

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 1 IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY  
DEADLINES FOR ADVERTISING AND NEWS ARE FRI, AUG. 29 @ 12 PM FOR NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Fenway CDC's proposed Beacon Hill project clears another hurdle

By Dan Murphy

The Fenway CDC's proposed project, which will bring much-needed affordable-housing ownership opportunities to Beacon Hill, cleared another procedural hurdle on Thursday, Aug. 21, when the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission approved a pair of applications at its monthly public hearing held virtually on Thursday, Aug. 21.

Per its agreement with developer JDMD, the nonprofit Fenway CDC (Community Development Center) is redeveloping

two adjacent properties located at 27-29 Hancock St. into a total of 15 units at 80-100 percent AMI (Area Median Income) for new homeowners.

JDMD, which developed The Archer Residences – a luxury condo building on Temple Street – purchased 27-29 Hancock St. in 2018, with plans to gift the buildings to another developer for the creation of off-site affordable housing units to satisfy its IDP (Inclusionary Development Policy) with the city for the Archer project.

(FENWAY CDC, Pg. 3)



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The U.S. Marines invited the public to explore the UH-1Y Venom, a vital part of their arsenal, as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Multiple helicopters were parked on the Common throughout the week as well as Marines stationed to answer any questions the public may have. See more photos Pages 8-10.



PHOTO BY DREW DOBECK

Gov. Maura Healey pushing Rob Gronkowski down the football slide at Gronk Playground.

## Rob Gronkowski celebrates opening of Gronk Playground on Esplanade

Special to Sun

A new era of play arrived on the Esplanade at the Charles River Reservation on Tuesday, Aug. 19, when four-time Super Bowl champion Rob Gronkowski, in partnership with the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation (GNYF), the Esplanade Association (EA), and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), unveiled the fully ADA-accessible Gronk Playground.

First announced in 2021, the nearly \$2 million project transforms the historic Charlesbank Playground site into a state-of-the-art destination for inclusive

recreation. With support from the state, the playground was named to honor Gronkowski's impact on and off the field as a youth fitness advocate.

To mark this milestone on the park, the partners organized a celebration with Gronkowski, his family, Robert Kraft, former Boston Marathon winner Meb Keflezighi, as well as Gov. Maura Healey, DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle, EA Executive Director Jen Mergel, and other state and local officials. Special guests included youth and families from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Hill House, and local community centers.

Gronkowski arrived aboard

a duck boat from Boston Duck Tours and led a group of kids from Make-A-Wish and Hill House through finish-line tape, football in hand, capped off with his signature Gronk spike to officially open the playground.

"Opening this playground is a way for my family, and I to give back to the city and people who supported me throughout my career in New England," said Gronkowski. "We're honored to help create something that brings joy and gets kids moving. I remember looking out at the old Charlesbank Playground from my hospital room while recov-

(GRONKOWSKI., Pg. 4)



# EDITORIAL

## ENJOY A GREAT – AND SAFE – LABOR DAY WEEKEND

With the weatherman predicting a great Labor Day weekend, we hope that all of our readers will have a chance to make the most of the final weekend of the summer season.

The Summer of '25 overall has been just the way we like it -- hot and humid -- with just enough rainfall (until recently) that our gardens did very well. This has been a banner year for vegetables and flowers of all types -- we have had more tomatoes than we know what to do with.

This summer also has been an unusually calm one. We belong to a rowing club on the South Shore that ventures a couple of miles out into the ocean as far as Minot's Light (our readers who are boaters no doubt are familiar with it, as are those who have taken the ferry to Provincetown, which passes close to it) and we experienced many "flat water" days -- great for rowing, though not so much for the surfers and sailors (until the past week when Hurricane Erin sent wind and waves along our shoreline from hundreds of miles away).

The weekends were generally sunny (after a rainy start), providing us with plenty of perfect summer days that created memories that will last a lifetime for our friends, families, and ourselves.

The promise of a dry and sunny Labor Day weekend gives us one final opportunity to enjoy a last taste of summer.

However, as always, we urge our readers to do so safely, not only for ourselves, but also for our family members, friends, and loved ones, whether we are on land or on the water.

None of us wants to be a tragic statistic, and that means making sure that both we ourselves and those around us do not overindulge in alcohol. Yes, accidents do happen, even under the best of circumstances, but generally speaking, no one ever becomes a victim by being sober. It's when "a couple of beers" become four or more that the chances for a tragedy increase exponentially.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Labor Day weekend.



## LESSONS FROM HURRICANE KATRINA

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since Hurricane Katrina destroyed the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and devastated the city of New Orleans.

It was a disaster in which everything that could go wrong, did go wrong.

We vividly recall watching the TV news reports of the levees giving way not only during the hurricane itself, but in the ensuing days, flooding entire neighborhoods within minutes -- forcing residents to clamber onto their rooftops to avoid being trapped in their homes -- because the vaunted Army Corps of Engineers, which had built the levee system around New Orleans, had completely failed in its design of the levee system.

We remember then-President George W. Bush when he proclaimed, "Brownie, you're doing a heckuva job," referring to then-FEMA Director Michael Brown. However, as FEMA's total mismanagement of the disaster unfolded over the ensuing two weeks, it became apparent that "Brownie" was a clueless and incompetent political appointee who ignominiously resigned 10 days later.

We vividly recall the nightmare that was the Louisiana Superdome, where tens of thousands of residents turned for shelter, but which became a veritable hellhole for poor people who had nowhere else to go.

The death toll from Katrina tallied 1,392 persons and it is now estimated to have caused \$190 billion in damage, far beyond the original figure of \$125 billion.

Eighty percent of New Orleans, as well as large areas in neighboring parishes, were flooded. To this day, large sections of the neighborhoods that were flooded remain abandoned and tens of thousands of residents who lost their homes, many of whom did not have flood insurance, have never returned. The population of New Orleans was about 500,000 before Katrina, but is only about 370,000 now -- a decline of about 25%.

With climate change promising to bring us ever more-devastating natural disasters, the lessons of Katrina lead us to make three observations:

The first is that we are completely at the mercy of Mother Nature. We need to realize that climate change is happening now -- and that things are only going to get worse in the years ahead.

The second is that when local authorities tell us we need to evacuate, we should do so. Most of those who died in Katrina (as well as in most other natural disasters) had refused to leave and they paid with their lives.

And the third is that each of us needs to devise an exit and recovery plan for ourselves and our loved ones. If our home is destroyed, what will we do and where will we go?

Hurricane Katrina proved to be an apocalyptic event for those who lived along the Louisiana coast. Twenty years later, it serves as a warning that each of us needs to be prepared for the inevitable disasters that climate change will bring in the years ahead.

*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.*

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## GUEST OP-ED

### Addressing contractor parking challenges in Beacon Hill

*Councilor Durkan's office called a hearing to discuss the matter at 10 a.m. on Sept. 18*

By Sharon Durkan

In Beacon Hill and across Boston, residents know how limited our parking is. Narrow streets, dense housing, and ongoing utility work for necessary infrastructure upgrades all put constant pressure on our curb space. Our neighborhoods were not built for the volume of vehicles we see today, and it shows. We need to manage the limited space we have more effectively and equitably. On behalf of residents, we're working towards solutions, but first we need to have a conversation.

In February, I introduced An Order to Discuss Contractor Parking Regulation, Permitting, and Enforcement in Boston and the hearing was put in the Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation, which I chair. I brought this forward because our public streets are shared resources, and it is time for the City Council to take a closer look at how they're being used, and misused, in ways that make everyday life harder for residents.

