seedlings, and treat over 30 new seedlings with an enriching mulch. These trees are not only enjoyed by thousands of people who live in this neighborhood, but also by thousands of healthcare workers who pass these trees daily. People often stop to thank us every time we are on the path watering, mulching, and caring for the trees. People's faces light up when they see the new trees turn green, and when we place tiny solar lights on them in the winter. That joy is contagious, and we are grateful for the Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks grant for making that happen."

Meanwhile, applications for the next round of Henry Lee Fund grants are now open.

"Based on the interest and excitement around the program to date, we are looking forward to a strong applicant pool in this next round," said Meyer. "The entire Friends of the Public Garden community is proud of the positive impact the Lee Fund can have in filling funding gaps in support of stewardship of community open spaces."

To support the Fund, the Friends launched a \$2 million endowment campaign to ensure annual grantmaking well into the future. To date, more than 100 generous donors, including individuals, foundations, and local organizations, have contributed to nearly two-thirds of the goal,



COURTESY OF MARY ELLEN WELCH GREENWAY

Work underway at the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway in East Boston - one of the inaugural grant awardees of the Friends of the Public Garden's Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks.

with the Friends providing a founding gift of \$250,000. The campaign aims to reach its \$2 million goal by this November to expand support for the local park projects in year two.

To make a gift to the Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks or to discuss support opportunities, visit <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/leefund>, or contact Nika Trufanova, Interim Director of Development, at [nika@friendsofthepublicgarden.org](mailto:nika@friendsofthepublicgarden.org) or 617-723-8144 ext. 204.

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# Suffolk County Sheriff indicted for alleged extortion of cannabis company

Special to the Sun

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was charged with extortion involving the purchase of an equity interest in a Boston-based cannabis company by federal authorities last week.

Tompkins, 67, of Boston, was indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts of Extortion Under Color of Official Right. He was taken into custody last week in the Southern District of Florida and is scheduled to appear in federal court in Boston at a later date, according to the Boston Office of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Mr. Tompkins is a sitting Sheriff, responsible for over 1,000 employees, who was elected by the good people of Suffolk County," said United States Attorney Leah B. Foley last week. "Today, he is alleged to have extorted an executive from a cannabis company, using his official position as Sheriff to benefit himself. Elected officials, particularly those in law enforcement, are expected to be ethical, honest and law abiding – not self-serving.

"His alleged actions are an affront to the voters and taxpay-

ers who elected him to his position, and the many dedicated and honest public servants at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department," Foley continued. "The people of Suffolk County deserve better. Public corruption remains a top priority for my administration and we will continue to investigate and prosecute anyone who uses their position of trust and power for their own gain."

As of early this week, neither Tompkins nor the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department had issued a statement on the charges.

According to court documents, in 2019, the cannabis company, which was not named in the documents, sought to open a retail cannabis dispensary in Boston and applied to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) for a dispensary license. To satisfy the Positive Impact Plan (PIP) requirement of the CCC, the company entered into a partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) whereby the SCSD would help screen and refer graduates of its re-entry program to apply for work at the company's retail store.

The cannabis company's



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

partnership with the SCSD was memorialized in a September 2019 letter signed by Tompkins and submitted to the CCC in its completed dispensary license application in or about March 2020, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. In or about March 2021, the CCC approved a license for the company to operate a cannabis dispensary in Boston. The CCC later approved license renewal applications for the company in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In each of the renewal applications, the company included its ongoing partnership with the SCSD as part of its fulfillment of the PIP requirement.

According to court docu-

ments, one of the cannabis company's goals was to raise capital to launch an initial public offering (IPO) and then continue its growth as a publicly traded company. Company officials, including a company executive identified as Individual A, sought multimillion-dollar investments from institutions or other high net-worth, sophisticated investors in order to raise capital. That company's officials, including Individual A, were not looking to raise capital from the general public or small, individual investors. Beginning in or about mid-2020, the company began preparing for an IPO of stock, which included producing audited financial statements, hiring attorneys to ensure compliance with securities laws and obtaining additional financing from large scale and high net-worth investors, among other things, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

It is alleged that Tompkins pressured Individual A for stock, reminding Individual A that Tompkins had helped the cannabis company in its Boston licensing efforts. It is alleged that Individual A believed and feared that Tompkins would use his official position as Sheriff to jeopardize the company's partnership with the SCSD and thus imperil both the dispensary license for Company A, as well as the timing of the IPO. In November 2020, Tompkins allegedly wired a \$50,000 payment from his retirement account to an account controlled by Individual A. Tompkins paid a pre-IPO price of approximately \$1.73 per share of company stock (equity equivalent to 28,883 shares) and after a reverse stock split, Tompkins held approximately 14,417 shares at a price of approximately \$3.46 per share.