The idea for this hearing

came after I co-hosted a meeting with the Beacon Hill Civic Association's Traffic and Parking Committee earlier this year. Neighbors expressed growing frustration with contractors using expired permits, parking illegally in residential spots, and posting "No Parking" signs without renewing or removing them. These practices reduce access to already limited parking and add confusion to our streets. To better understand the scale of the problem, I looked at 311 data from when I took office in August of 2023 to now. Parking enforcement was the most reported issue in District 8, with nearly 3,000 complaints. Other top concerns included broken bricks and sidewalk repairs, which my office helped address across the district this summer, particularly in Beacon Hill.

While the City does require permits for contractor parking and signage, enforcement is inconsistent and limited by capacity. Some contractors follow the process responsibly, but others abuse permits, or

(Op-Ed, Pg. 3)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 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 Bay, the Fenway and Kenmore Square.



### NABB BLOCK PARTY COMING, SEPT. 6, TO COMM AVE MALL

The Neighborhood Associa-

tion of the Back Bay will sponsor a Block Party on Saturday, Sept. 6, from noon to 3 p.m. on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall between Clarendon and Dartmouth streets. (The rain date for this event is Saturday, Sept. 13)

The event will include live music and entertainment, dog activities, ice cream and other food, facepainting, family activities, and more.

For more information on the event, email [backbayblockparty@nabbonline.org](mailto:backbayblockparty@nabbonline.org).

### FENWAY NIC TO HOLD HYBRID MEETING ON SEPT. 9

The Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Committee (NIC) will hold a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m., which meets in person in the Steve Heck Room on the first floor of 1140 Boylston St.

Besides community updates, the meeting will include Berklee President Jim Lucchese, who joined the institution as its fifth president in January, to share a few thoughts and meet neigh-

bors. Refreshments will also be served.

R.S.V.P at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-fBQoDWBQyXvBS-Yq8m9q-Vo9S9K8N4xh96JKilnt8TnD-Q3A9A/viewform>. (For those who indicate attendance via Zoom, a meeting link will be sent closer to the meeting date.)

### NABB TO HOLD FORUM ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS SEPT. 18 AT COPLEY BPL

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) will present its annual housing forum, called 'How Boston Neighborhoods are Helping to Solve the Homelessness Crisis,' on Thursday, Sept 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library at 700 Boylston St.

The forum will be moderated by Lynn Jolicoeur, WBUR senior producer, and panelists will include Sheila Dillon, the City's Chief of Housing; and Lyndia Downie, CEO of the Pine Street Inn, among others who will pres-

ent community experiences with the development of affordable and supportive housing. Models from Back Bay, Beacon Hill and Jamaica Plain will be featured; formerly homeless tenants will tell of their stories; and President Trump's new executive order concerning homelessness will be discussed.

Register online for the forum at: <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/689656df4afabc-39de501846>

### FREISINGER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT SEPT. 6 AT FIRST CHURCH

First Church in Boston, located at 66 Marlborough St., will welcome Freisinger Chamber Orchestra in concert on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The program will include Kodaly: Galanta Dances;

Richard Strauss: final trio from the opera Der Rosenkavalier; and Beethoven: Symphony no. 3, Eroica, along with an intermission.

There is a suggested donation

per person of \$20/\$10 students, but all are welcome. Tickets are available at the door only, just before the concert.

Visit [FreisingerChamberOrchestra.org](https://FreisingerChamberOrchestra.org) for more information on FCO.

### BEACON HILL VILLAGE TO OFFER PANEL DISCUSSION SEPT. 22

Beacon Hill Village presents 'Living Well Ending Well Season Kickoff: Falls Prevention Panel' on Monday, Sept. 22, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

In recognition of Falls Prevention Week this September, Beacon Hill Village (BHV), in partnership with Boston Public Library (BPL), will be hosting a Falls Prevention Panel at the BPL Central Branch. This panel includes three experts in their fields providing different perspectives on the topic of falls prevention. This session of Living Well Ending Well will be moderated by BHV's Executive Director, Melissa Interest, LICSW.

Panelists will include Dr. Rachel

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 3)

### FENWAY CDC (from Page 1)

The application for 27 Hancock St. proposes the installation of new door hardware and a new light fixture; the replacement of existing, non-historic windows at all levels; and the repainting of the lintels, as well as repainting the door and surround to match finish of 25 Hancock St.

A motion to approve this application as submitted was put forth by Vice Chair Arian Allen and approved unanimously by herself, Chair Mark Kiefer, and Commissioners Maurice Finegold and Sandra Steele; it came with a 'friendly amendment' that the new windows have a two-over-two configuration; that a dark spacer bar be used in the windows; that no low-e glass be used in the windows; and that



The property at 27-29 Hancock St.

project details be submitted to staff (Nicholas Armata), prior to construction commencing.

The application for 29 Hancock St. proposes the replacement of the side entrance door; the lowering by 6 inches and resetting of the threshold on side door to make the entrance ADA compliant; the replacement of all non-historic windows with all wood, two-over-two, double-hung windows; and the repainting of the cornice in black.

A motion to approve this application as submitted, put forward by Chair Kiefer, was unanimously supported by himself, along with Vice Chair Allen and Commissioners Finegold and Steele; the determination came

with several provisos, including that the new paint color for the cornice be revised, specifically to match the building's masonry, and that the paint color be delegated to staff for final approval.

Chair Kiefer noted this affordable home ownership project on Hancock Street was a "long time coming," with a lot of community feedback leading to "what looks like quite a successful resolution to bring affordable housing to Beacon Hill."

Likewise, a representative from Homes on Hancock – a grass-roots group which continually advocated for the creation of adequate affordable housing at 27-29 Hancock St. – also voiced their strong support for the proposed project.

### OP-ED (from Page 2)

avoid them altogether. Other cities have adopted clearer, more enforceable systems that include designated contractor zones, time limits, and structured fees to promote fair use and improve compliance. I look forward to exploring these ideas during the

hearing. Beacon Hill is currently one of the few neighborhoods where the local civic association must approve contractor permits, in addition to the City's regulatory process. This gives residents a meaningful voice in how curb space is used on their

blocks, but we need to do more to ensure that contractors are meeting their commitments to our neighborhood, and that we as a city are enforcing violations.

This hearing is a necessary first step toward building a more transparent, fair, and effective

system for managing contractor parking. It is also a chance for residents, businesses, and workers to share their experiences and help shape policy that reflects the needs of the people who live here. The hearing will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 10 a.m.

at Boston City Hall. I encourage all stakeholders to testify and be part of this important conversation! Testimony is limited to two minutes, and will be taken at the end of the hearing. See you there!

*Sharon Durkan is the District 8 City Councilor.*



**GRONKOWSKI** *(from Page 1)*

ering from surgery, and I always thought that spot deserved something amazing. Now kids from all over Boston can play, run, laugh, and maybe even do their own touchdown spikes. It doesn't get better than that."

Gronkowski reflected during his remarks on the deep personal meaning that the Gronk Playground holds for him.

In 2013, while recovering from injuries at Massachusetts General Hospital, he looked down from his hospital room at this very spot and imagined how special it would be to one day transform it into a world-class playground for kids.

Years later, Gronkowski called Susan Hurley with the idea, and she found the perfect location right where he had once stood looking out the window. In a full-circle moment, Susan, who has been courageously battling cancer since 2022, recently returned seven times since the end of this May to that same hospital floor, this time watching the playground take shape

before her eyes.

At the opening, Gronkowski honored Robert Kraft and Hurley with dedicated elm trees inside the playground. Hurley's tree bears a plaque that reads: "Her vision, heart, and grit helped build this joyful place."