According to court documents, in or about mid-2021, when the cannabis company launched its IPO, the stock had a value of approximately \$9.60 per share. Thus, Tompkins's \$50,000 purchase of 14,417 shares of Company A stock had appreciated to an approximate value of \$138,403, according to the U.S. Attorney.

In May 2022, company stock decreased in value such that Tompkins's equity interest in Company A stock was worth several thousand dollars less

than the \$50,000 he originally invested. However, Tompkins allegedly demanded a refund of \$50,000 and, despite the decrease in the value of Tompkins's investment, Individual A agreed to Tompkins's demands for full repayment of \$50,000.

Subsequently, from approximately May 2022 to July 2023, Individual A refunded Tompkins \$50,000 investment by issuing Tompkins five checks. Allegedly in accordance with Tompkins's wishes, Individual A wrote memos on certain checks that read "loan repayment" and "[company] expense" to disguise the nature of some of the payments:

The charges of extortion under color of official right each provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release

"From his very first day as Suffolk County Sheriff, Steven Tompkins sought to portray himself as a man of the people – a principled public servant and reformer, devoted to the cause of justice," said Ted E. Docks, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. "That's why it's beyond disappointing that he's now accused of gaming a system instituted in the interests of public safety and fair play. The FBI took Sheriff Tompkins into custody today for allegedly extorting \$50,000 from the owner of a national cannabis retailer seeking to do business in Boston.

"We believe what the Sheriff saw as an easy way to make a quick buck on the sly is clear cut corruption under federal law," Docks continued. "The citizens of Suffolk County deserve better, not a man who is accused of trading on his position to bankroll his own political and financial future. Public servants must be held to the highest of ethical standards, and those falling short will be rooted out."

Tompkins was first appointed Sheriff in 2013, elected as Sheriff in a special election in or about 2014, and thereafter elected to successive six-year terms. As Sheriff, Tompkins oversees approximately 1,000 correctional officers and other employees responsible for operating and maintaining correctional facilities in Boston at the House of Correction and the Nashua Street Jail.



City of Boston  
Planning Department

## Virtual Public Meeting

SEP  
3

6:00 PM  
-  
8:00 PM

**550 HUNTINGTON AVENUE**

**Register:** [bosplans.org/550Huntington-0913](https://bosplans.org/550Huntington-0913)

**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864

**Meeting ID:** 161 875 7201



This is a Public Meeting for the proposed Wentworth Institute of Technology IMP Amendment and associated Institutional Master Plan Notification Form, recently filed for 550 Huntington Ave. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public.

Mail to: Nick Carter  
Planning Department  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
Email: [nick.carter@boston.gov](mailto:nick.carter@boston.gov)

Close of Public Comment Period:  
**9/5/2025**

Website:  
[bosplans.org/550HuntingtonAve](https://bosplans.org/550HuntingtonAve)



# Local leaders support governor signing updated Shield Law

Special to the Sun

Last week, Governor Maura Healey signed the updated Shield Law, which prevents the disclosure of sensitive data, such as a physician's name, and formally establishes that abortions are to be provided in emergencies due to medical necessity.

Additionally, the law prohibits Massachusetts state or local authorities from cooperating with any federal or out-of-state investigation into health care services that are legally protected in Massachusetts, such as abortion care.

"Massachusetts will always

be a state where patients can access high-quality health care and providers are able to do their jobs without government interference," said Healey. "From the moment Roe was overturned, we stepped up to pass strong protections for patients and providers, and with President Trump and his allies continuing their assaults on health care, we're taking those protections to the next level. No one is going to prevent the people of Massachusetts from getting the health care they need."

The Shield Act 2.0 is a critical defense against the attacks that the federal government contin-

ues to make against women and the LGBTQ+ community, said Representative Marjorie Decker, House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health.

"This legislation sends a clear message: we will protect the rights, safety, and privacy of our residents. It ensures that patients and providers are shielded from political interference,

legal intimidation, and unlawful out-of-state overreach," said Senator Lydia Edwards, State Senator for the Third Suffolk District. "In Massachusetts, we believe health care decisions should be made in consultation with medical professionals—

not dictated by partisan agendas. Here, your choices remain between you and your doctor, and we will fight to keep it that way."

The law also directs the Department of Public Health to create a technical advisory group that will provide support to businesses on implementing privacy protections for storing or managing electronic medical records related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

"This law is a landmark victory for health care, human dignity, and the providers and patients who deserve to live free

from fear," said Jordina Shanks, CEO of Fenway Health. "At Fenway Health, we see every day how essential it is that people can access gender-affirming care without threats, delays, or discrimination. This law ensures that clinicians can focus on healing, that families can choose the care that's right for them while remaining protected, and that Massachusetts stands as a national beacon of equity and compassion. We are deeply grateful to Governor Healey, Senator Cindy Friedman, and all the champions who made this possible."

## BSHC awarded \$50,000 Grant from PLAN MA & RI for caregiving services

Special to the Sun

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC), a trusted provider of home- and community-based services, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc. (PLAN of MA & RI) to advance initiatives supporting family caregivers.

"With caregiving often presenting significant financial and emotional challenges, this award reflects the essential role that family caregivers play in our communities," said Margaret Hogan, Chief Executive Officer of BSHC. "We are grateful to PLAN of MA & RI for their generous support and for recognizing the importance of strengthening resources for caregivers."

Joan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer of PLAN of MA & RI, underscored the organization's commitment to partnering with mission-aligned nonprofits. "We are honored to support BSHC as they work to bolster services for family caregivers," McGrath said. "Our trusted fiduciary services offer peace of mind to families concerned about protecting their loved ones' financial

well-being. Collaborating with BSHC allows us to help create a more complete support system that addresses both everyday needs and long-term planning."

This grant unites two organizations dedicated to supporting vulnerable populations and the people who care for them. PLAN of MA & RI specializes in providing quality trustee and fiduciary services, helping families secure the financial future of loved ones with disabilities. Their services complement BSHC's mission of ensuring that older adults and people with disabilities, particularly those of limited means, can remain at home and in the community with dignity and independence.

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC) is a private, nonprofit human services agency based in Boston. Since 1974, it has been dedicated to making a difference by connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities with social services and resources to help them live independently. BSHC also provides support and guidance to caregivers by helping them care for their loved ones while focusing on their self-care needs. For more information, visit [bshcinfo.org](http://bshcinfo.org).

PLAN of MA & RI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with

origins dating back to the 1960s, when a group of parents of chil-

dren with various physical, mental, and behavioral challenges assembled to plan for the future. Incorporated in 1971, PLAN is recognized today as an expert in operating Special Needs Pooled Trusts.

PLAN of MA & RI proudly serves people with disabilities – whether due to illness, injury, or age – helping them preserve assets, protect access to public benefits, and live well. PLAN of MA & RI is a professional trustee providing quality trustee/fiduciary services to individuals and their families through sound and thoughtful trust administration and compassionate, caring social service support. Licensed social workers assess the beneficiary's living situation, needs, and current benefits and make recommendations and referrals to services that improve the person's quality of life.

PLAN of MA & RI has offices at Two Adams Place, Suite 110, Quincy, MA 02169, and at One Richmond Square, Suite 225W, Providence, RI 02906. For more information, please call (617) 244-5552/(401) 234-8444 or visit <https://www.planofma-ri.org/>.



PLAN of MA & RI Chief Executive Officer Joan McGrath presents a \$50,000 check to Boston Senior Home Care Chief Executive Officer Meg Hogan for caregiving services and supports.

# 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@reverjournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverjournal.com) and [deb@thebostonsun.com](mailto:deb@thebostonsun.com)



BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MERCURY ORCHESTRA

Derek Kouoyumjian Photos

The Mercury Orchestra and

New World Corale were this week's guest performers of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra summer season at the Hatch Shell along with tenor David Rivera-Bozon making his debut

with the Orchestra. The free concert series gives everyone an opportunity to enjoy classical music in one of the most iconic settings in the United States.