Reflecting on the journey, Hurley said, "When you think about how life comes full circle, for me to be on the same floor as Rob, there has never been a challenge we haven't met."

Gronkowski added, "You are so strong, and I hope every kid who plays here takes your attitude with them, when they go through things that are hard or tough, to always remember that getting to the other side is so important. You got us to the other side with this playground."

Designed by Shadley Associates Landscape Architects, constructed by O'Brien & Sons, and project managed by DCR the new playground emphasizes physical fitness, creativity, and local pride all with a distinctively Boston and Gronk twist,

including mini duck boats and scaled-down Boston landmarks, including the Marathon Route and the Zakim Bridge; a football slide for the ultimate 'Gronk Spike'; a life-size Gronk figure for high-fives and height checks; inspirational quotes from Tom Brady, Julian Edelman, Jayson Tatum, Aly Raisman, and David Pastrnak, among others; and a 40-yard dash area, where kids can try to beat Gronkowski's time of 4.68 seconds.

This project was funded with nearly \$2 million in support from the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation, with additional contributions from the EA and DCR.

"Massachusetts is a leader in so many ways, from Super Bowls wins to ensuring our communities have access to outdoor recreation at parks and playgrounds," said Gov. Healey. "Rob Gronkowski has brought joy to so many New Englanders, and with this project, he is continuing to spread that joy and promote a fun, healthy and



*Rob Gronkowski and Robert Kraft are seen in front of the tree that Gronk Nation Youth Foundation dedicated to Kraft.*

active lifestyle for kids of all abilities. I want to thank the

DCR staff who brought this project to life, as well as Gronk Nation Youth Foundation and the Esplanade Association for their generosity and partnership to make this one-of-a-kind playground possible."

Beyond DCR's design and construction and EA's ongoing maintenance, the joy of Gronk Playground would not be possible without Rob Gronkowski, the Gronkowski Family, Susan Hurley of CharityTeams, the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation Team, State Sen. Sal DiDomenico and State Rep. Jay Livingstone who led legislation on naming, the City of Boston, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the children and families that bring the park to life every day.

"Just as Gronk modeled on the field, this playground was realized with dedicated teamwork and a commitment to share inspiration, joy and a passion for play for the next generation. EA was thrilled to connect Gronk to the Esplanade to realize this playground, and cannot wait to expand access to this amazing destination with all of the welcome and wellness amenities of Charlesbank," said Mergel, James & Audrey Foster Executive Director of the Esplanade Association.

The Gronk Playground carries forward the storied history of the Charlesbank area, the oldest part of the Esplanade, as a hub for community wellness.



*LIZ OBERACKER, PURE STYLE PHOTOGRAPHY*

*Jen Mergel of Esplanade Association, Rob Gronkowski, and Boston Marathon Winner and Olympian Meb Keflezighi are pictured with kids from Make-A-Wish and Hill House.*

(GRONKOWSKI., Pg. 5)



# Emerald Necklace Conservancy to host second annual honeybee celebration

Special to the Sun

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy, in partnership with

Classroom Hives, Inc., invites the community to its second annual National Honeybee Month Celebration for an afternoon of fam-

ily-friendly fun. The event will give attendees a chance to see live bees in an enclosed observation hive, participate in a honey tasting, and learn about the crucial role of pollinators. The celebration is designed for all ages, with activities particularly suited for families with children ages 4 to 10. The free event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Franklin Park Playstead on Circuit Drive in Boston. While the event is open to all, an online RSVP is recommended. To register or find more information, please visit [emeraldnecklace.org/event/honeybee-month-2025/](http://emeraldnecklace.org/event/honeybee-month-2025/)



Children getting the chance to beekeep.

## GRONKOWSKI (from Page 4)

Originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in the 1880s as the first free public park gymnasium in all of North America, the riverfront location Olmsted called “Charlesbank” is not only innovative for supporting pub-

lic health for all ages and backgrounds but strategically located. Sited steps from multiple neighborhoods and marquee medical, pro sports and educational and public transit destinations, and adjacent to Alford Spray Deck,

Teddy Ebersol’s Red Sox Fields, and the upcoming Smith Family Pavilion at Charlesbank (open summer 2026)—the Playground’s central location ensures expanded year-round access for families across Boston and beyond.



MELISSA OSTROW, MELOPHOTO

State Rep. Jay Livingstone, Gordon Gronkowski, Robert Kraft, Gov. Maura Healey, DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle, and EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper are seen holding the finish line as Make-a-wish and Hill House cross it.



The Gronk Playground before (2019) and after (2025).

COURTESY OF THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION

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# MBTA announces September service changes

Special to the Sun

The MBTA announced service changes in September on the Green, Orange, Blue, and Fitchburg lines.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at [mbta.com/PlannedWork](http://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.

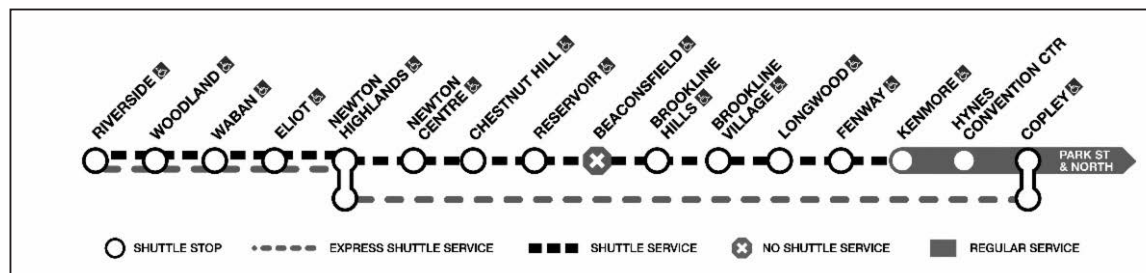
## On the Green Line:

The MBTA will perform continued work on the Green Line D Branch in September to install Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS) infrastructure. When complete, GLTPS will combine vehicle and wayside equipment to avoid train-on-train collisions, incorporate speed enforcement, and more.

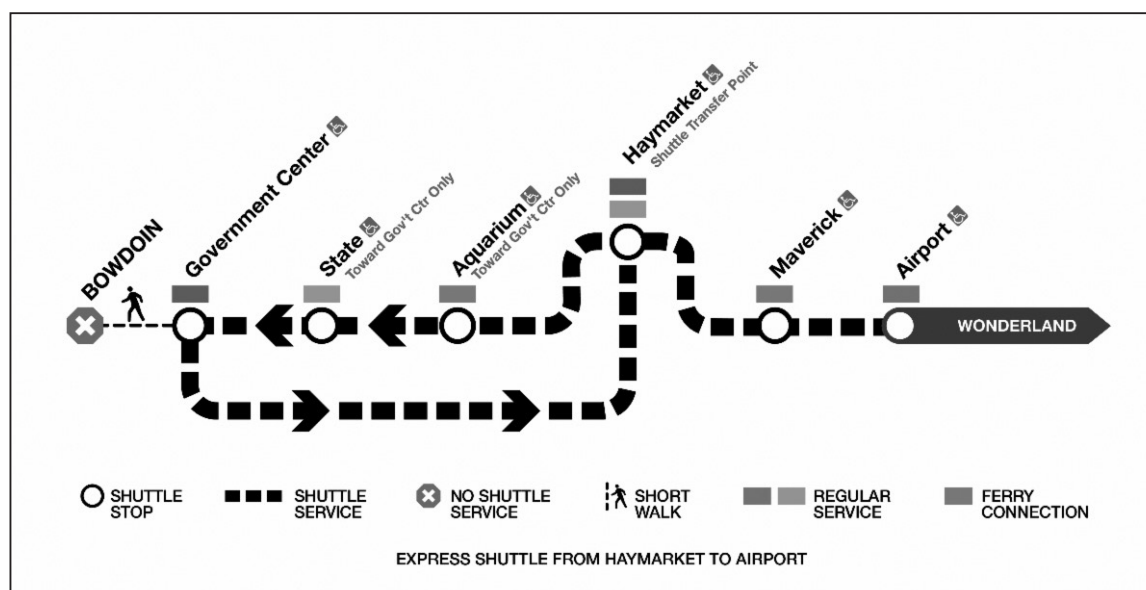
In September, the MBTA will also continue to rebuild the Green Line D Branch and ensure that additional sections of track are improved to the same state of good repair standards that support reliable and robust service. Crews will accomplish essential infrastructure upgrades, track renewal, and other 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:

Green Line D Branch service



The Green Line



The Blue Line

will be suspended between Riverside and Kenmore for nine days, September 3 – 11.