Conductor Channing Yu guides the Mercury Orchestra.



Tenor David Rivera-Bozon performs.



Members of the New World Corale perform with the Mercury Orchestra.



Chairman of Landmark Orchestra Emmett G Price speaks during intermission.



Members of the Mercury Orchestra string section perform.



Members of the Mercury Orchestra string section perform.

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Channing Yu conducts the Mercury Orchestra as tenor David Rivera-Bozon performs.

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BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MERCURY ORCHESTRA



The audience enjoys the music and ambiance of the Esplanade.



Members of the Beacon Hill Women’s Forum with friends enjoying the evening at the Hatch Shell.



Conductor Channing Yu guides the New World Corale with the Mercury Orchestra.



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BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MERCURY ORCHESTRA



A member of the Mercury Orchestra waits for his cue to preform on cymbals.



Channing Yu conducts the Mercury Orchestra.



During intermission a young fan of classical music meets Violinist Jenny Smyrhe of the Mercury Orchestra.



Stan Mah, Tod Woolf, David Jackson, and Peter Saradjia from Beth Isreal Hospital.



Maria Manning and Sandra Gilpatrick.



Members of the New World Corale perform with the Mercury Orchestra.



Runners jog on the Esplanade with pickles on their agenda.



Members of the New World Corale perform with the Mercury Orchestra.



# State Health officials announce WNV risk level changes

## Mosquito-borne disease risk is elevated in multiple communities

Special to the Sun

On Aug. 12, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that the risk for West Nile virus (WNV) is now high in multiple communities due to ongoing evidence of mosquito samples carrying the virus. The risk level for WNV has been elevated in the following municipalities: Acton, Bedford, Billerica, Boston, Brookline, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Dracut, Lowell, and Newton.

The State Public Health Laboratory confirmed the first WNV-positive mosquitoes in Massachusetts this year on June 17. Since then, there have been 168 WNV-positive mosquito samples detected from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. There has also been one animal case of WNV confirmed this year in a goat in Lunenburg. No human cases of WNV have been confirmed in Massachusetts so far this year.

In addition to WNV, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has also been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts this year. Belchertown, Granby, Pelham, and Ware in Hampshire County are currently at moderate risk for EEE. The following 12 municipalities in Bristol and Plymouth counties, a historic area of EEE activity, are also currently at moderate risk: Bridgewater, Carver, East Bridgewater,

Easton, Halifax, Hanson, Lakeville, Middleborough, Plympton, Raynham, Taunton, and West Bridgewater.

There have been seven EEE-positive mosquito samples detected and no confirmed human or animal cases so far this year.

“Both West Nile virus and EEE pose risk to the people in Massachusetts,” said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. “The weather remains warm and somewhat humid, which increases mosquito activity. I encourage everyone to take measures to protect themselves: use mosquito repellent when outdoors, wear long sleeves and pants, and be aware of peak mosquito hours.”

WNV and EEE are generally transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 19 human cases of WNV in Massachusetts reported in 2024 and no animal cases. There were four human cases of EEE in Massachusetts last year with one death and three animal cases.

“WNV findings in mosquitoes have accelerated rapidly over the last several weeks,” said State Epidemiologist Catherine M. Brown, DVM, MSc, MPH. “We are now in the peak time for transmission of mosquito-borne disease to people and it is important for people to know that so they can take steps to protect themselves.”

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

### Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, such

as DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

- Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

- Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your

skin.

### Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.


- Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors.

### Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding

habitats and should be flushed out to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

Learn more about mosquito-borne diseases, including all WNV- and EEE-positive results on DPH's Arbovirus Surveillance Information page, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.



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# Healey signs Chapter 90 bill, unlocking over \$1 billion in infrastructure funding for communities across Massachusetts

Special to the Sun

Governor Maura Healey signed into law a new Chapter 90 bill, delivering \$300 million in critical transportation and infrastructure funding to every city and town across Massachusetts. The bill reflects the Healey-Driscoll Administration's commitment to strengthening local roads, reducing congestion, and ensuring safe, reliable travel across the state.