Free and accessible Express and Local shuttle bus services will replace trains between Riverside and Kenmore.

Express Shuttle: Shuttle buses will operate directly between Riverside, Woodland, Waban, Eliot, Newton Highlands, and Copley.

Local Shuttle: Shuttle buses will make all stops between Riverside and Kenmore except Beaconsfield.

There will be no shuttle service at Beaconsfield. Riders are encouraged to travel instead to Dean Road on the C Branch, which is less than a quarter mile away (or about a four-minute walk).

Riders may change between each shuttle bus option at Newton Highlands.

Riders who typically board or disembark at Reservoir are encouraged to instead consider traveling to Cleveland Circle on the C Branch, which is less than a tenth of a mile away (or a two-minute walk).

Riders using shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Government Center from Riverside should budget at least an additional 30 – 45 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

## On the Orange Line:

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

In September, the MBTA will also accomplish accessibility upgrades at the platform-level of Jackson Square as part of the Jackson Square Station Accessibility Improvements. The station is currently undergoing improvements to provide Orange Line riders with a modernized, fully accessible transit experience.

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

Orange Line service will be suspended between North Station and Forest Hills during the weekends of September 13 – 14 and September 27 – 28.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops between Forest Hills and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line.

Riders should note that there will be no shuttle bus service between Back Bay and North Station. Riders are encouraged to utilize parallel Green Line service between North Station and Copley for travel through the downtown area. The MBTA will increase Green Line service during this time to accommodate anticipated increases in ridership.

Riders are also encouraged to consider the Commuter Rail for fare-free service between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station.

Accessible vans will be available at North Station and Tufts Medical Center Station, serving all stations between North Station and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line.

Riders using the shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider travelling to Downtown Crossing from Forest Hills should budget at least an additional 30 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

Orange Line train service will

bypass Jackson Square during the following dates:

In the Forest Hills-bound direction:

Beginning at approximately 9 PM through the end of service for three days, September 17 – 19.

Beginning at approximately 9 PM through the end of service for three days, September 24 – 26.

Forest Hills-bound riders who typically exit at Jackson Square should instead exit at Stony Brook and board an Oak Grove-bound train back to Jackson Square.

Forest Hills-bound riders who typically board at Jackson Square should instead board an Oak Grove-bound train at Jackson Square, exit at Roxbury Crossing, and board a Forest Hills-bound train to their destination.

In both directions (station closed):

The weekend of September 20 – 21.

Riders should instead use Bus Route 22 to travel between Roxbury Crossing and Jackson Square.

Riders using Bus Route 22 should budget an additional 10 minutes to their trip.

## On the Blue Line:

In September, the MBTA will accomplish vital upgrade and improvement work on the Blue Line drainage system and pump room, which protects the line from major rain and flooding events. Additional track maintenance activities will also take place, including upgrades to tunnel lighting, the overhead catenary wire system, and power cables. Signal personnel will also perform cable renewal work with track personnel replacing rail ties as needed. This work will improve the resiliency of the Blue Line's infrastructure, making the line safer and more reliable.

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

Blue Line service will be suspended between Bowdoin and Airport beginning at approximately 8:30 PM through the end of service on September 19 and continuing through the entire weekend, September 20 – 21.

There will be three free and accessible shuttle bus options during this service change: a local shuttle, an express shuttle,

(MBTA CHANGES., Pg. 7)

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



## News in Brief

Continued from Page 3

Wadkins, who specializes in neurological and vestibular rehabilitation at Massachusetts General Hospital; Cindy Sullivan, who specializes in Midlife and Senior Fitness with a focus on exercises for the Total Body including strength, balance, endurance and flexibility, with private or group

classes; and Dr. Anand Bery, a neurologist and otoneurologist with unique subspecialty fellowship training in neuro-vestibular and balance disorders.

The panel session will last 60 minutes, followed by questions from the audience. Additional resources will also be available

afterwards.

Advance online registration required through the BHV website at [beaconhillvillage.org](http://beaconhillvillage.org), or by calling Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713. Registrants will receive a reminder with event information via email the day prior to the program.

### WLP'S SPAGHETTI DINNER RETURNS OCT. 9 TO FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL

Women's Lunch Place's annual Spaghetti Dinner will take place 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. This year's event is called 'At the Table Together.'

Visit <https://womenslunchplace.org/spaghetti-dinner> to reserve a seat for the event, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

### 'NIGHT(MARE) IN THE STACKS' EVENT COMING OCT. 31 TO COPLEY BPL

The Boston Public Library Fund has announced the return of 'Night in the Stacks,' now transformed into 'Night(mare) in the Stacks: Celebrating Boston's Spooky Stories.'

For the first time, the evening will take place on Halloween night—Friday, Oct. 31, from 8 p.m. to midnight—at the Central

Library in Copley Square. The event is hosted by the Emerging Leaders, young Bostonians dedicated to supporting the Library's crucial role in the city.

Guests will step inside the historic McKim Building and discover a one-of-a-kind celebration where they can explore every haunted corner. Tickets include an open bar; curated small plates and desserts; live music and dancing; tarot card readers and a wandering haiku poet; and

exclusive access to the BPL's new exhibition, 'Revolution! 250 Years of Art + Activism,' which opens just days before the event, as well as a tax-deductible donation to the Boston Public Library Fund.

Proceeds from Night(mare) in the Stacks support the Boston Public Library's free programs and services, empowering learners of all ages and backgrounds across the city.

Tickets are available now, with prices increasing as Halloween approaches. Visit [www.bplfund.org/nits](http://www.bplfund.org/nits) to learn more and purchase your tickets today.

### MBTA CHANGES (from Page 6)

and a downtown loop.

Riders should note that the local and express shuttle bus options will not stop at downtown Blue Line stations and will instead stop at Haymarket for Orange and Green Line connections in the downtown area.

Operating the alternate shuttle bus options in this way saves over 15 minutes of travel time compared to if shuttle buses were to navigate through downtown Boston's crowded streets in mixed traffic to stop at all affected Blue Line stations.

Local Shuttle: Shuttle buses will make stops at Airport, Maverick, and Haymarket for Orange and Green Line connections in the downtown area.

The local shuttle will not stop at Aquarium, State, Government Center, or Bowdoin.

Express Shuttle: Shuttle buses will operate directly between Airport and Haymarket for Orange and Green Line connections in the downtown area with no stops in between.

Downtown Loop: One shuttle bus will operate in a loop from Haymarket to Aquarium to State to Government Center.

Fare gates will be open for free entry on the Blue Line between Airport and Wonderland.

Riders may also use the East Boston Ferry, which will be free during this service change with trips departing every 30 minutes from 6 AM to 10 PM.