In addition to a historic increase of Chapter 90 funding to an all-time high of \$300 million, the bill includes authorization for additional capital infrastructure investments through MassDOT that will improve the quality of the state's roads, bridges and culverts and help address congestion hotspots and driving safety.

"Through this Chapter 90 funding, we will upgrade roads and bridges across the state to improve transportation, reduce congestion and enhance safety," said Governor Maura Healey. "Whether it's helping a city repave a key commuter route or



PHOTO COURTESY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
Governor Maura Healey is shown signing the Chapter 90 bill into law.

giving a small town the resources to replace a flood-prone bridge, this bill is delivering the resources our communities need to deliver for their residents. I'm grateful to the Legislature for passing this essential bill."

"As a former Mayor, I know how transformational this funding can be when it comes to planning, budgeting and delivering the infrastructure our communities deserve," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This

bill is a win for every city and town, as well as every person who travels across our state."

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the Commonwealth's public transportation, roads, and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for local infrastructure repairs that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for projects that will address congestion hotspots across the Commonwealth. I want to thank Governor Healey for signing this bill into law, along with my colleagues in the Legislature for supporting this legislation."

"This legislation will deliver over a billion dollars to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to improve roads, bridges, and other critical local infrastructure that helps people get where they need to go—quickly and safely," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "This funding will fill potholes, ease traffic congestion, and make our roads safer and more accessible. I'm grateful to the Governor for signing this legislation swiftly and look forward to seeing these investments make a difference in communities across Massachusetts."

Key elements of the bill include:

- \$300 million in Chapter 90 funding—a 50 percent increase over recent years—to offset rising construction costs and expand support for small and rural communities.

- \$500 million for pavement and bridge upgrades statewide

through MassDOT's lifecycle asset management program.

- \$200 million to replace culverts and small bridges, building more climate-resilient infrastructure and addressing long-deferred maintenance.

- \$185 million to ease congestion and improve safety, targeting rail crossings, intersections, school zones, commercial districts, and other high-need areas.

The Chapter 90 program provides direct funding to municipalities for the repair and improvement of local roads, bridges, sidewalks and culverts. This year's investments will help cities and towns repave busy corridors, fix aging infrastructure and enhance pedestrian safety near schools.

The bill also includes a change to the Chapter 90 funding formula that will allow for \$100 million of the total investment to be allocated based exclusively on road miles, ensuring that while every community benefits from the additional investment our rural communities will see an added benefit.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will also continue to provide technical assistance to help municipalities maximize the impact of these funds. This legislation will also ease congestion and address safety issues across the state, improving conditions for drivers, pedestrians, transit riders and bicyclists in critical areas such as rail crossings, intersections near schools, commercial districts and residential areas.

"Investing in local infrastructure is one of the smartest ways to support economic vitality and allows us as a state to be the best fiscal stewards for community resources," said Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz. "Chapter 90 empowers cities and towns to make the capital improvements that drive growth, improve safety and position the state for long-term success."

"This legislation reinforces the very foundation of our transportation system, starting in the communities where people live, work, and navigate daily life," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "It reflects our shared commitment to building safer streets, expanding access to public

transit, and creating infrastructure that doesn't just support economic growth, but actively advances equity and climate resilience. With our municipal partners, we're not just repairing roads. We are reshaping the future of transportation to be more just, sustainable, and inclusive."

"This historic level of funding will help cities and towns improve their roads and sidewalks along with other transportation infrastructure," said Senator Brendan Crighton, Chair, Transportation Committee. "As we are experiencing increasing traffic congestion and the negative impacts of climate change, it is crucial that we prioritize investments that make it easier for our residents to travel safely. Thank you to Senate President Spilka for her steadfast leadership and commitment to transformative infrastructure."

"I applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Legislature for the passage of this bill. We recognize the need to be responsive to our cities and towns while also proceeding with caution due to the federal funding uncertainty," said Representative James Arciero, Chair, Transportation Committee. "Thank you to Governor Healey, Speaker Ronald Mariano and Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for their leadership throughout this process. This bill leverages the strategic and increased appropriations to the

(INFRASTRUCTURE, Pg. 13)



Christopher Wilkins, Music Director

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

## Cold Noodles

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

With a series of heat waves this summer, it's a perfect time to enjoy a variety of cold noodle dishes. We know the idea of noodle bowls and cold noodles has gone mainstream when the New York Times food section publishes Hetty Lui McKinnon's cold noodle salad with spicy peanut sauce in June, and we can pick up three varieties at Trader Joe's.

Eat In, Take Out,  
Or Premade Kits

Your introduction to cold noodles might be a container of spicy peanut noodles. Or, if you love Korean food, try Naengmyeon, their icy cold noodles, or Chilli Cold Sweet Potato Noodles (Bibim Dangmyeon). We love Vietnamese Bún Gà Nướng. Japan offers versions of cold soba (Zaru Soba) and cold Ramen (Hiyashi Chuka). Thailand offers Thai Glass Noodles with Minced Meat.

We're fortunate to have a fantastic selection of ethnic restaurants in the Greater Boston Area.

If a dish is new to you, we suggest setting your standard by trying the cold noodles made and served by those who strive for authenticity. A professionally prepared version will give you an idea of what the dish should taste like and how to serve it.

However, in their homeland, every cook may have a traditional family recipe or their twist on the dish. That's good news, because you can also create a family adaptation as you begin to make it yourself.

A visit to a store with an Asian focus can help you discover packages of the specific noodles used in these dishes, sauces that make the meal prep quicker, and even premade kits for favorites like Korean cold noodles that

contain the correct noodles, packets of broth ready to mix with water and chill (or freeze to slush) and spices.

## Make it Your Own

Once you've sampled the options and developed a taste for cold noodles, you may want to start making your own. There are three directions you can take for this food adventure.

First, you can produce a classic by following a recipe from a cookbook or by watching a video on YouTube. For the classic Korean Noodle dishes, we recommend the videos and cookbooks from food writer Maangchi. She has developed easier-to-make versions for her international audience.

Second, you can take a concept and add or subtract elements to make the recipe suit you and those around your table. You may need to adjust your spice levels if you have chili enthusiasts or less adventurous eaters. Since many of these salads are vegetarian, you could add some protein or serve it alongside.

Finally, you can take a salad from your repertoire and add cold noodles for a more filling and a new twist on a family favorite. For example, you could make your favorite tabouli recipe and substitute noodles for the bulgar wheat.

A Middle Eastern salad might include noodles mixed in, rather than pita, alongside. If you consider pasta as noodles, we would suggest orzo.

We've been enjoying a lot of Cowboy Caviar, a salad made from beans, corn, onions, tomatoes, and peppers, all tossed in a vinaigrette. That could be delicious served over a pile of chewy buckwheat noodles.

As our climate grows warmer, we can look to cultures that have



On a busy workday, this Peanut Udon Noodle Salad took just minutes to prepare and was a delicious and satisfying lunch.

developed food designed for exposure to heat. the heat, which is often served cold, thereby reducing the cook's

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## INFRASTRUCTURE (from Page 12)

Commonwealth Transportation Fund to expand our borrowing capacity and allow for additional transportation funding for our local infrastructure needs."

"The MMA and local leaders across the state are thrilled with this historic level of funding for the Chapter 90 program and deeply grateful to the governor and legislators for their support," said Executive Director and CEO

of the Massachusetts Municipal Association Adam Chapdelaine. "This essential local road and bridge maintenance program, which benefits all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, promotes safety, quality of life and economic development in our communities. The 50% increase in funding will have a substantial impact in all corners of the Commonwealth."

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# Bridge receives Narcan vending machine through Boston Public Health Commission grant

Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Bridge), a nonprofit in Boston, Massachusetts, focused on serving youth experiencing homelessness, has recently acquired a harm reduction vending machine which will contain Narcan (naloxone), a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids, and other critical items.

Funded by a grant from the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), youth at Bridge will be able to access Narcan from the vending machine in the event of an opioid overdose emergency. The vending machine also contains fentanyl and xylazine testing strips, prophylactics, pregnancy tests,

hand warmers, socks, snacks, toiletries, and wound care kits. The team at Bridge gave considerable thought to choosing the machine's contents, ensuring that it would be filled with items that are used frequently and that youth would be able to access in a respectful and dignified manner. An important goal was to reduce any hesitation youth might have about using the vending machine and its contents, as it was specifically customized for the needs of our young adult population.