Riders using the shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Government Center from Wonderland should budget at least an additional 30 – 40 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

#### On the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line:

The Berkshire and Eastern Railroad, which owns and maintains the Fitchburg Line's track area between Fitchburg and Wachusett, will perform tie replacement work in this area

in September, requiring mid-day shuttle bus service replacement.

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 Fitchburg and Wachusett from approximately 7 AM to 5 PM for nine days, September 15 – 23.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be available on [mbta.com](http://mbta.com).

Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace trains between Fitchburg and Wachusett.

Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between North Station and Porter Square during the weekend of September 20 – 21 and for three consecutive days, September 26 – 28.

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 August. More information is available here.

For more information, visit [mbta.com/PlannedWork](http://mbta.com/PlannedWork) or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA\_CR, Facebook / TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

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

### JOSH KRAFT AT THE FISHERMAN'S FEAST



Candidate for Mayor of Boston Josh Kraft stopped by the Fisherman's Feast in nearby North End recently where he enjoyed the revelry and talked to residents about their concerns and his campaign platform.



**EMERGENCY  
ALL BLOOD  
TYPES NEEDED.**

**Give now.**





U.S. MARINES CELEBRATE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

The US Marines celebrated its 250th anniversary this November serving a grateful nation with a visit to Boston Common.

Aircraft and other vehicles were parked for everyone to get a close look at and Marines were on hand to get the public and answer questions.



People got to get a closer look at the MV-22B Osprey, an aircraft that takes off and lands vertically but offers the speed and range of a turboprop plane.



The U.S. Marines invited the public to explore the UH-1Y Venom, a vital part of their arsenal.



The U.S. Marines offered everyone a chance to explore the CH-53E Super Stallion, a heavy lift helicopter capable of carrying equipment, vehicles, supplies, and personnel.



Gunnery Sgt Michael Vignuli with sons Giovanni and Julian.



U.S. MARINES CELEBRATE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



A line of people form to check out the interior of the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.



Shown above, Cpl. Brennan Meaux offers information to visitors in the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.



Sgt. Anthony Perez III offers information to visitors in the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.



Shown to the right, the cockpit of the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.



A Marine poses with a young fan in a Light Armored Vehicle on display.



LCPL Yeager presents a M240B light machine gun for visitors to get a close look at and hold.

Sheriff Steve Tompkins steps away from position

Special to the Sun

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins has agreed to step away from his position until the federal case against him is resolved. In the meantime, the role will be filled by the Special Sheriff, Mark Lawhorne, con-

sistent with state law. “The allegations against Sheriff Tompkins are serious,” said Governor Maura Healey. “The Suffolk County Sheriff is responsible for managing more than a thousand employees, hundreds of inmates and programs that

are essential to public safety and rehabilitation. It is a full-time job that demands full time attention. The people of Massachusetts need to be able to trust in the integrity of the criminal justice system and that their elected officials

are fully engaged in the work of serving the public.” “This is the right step for the Sheriff’s Office and the public as a whole, as it avoids prolonged proceedings before the Supreme Judicial Court,” said Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell.



BOSTON  
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FREE!

Calling All Curious!  
Community Day Open House

September 6, 10 am – 3 pm

BostonAthenaeum.org/Events



U.S. MARINES CELEBRATE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



At the AH-12 Viper helicopter on display, Sonali, Aarna, and Nitish are happy to meet Major Max Caggiano.



Eiden and Ibiner Mendez-Pena hi-five their new hero Major Max Caggiano.



Boston Common visitors were encouraged to explore a Light Armored Vehicle used by the U.S. Marines.



Boston Common visitors were encouraged to explore a Light Armored Vehicle used by the U.S. Marines.



Major James Agate poses with a mannequin wearing an early version of the US Marines uniform.

MBTA to begin fare checks: Warnings followed by citations beginning Sept. 8

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) announced that fare checks as the part of its Fare Engagement Program will soon begin within the subway system. Beginning September 8, Fare Engagement Representatives will begin issuing formal warnings and citations to riders who have not tapped at a fare gate or farebox. More information is available at [mbta.com/FareCheck](https://mbta.com/FareCheck).

“Our riders deserve a safe

and reliable mass transportation system that is available for them when they need it. With strong support, we are making significant progress, but to sustain it, we owe it to our riders and the public at large to do our part and collect all appropriate fare revenue. It’s about a responsibility we have and fairness for all,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “As we continue to improve service frequency across all modes, we have much more to do, and we rely on each rider to pay their fare and sup-

port continued service improvements. Your fares are essential to delivering the levels of service you expect and help us better support your community. To our riders who pay for each and every trip, thank you! For those who may need support with payment, please reach out to us about the reduced fare opportunities we offer across all modes. Know that our Fare Engagement Representatives dressed in blue shirts will be moving to the next step of ensuring fare compliance by all.”

In October 2024, the MBTA hired and trained 16 Fare Engagement Representatives to answer rider questions about fares. Within the first several weeks, fare collection increased by up to as 35% at stations where the new Fare Engagement Representatives were on-site. Fare checks are respectful interactions where trained Fare Engagement Representatives visually check fares as they observe riders entering fare gates and boarding vehicles. Fare media includes CharlieCards,

credit cards, smart phones, smart watches, and valid passes. Fare Engagement Representatives have been conducting fare education outreach throughout the system over the past several months and will be supported by MBTA Transit Police. Fare Engagement Representatives wear blue shirts, khaki pants, hats, have MBTA identification, and have access to Google Translate at all times (the majority of Representatives speak a

(REVENUE COLLECTION, Pg. 15)



**MBRTA FARES** (from Page 10)

second language in addition to English). Future phases of the Fare Engagement Program will include Representatives onboard buses, Green Line trolleys, and Mattapan Line trolleys to verify fare payment and provide riders fare education.

**More Information on Warnings and Citations**

The MBTA is deeply committed to ensuring that the Fare Engagement Program is implemented in a fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory manner. Proactive steps have been taken to prioritize respect, integrity, and equal treatment for all riders, including equitable deployment of the Fare Engagement team; extensive training on topics such as implicit bias, cultural intelligence, de-escalation techniques, youth engagement, accessibility, and customer service; data collection transparency; and a commitment to continuous improvement.

If a rider has not paid, the following steps will occur:

- Warnings and Citations:
- Having a warning-first system ensures riders know how to pay their fare before being held accountable for evading fares
- Riders will be asked for their government-issued form of identification, such as a REAL ID, passport, or standard Massachusetts ID. If a rider does not have an ID available, staff will request their name and contact information. A warning or citation will be handed to the rider and mailed if a valid address is provided.
- First offense: A first offense is a formal, written warning with no fine
- Subsequent offenses: Failure to pay fares after a warning will result in a civil citation requiring the rider to pay a fine
- First, second, or third citation: \$50 fine
- Fourth or subsequent citation: \$100 fine
- Riders can find full information, including how to appeal a citation, by visiting <https://www.mbtta.com/policies/fare-evasion-citations>.

[mbtta.com/policies/fare-evasion-citations](https://www.mbtta.com/policies/fare-evasion-citations).

- Uncooperative riders may be asked to exit station

- If a rider refuses to cooperate with MBTA personnel, provide identification, or provide their contact information, they may be asked to exit the station at that time.

This next phase of fare engagement reflects years of thoughtful collaboration with community members, advocates, and transit riders across the region. Since 2021, the MBTA has solicited and incorporated public input through hearings, written comments, and direct outreach, listening carefully to concerns about fairness, equity, and enforcement. Feedback helped shape every stage of rulemaking, including the guarantee of a warning for first-time offenses. To prevent bias and promote a consistent rider experience system-wide, Fare Engagement Representatives will be deployed equitably across the system based on ridership patterns, not geography, to avoid a disproportionate presence in any one community. The new fare check approach is the result of a deliberate and inclusive process, grounded in the voices of those who depend on and care deeply about the MBTA.