All items in the vending machine are free to youth, who, once registered, can access the items from Bridge's



The harm reduction vending machine which contains Narcan (naloxone), a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids, and other critical items.

vending machine or any of the other four BPHC Narcan vending machines in the city. The machine also tracks which items are the most popular and provides alerts as to which need to be restocked, providing our Bridge team with valuable feedback about what products are most in demand.

"This vending machine will be extremely useful to our young adults, who will have easy access to these lifesaving items without fear of judgement or stigma. We are truly grateful to the BPHC for enabling us to provide all these items to youth," said Bridge Program Director Peter Ducharme.

Distributing Narcan (along with fentanyl and xylazine testing strips) are part of a larger effort by Bridge to help youth to engage in harm reduction, a

strategy that focuses on reducing the negative side effects and consequences of substance use. Bridge programs support youth in setting achievable goals to reduce substance use, with a focus on fostering realistic and positive outcomes.

Bridge Over Troubled Waters is the largest agency in Greater Boston providing a full continuum of services to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. The nonprofit provides programs and services to more than 2,000 youth annually and offers a comprehensive range of survival, health, educational, career, and housing services to encourage the formation of a healthy, productive, and fulfilling adulthood. Please visit [www.BridgeOTW.org](http://www.BridgeOTW.org) for more information.

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# Athenæum reimagines exhibition from 1850

Special to Sun

The Boston Athenæum's newest installation, 'Exhibiting China,' will reunite, for the first time in 175 years, five portraits by Chinese artist Lamqua that were a part of the Athenæum's first exhibition at its historic 10½ Beacon St. building in 1850.

On display in the Gordon Room through Nov. 1, the exhibition is curated by Astrid Tvetenstrand, the Athenæum's Polly Thayer Starr Curatorial Fellow in American Art. The installation will include portraits and paintings originally displayed at the Athenæum in 1850, including five Western-style portraits by Lamqua (1801-1860).

"Exhibiting China pro-

vides us the opportunity to reflect on Boston's rich cultural and mercantile history, while celebrating the Boston Athenæum's robust and diverse exhibition and collection history," Tvetenstrand said in a press release. "Displayed together, these objects offer a powerful understanding of the people, customs, and values that facilitated the China Trade in the 19th century, and I am honored to reunite these items to revisit their context and connect them with modern-day conversations about commerce, culture, and power."

Lamqua specialized in Western-style portraits for European and American clients. He was one of the first

Chinese portrait painters exhibited in the West.

The five Lamqua portraits on display at the Athenæum include: Keying, ca. 1835-1840, oil on canvas (on loan from the Union Club of Boston); portrait of Wu Tianxian, also known as Samqua, before 1850, oil on canvas (on loan from Peabody Essex Museum, Museum purchase from the estate of John Heard, Augustine Heard Collection, 1931); Lin Chong, ca. 1835-1840, oil on canvas, (on loan from Union Club of Boston); Cumwa, ca. 1835-1840, oil on canvas (on loan from Ipswich Public Library); and Houqua, ca. 1835-1840, oil on canvas, (also on loan from Ipswich Public Library).

In 1850, a year after opening its new building at 10½ Beacon St., the Athenæum hosted a landmark exhibition in its new gallery. Among the 268 paintings featured were five portraits by Lamqua, depicting five Chinese businesspeople who facilitated trade for Americans in China during the nineteenth century; the works were owned by prominent China Trade merchant and Athenæum proprietor Augustine Heard (1785-1868).

Thanks to generous loans from the museums and organizations that now own them, this installation reunites these portraits for the first time in 175 years alongside a curated selection of other works originally shown in the landmark 1850 exhibition, highlighting the artistic and cultural dialogues of the period. Other items in the installation feature the print, landscape, porcelain, and cloisonné art of that time period and their connection to Boston's mercantile history, including Flora's Dictionary, Elizabeth Washington Wirt (American, 1784-1857); The Costume of China, George Henry Mason (British, 1770-1851);

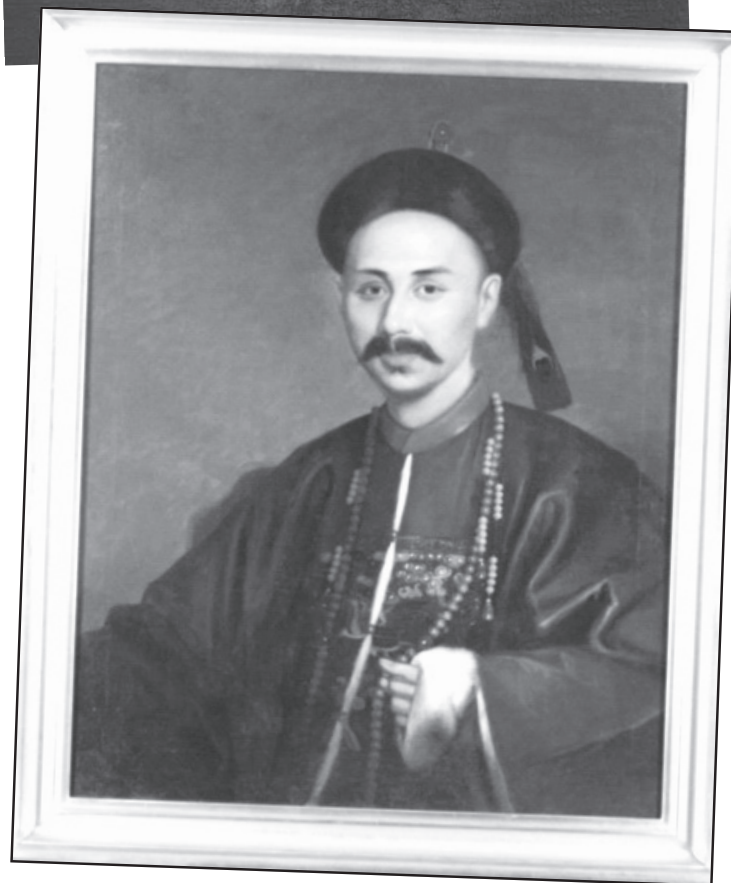
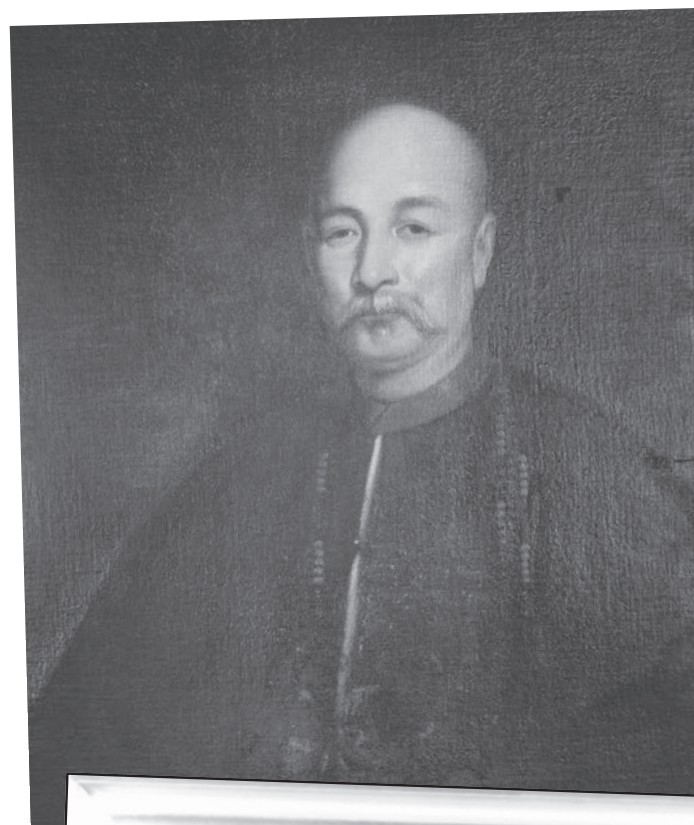
Athenæum Plate, Beauties of America Series, J. & W. Ridgeway (British, 19th century); and Cloisonné Duck (Chinese, 1735-1796).

Learn more at [bostonathenaeum.org](http://bostonathenaeum.org).



COURTESY OF BOSTON ATHENÆUM

Pictured are three of the five Lamqua portraits from the Boston Athenæum's Exhibiting China installation.



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