**More Information on Reduced Fares**

The MBTA is committed to providing reliable, accessible transportation to all and has implemented new reduced-fare eligibility that makes all MBTA transportation modes available and affordable to income-eligible individuals. Discounted fare cards are available to riders with disabilities, senior citizens, and some students. The MBTA expanded reduced fares to income-eligible riders aged 18 – 64 who are enrolled in the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), MassHealth, or MASSGrant programs. MBTA reduced fare programs offer eli-

gible riders approximately 50% off on all MBTA buses, subway, ferry, Commuter Rail, and paratransit (The RIDE) travel. Riders can learn more and check their eligibility at [mbtta.com/Reduced](https://www.mbtta.com/Reduced).

Routes 23, 28, and 29 are currently fare-free routes as a result of funding from the City of Boston as part of a pilot program. The MBTA supports making transit more affordable systemwide and is committed to advancing adoption of the Income-Eligible Reduced Fare Program, which has seen tremendous growth since its launch.

For more information, please visit [mbtta.com/FareCheck](https://www.mbtta.com/FareCheck) or connect with the T on X @ MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads

@thembtta, or TikTok @thembtta.

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# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The sunflowers in the last clue are on 267-269 Newbury Street. Backbayhouses.org points out that architect William Whitney Lewis designed and built 269 Newbury as his home and 267 as the home of his widowed mother.

The next clue will be found in the Fenway.

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			
Souaidan, Elias	George & Lauren Rausch T	180 Commonwealth Ave #10	\$1,300,000
181 Commave LLC	Commonwealth Rt-Special	181 Commonwealth Ave	\$13,500,000
Kamarlo Properties LLC	Kotalik, Karl	2 Clarendon St #102	\$820,000
Bsp Holdings LLC	Austen, Patricia R	324-332 Beacon St #65	\$3,400,000
Bsp Holdings LLC	Austen, Patricia R	324-332 Beacon St #66	\$3,400,000
Kim, Boyoung	Lipuma, Joseph A	345 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$1,150,000
Brustowicz, Allison M	Rio Re Holdings LLC	351 Commonwealth Ave #6	\$715,000
Wooten, Luke S	Moussa, Jean-Claude	411 Marlborough St #1	\$850,000
Akgonul, Kerim R	Wooten, Luke S	411 Marlborough St #1	\$970,000
Yousseufian, Deanna A	Topler-Garcia, Vanessa	416 Commonwealth Ave #316	\$885,000
Yi, Sarah J	First Beacon Rt	483 Beacon St #63	\$500,000
Copley 499 Beacon St LLC	Ledermann Us Re Corp	499 Beacon St	\$5,125,000
Stavola Jr, James M	Yang, Jerry	922 Beacon St #44	\$577,500
BEACON HILL			
Reynolds 3rd, Frederick M	Wirth Geri Est	10 Bowdoin St #214	\$400,000
Boston Merrimac Prop LLC	HHLP Bulfinch Assoc LLC	107 Merrimac St	\$23,625,000
145 P U712 LLC	Judith L Blotnick T-2006	145 Pinckney St #712	\$705,000
Edward Robert Wiest Ft	Helen Novick RET	2 Hawthorne Pl #2E	\$1,325,000
Edward Robert Wiest Ft	Helen Novick RET	2 Hawthorne Pl #2F	\$1,325,000
Wang, Qiang	73 Charles LLC	73 Charles St #3A	\$795,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Gonzalez, Nelson H	Donovan, Darren J	1 Avery St #19D	\$2,075,000
Veselinov, Zhorzh V	Huang, Jing	1 Franklin St #1109	\$1,050,000
Jordan Ft	Boston Property 2 LLC	2 Avery St #27A	\$980,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28 Atlantic Ave #136	\$2,000,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28 Atlantic Ave #138	\$2,000,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28 Atlantic Ave #36	\$2,000,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28 Atlantic Ave #38	\$2,000,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28-32 Atlantic Ave #135	\$2,000,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28-32 Atlantic Ave #137	\$2,000,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28-32 Atlantic Ave #35	\$2,000,000
Berik One LLC	Otey, Brady P	28-32 Atlantic Ave #37	\$2,000,000
Erin S Pastuszewski RET	Thorne Jr, Nathan C	477 Harrison Ave #4A	\$2,922,500
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Jennifer L Dable Jret	Brugge, William	188 Brookline Ave #PH28C	\$3,905,000
Tam, Suzanne	THR Acqui Northampton LL	373 Northampton St #101	\$383,440
Birkett, Edwin	THR Acqui Northampton LL	373 Northampton St #307	\$428,430
Kotz, Joanne D	40 Concord Square Dev LL	40 Concord Sq #2	\$2,800,000
Russo, Gilberto	Watson, Connor D	12 Braddock Park #1	\$1,655,000
Corder, Laura	Revere Street Prop LLC	11 Revere St #11-4	\$675,000
Anderson, Donald	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #4104	\$2,460,000
Sean Mcdonough RET	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #PH2D	\$7,950,000
Toohy, Patrick	Yalesville Ptw LLC	300 Pier 4 Blvd #6E	\$2,300,000



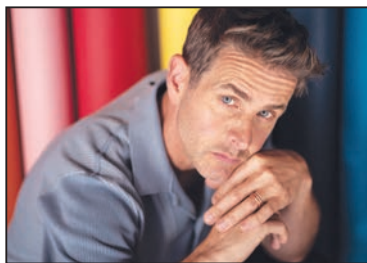
# 100th Annual Italian Feast of Saints Cosmas & Damian coming soon

*Gloria Gaynor, Joey McIntyre of New Kids on the Block, Chris Kirkpatrick from NSYNC, OTown, All 4 One, LFO, Ryan Cabrera, The Platters, The Drifters, and The Coasters headline the annual 4 Day Feast*

Special to the Sun

It's that time of year again when the streets of East Cambridge will come alive for the 100th Annual Grand Italian Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian on September 4, 5, 6 & 7 on Warren, Cambridge and Porter Streets in East Cambridge. The four-day fun family event features a wide variety of sweet and savory food, a beer garden, amusement rides, games, parades and music that spans decades of dance, pop, and rock. Festivities begin on Thursday, September 4 at 6:00pm when Saints Cosmas and Damian accompanied by members of the Society, the North End Marching Band, and the faithful process from their permanent home at 17 Porter Street in East Cambridge to the outdoor chapel overlooking the festival concourse on Warren and Porter Streets. At 7:00pm, a special healing service with the holy relics of Saints Cosmas and Damian will take place at the outdoor chapel.

The Thursday night entertainment will begin at 6:00pm with a performance by local favorite the Wildfire Band followed by the legendary Grammy award winner Gloria Gaynor singing her mega hits such as, "I Will Survive", "Never Can Say



Joey McIntyre

Goodbye", "Reach Out (I'll Be There)", "I Am What I Am" and more. Gaynor will make sure everyone is dancing in the streets!

On Friday night the entertainment begins at 6:00pm and Samantha Rae takes the stage with her band. After her performance the Pop2000 Tour makes its stop at the Feast with Chris Kirkpatrick of NSYNC, OTown, Ryan Cabrera and LFO. Don't miss this exciting and high energy show by some of the biggest recording artists of the 2000's. They will not disappoint!

On Saturday, the festivities begin at 1:00pm as the savory aromas of pizza, fried dough, Italian sausages, peppers, zepoles, and much more permeate the air around Cambridge, Porter, and Warren Streets, along with continuous entertainment throughout the day night, including Dom Catino's Sounds of Sinatra show, Boston's Own Trifecta, and SeaBreeze with Ste-



Gloria Gaynor

phen Savio.

At 6:30pm Saints Cosmas and Damian accompanied by members of the Society, the North End Marching Band, the award winning Everett High School Marching Band and the faithful process from their permanent home at 17 Porter Street to the outdoor chapel.

Beginning at 8:00pm Saturday night on the Cambridge Street Stage, 1990's hit machine and Grammy Award winner, All 4 One performs their many hits including their #1 Billboard chart sensation, "I Swear" and "I Can Love You Like That"! They are followed by international recording sensation

Joey McIntyre from New Kids On The Block. He will be singing NKOTB hits and his own songs from his Freedom Tour. Don't miss "Please Don't Go Girl",



"Freedom", "Own This Town", and much more.

The grand finale of the Feast on Sunday begins at 10:30am with an outdoor Mass in honor of the Healing Saints Cosmas and Damian on the Warren Street Stage. At 1:30pm the grand procession with the Saints, accompanied by the North End Marching Band and Italian American Marching Band, winds through the streets of East Cambridge and Somerville as it has for 100 years. Don't miss this highlights at 3:00pm on Washington Street in Somerville and 5:00pm at the corner of Cambridge and Warren Street in East Cambridge.

Local favorites such as Smokin' Joe and his band entertain throughout the day as the food and fun flow through the

streets. The parade arrives back on Warren Street at 7:00pm for a welcome back confetti celebration followed by a performance by the world famous The Platters and friends The Drifters and The Coasters"! Come hear all time favorites such as "Only You", "Under the Boardwalk", "Yakety Yak" and so much more from these three iconic groups. In addition, parking is available in Twin City Plaza next to the feast all weekend. Come have a bite to eat, go on a ride, play a game, and enjoy all of our great free entertainment. See you at the Feast! For Feast and vendor information, call (617) 407-1256 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.cosmas-and-damian.org"](http://www.cosmas-and-damian.org) [www.cosmas-and-damian.org](http://www.cosmas-and-damian.org).

## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Watermelon is having a moment

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The team on "Sorted Food" tests food gadgets to decide whether they are worth it. They recently gave the thumbs up to a watermelon knife from Kuhn Rikon. To us, this was a sign that watermelon is having a moment.

Recipes, tips, and tricks for enjoying watermelon are popping up on our daily feeds. We typed the word "watermelon" into the search box of an online retail site, and pages of related products appeared.

### Watermelon Flavor

You can order watermelons

in whole, half, quarter, cubed, or mixed with other fruits from grocery sites. You can also buy watermelon extract, puree, juice, candies, frozen fruit bars, and jelly.

A classic salad combination with watermelon in salads is cucumbers, feta cheese, and fresh mint. From there, add red onion, avocado, and a bit of chili to spice things up. Other salads combine watermelon with strawberries, other melons, citrus, and grapes.

We've enjoyed a plate of watermelon skewers with a sprinkle of Rancho Gordo's Chili Lime Powder on them. One clever



While there are dozens of single-use gadgets to cut watermelon, we still use a chef's knife!

er recipe developer came up with a "Watermelon Caprese Appetizer," which was simply a combo

of basil leaves, set between pieces of mozzarella and watermelon.

You can make Chef Rick Bay-

less' Agua Fresca at home by blending 8 cups of watermelon,

(FRESH & LOCAL, Pg. 15)



# Mayor Michelle Wu announces \$40 million in funding to expand and preserve affordable housing in Boston

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the release of the City of Boston's annual Request for Proposals (RFP) for affordable housing, providing \$40 million to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing across the city. This year's funding—offered through the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) through its annual operating appropriation and recurring external resources, the Community Preservation Act Fund (CPA), and the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT)—is available to non-profit and for-profit developers for rental, cooperative, and supportive housing projects. Four million dollars of this funding will be made avail-

able to create and preserve supportive housing developments for unsheltered and/or aging populations. This announcement builds on the Mayor's work to make Boston a home for everyone.

"With housing costs continuing to rise, our focus is on ensuring that every Boston resident has access to stable, affordable homes," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This \$40 million investment will enable us to support a diverse range of housing projects, from preserving at-risk developments to building new units for those most in need, while also ensuring that Boston remains a city where families of all backgrounds can thrive."

The Mayor's Office of Housing, the Community Preserva-

tion Committee, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust will prioritize proposals that:

- Utilize City-owned land.
- Provide a mix of units from extremely low-income to middle-income households.
- Include housing for older residents, veterans, individuals with disabilities, youth aging out of foster care, and artists.
- Build or preserve affordable housing in neighborhoods with limited affordability.
- Reduce development costs and efficiently leverage public and private funding.

"We are committed to ensuring Boston is a place where everyone—regardless of income—can have a home," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "This funding round supports a variety of

housing options, from cooperative developments to supportive housing for our seniors and those in need of services. Helping Bostonians become and remain stably housed creates stronger neighborhoods and a stronger city for all of us."

"From Eastie to Mattapan, residents tell us housing issues are their number one concern," said City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune. "This \$40 million dollar commitment to expand and preserve affordability is exactly the kind of action we need to meet this moment, whereby we are keeping our families and neighbors in Boston."

"I am excited to see the potential homes for our city's most vulnerable residents from these proposals," said City Councilor Enrique Pepén. "This \$40 million allocation shows our true commitment to building more housing opportunities for Boston's long standing and new families."

This announcement also builds on the City's ongoing efforts to create more affordable housing across neighborhoods and ensure residents are able to afford to live in Boston. In the first three-plus years of Mayor Wu's administration, the city set a record for more affordable housing created than any comparable period during the last two decades: More than 5,600 income-restricted units have been completed or started constructed, almost a third of nearly 18,000 total housing units.

To advance affordable housing development, Mayor Wu issued an executive order to accelerate approval and permitting of these projects, cutting review time by more than 25 percent. In addition, Mayor Wu has provided unprecedented financial resources from the City to build new mixed-income affordable housing, commissioned a public land audit to maximize use of City-owned land for this

purpose, incentivized a pipeline for Office to Residential housing in Boston's downtown core, all while making a concerted effort to focus on working with new development teams, creating opportunities for women and minority-owned businesses (MWBs) to succeed. New housing developments, including innovative buildings combining housing with public assets like libraries are moving forward in Chinatown, Charlestown, Mattapan, Roxbury, East Boston, and Brighton. Additionally, the City has implemented changes to policies such as Linkage and Inclusionary Zoning that are increasing affordable housing through private market activity.

"Affordable housing is more than just providing shelter—it's the foundation for strong, vibrant communities," said Thadine Brown, Director of the Community Preservation Office. "Through these funds, we can continue to bridge gaps, prevent displacement, and create pathways to opportunity for Boston residents."

"Over the years, the City's support has been critical in helping community organizations like ours leverage additional public and private funding to bring affordable housing projects to life," said Sal Colombo, President and Executive Director of the East Boston Community Development Corporation. "With this year's \$40 million funding round, Boston is continuing to lead the way in addressing our most pressing housing challenges."

The City is also calling on developers to integrate universal design principles for accessibility and to build highly energy efficient and fossil fuel free buildings in alignment with Boston's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

- Letter of Intent Due: Friday,

(AFFORDABLE HOUSING., Pg. 15)

The Beacon Hill Times - [beaconhilltimes.com](http://beaconhilltimes.com)  
The North End Regional Review - [northendregionalreview.com](http://northendregionalreview.com)  
The Boston Sun - [thebostonsun.com](http://thebostonsun.com)  
The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - [charlestownbridge.com](http://charlestownbridge.com)

## The GUIDE TO SCHOOLS!



Our annual Guide to Schools is a resource for parents running in 4 Boston newspapers on September 19  
**75,000 weekly readers**  
**In PRINT and ONLINE**  
**Promote your school or Open Houses with us.**

Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, Fenway, Kenmore, South End & Charlestown

## ADVERTISING IN THE GUIDE:

### LISTINGS

Free Listings with every Ad!

A brief text descriptive and contact information \$80 per listing, {not included with ads}  
We have sections for Schools, DayCare, After School Programs, kids related retailers.

### DISPLAY ADVERTISING - all ads run in color in all 4 papers.

\$60 per column inch -(2x5 and under) ads that run in the guide can run at this rate through October.

### HARD COPY

2 col (3.95") X 3" - \$300

2 col (3.95") X 5" - \$550

Quarter Page = 2 col x 8" (3.9" wide) \$800

Half page = 5 col x 6.5" (10.125" wide) \$1,500.00

Full page = 5 col x 13" \$2,500.00

### ONLINE ADS

6 spots available on each website - \$200/month

[thebostonsun.com](http://thebostonsun.com)

[beaconhilltimes.com](http://beaconhilltimes.com)

[charlestownbridge.com](http://charlestownbridge.com)

[northendregionalreview.com](http://northendregionalreview.com)

Prior sections are available if you would like to see samples.  
Please call or email with questions. Deadline September 12, 2025

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## SERVICE DIRECTORY

**YOUR BUSINESS HERE** ONLY \$40 PER WEEK



# Healey-Driscoll Administration approves \$75.6 million in health insurance rebates for consumers and small businesses

Rebate is \$24m higher than last year, will benefit 350,000 people

Special to the Sun

Governor Maura Healey's Division of Insurance has announced that five of the state's health insurance carriers will return \$75.6 million to over 350,000 people covered by individual and small employer plans in Massachusetts under the state's enforcement of the Massachusetts health laws.

Massachusetts has the country's strictest Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) law, requiring the state's

health insurance carriers to spend at least 88 percent of premiums on health care services for individuals and small groups—setting a higher bar than the federal standard of 85 percent. When an insurance carrier's average MLR over a three-year period falls below the required threshold, it is required to rebate a portion of premium payments to individuals and small employers. The rebates reflect a portion of the difference between what the insurance carriers charged in premiums and what they actually spent on health care costs. The rebates may be paid directly as a check or credited on future premium payments.

"Massachusetts has strong laws in place to make sure that the money that you are paying for health care actually goes to covering high-quality services," said Governor Healey. "That's why we are able to approve over \$75 million back to consumers and businesses. This is just the latest action we are taking to lower the cost of health care, housing and energy that people are facing every day."

"These rebates are more than just numbers—they're dollars back in the pockets of families and small business owners across the Commonwealth," said Division of Insurance Commissioner Michael Caljouw.

"The enforcement of this law is part of our larger strategy of protecting Massachusetts health care consumers and encouraging insurers to be more efficient, reduce administrative overhead and focus on cost-effective ways to deliver care."

The exact amounts of the 2025 rebates depend on the carrier and the premium paid by individual and small group purchasers. The amount to be refunded this year is \$24 million more than the 2024 rebate of \$51.6 million.

Today's announcement comes closely on the heels of the Division of Insurance's regulatory review of filed rates for 2026 that

are projected to save Massachusetts consumers more than \$77 million in future premium costs. Carriers will begin refunding amounts to policyholders starting in September. The five carriers providing rebates are Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts HMO Blue, Inc., Fallon Community Health Plan, Inc., Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc., Mass General Brigham Health Plan, Inc., and United-Healthcare Insurance Company. Together, these insurers are issuing rebates to over 350,000 people covered in individual and small employer plans in Massachusetts.

## FRESH & LOCAL (from Page 13)

1 1/2 cups water, 1/3 cup fresh lime juice, and 3/4 cup of sugar or syrup, and then adding more water, lime, or sugar to taste. The exact recipe is on his website. Bartenders are creating new drinks, such as watermelon Margaritas and refreshing watermelon mocktails.

Salsas are another area where a bit of watermelon can add a new dimension to an old favorite. You'll find recipes for watermelon, mango, and cucumber salsa; watermelon, jalapeño, onion, and pepper salsa; or watermelon and pineapple salsa.

### Health Benefits

Since watermelon is more than 90% water, it's an excellent way to hydrate in the summer.

In addition, the Cleveland Clinic explained "Why Watermelon Should Be Part of Your Diet." They wrote, "Though it lacks protein and iron, the nutritional value of watermelon shouldn't be underestimated. It also lacks fat, sodium, and cholesterol and is American Heart Association Heart-Check Certified."

They went on to explain that "Disease-fighting antioxidants in watermelon, like lycopene and cucurbitacin E, may help protect you from diseases such as cancer or diabetes."

The Clinic also touted that watermelon helps you stay hydrated, maintain a healthy weight, protects against disease, supports eye health, boosts your immune system, relieves muscle

soreness after exercise, improves digestion, and helps manage blood sugar.

The clinic also pointed out some conditions that might be negatively impacted by watermelon. These include migraine headaches, allergy to certain pollens, diabetes, irritable bowel syndrome, and those on a low FODMAP diet.

### Use The Rind

By the way, don't throw away the rind. The clinic touted both the rind and the seeds for their nutritional value. Those are higher in fiber than the flesh and rich in magnesium and folate.

The seeds can be toasted and spiced to your taste. Recipes

online are using the rind in stir fries, curries, and, of course, pickles. Pickled everything, including pickled watermelon rind, is also having a moment!

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

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING (from Page 14)

August 22, 2025, by 4:00 PM.

•Full Proposal Due: Friday, September 19, 2025, by 4:00 PM.

Developers interested in applying should register for the Applicants Conference, submit a Letter of Intent by the deadline, and review the full RFP package available at [boston.gov/housing/requests-proposals](https://boston.gov/housing/requests-proposals).

The Mayor's Office of Housing works to prevent homelessness, create and preserve affordable housing, and ensure residents have safe, stable housing options. MOH collaborates with local and national partners to develop housing solutions that prioritize low-income families and vulnerable residents. Learn

more at [boston.gov/housing](https://boston.gov/housing).

Adopted by Boston voters in 2016, the CPA funds affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space projects through a property tax surcharge. All projects must be recommended by the Community Preservation Committee and approved by the City. For details, visit [boston.gov/community-preservation](https://boston.gov/community-preservation).

The NHT is funded through linkage fees from large commercial developments and supports homeownership, rental, cooperative, and supportive housing for low-income households. The fund prioritizes projects near public transit and those serving families with two or more bedrooms.

# DISCover ULTIMATE DAY

For all genders, ages 9 - 14

**Saturday, September 6**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Garvey Park**  
340 Neponset Ave, Boston

**FREE EVENT**





**HOW TO APPLY**  
Scan QR code to apply or visit [boston.gov/parks-sports](https://boston.gov/parks-sports)

**CITY of BOSTON**

 Parks and Recreation





# CAMPION EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

*PRICE REDUCTION!*

## 1 DALTON STREET #3805, BACK BAY

2 BEDROOMS | 2 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 2,186 SQUARE FEET | 2 GARAGE PARKING SPACES  
*NOW LISTED AT: \$6,490,000*



## 1 DALTON STREET #5102, BACK BAY

2 BEDROOMS | 2 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 2,945 SQUARE FEET | 2 GARAGE PARKING SPACES  
*LISTED AT: \$8,495,000*



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