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THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Mayor Wu joins in the annual holiday tree for Boston cutting ceremony in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Special to the Sun

Waddie Long, Natural Resources Environmental Technology instructor at Nova Scotia Community College, led the tree cutting on Nov. 12 for the Boston Common's holiday tree in

(CHRISTMAS TREE, Pg. 3)



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY PAUL BOLOGNA

D-4 sees 3-percent spike in Part One crime from last year

By Dan Murphy

Heading into this Thanksgiving, District D-4 had seen a 3-percent increase in Part One crime, compared with last year.

According to Boston Police, 2,911 incidents of Part One crime were reported in the district, which includes the Back Bay, South End, Lower Roxbury, and the Fenway, between Jan. 1 and Nov. 9, 2025, compared with 2,830 incidents during the same timeframe last year. This year has also seen an approximately 12-percent spike over the five-year average of Part One crime in the district of 2,595 incidents.

The number of homicides remained the same in the district, with two each this year and last, also keeping pace with the five-year average of two incidents for this category in the district.

Rapes and attempted rapes were up around 38 percent this year as the number climbed to 29 from 21 last year, while the five-year average for this category in the district is 23.6 incidents.

Robberies and attempted robberies decreased approximately 8 percent, with the number falling to 89 from 97 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 100

(D-4 CRIME, Pg. 3)

MBTA delivers 3,800 pounds of food for GBFB

Special to the Sun

The MBTA has announced it collected nearly 3,800 pounds of food items as part of an employee-led food drive to support The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) and its partner organizations. That translates to about 3,165 meals, which will benefit Salvation Army Cambridge Corp, an Agency Partner of GBFB.

The donated food was delivered to GBFB aboard the T's specially designed "The People Who Move Boston" bus, which features images of T workers that represent the thousands of MBTA employees who provide

transportation services to riders each day.

"This food drive represents the spirit of what we stand for as public servants," said MBTA Chief Operating Officer Ryan Coholan. "The Greater Boston Food Bank serves individuals who are our neighbors, friends, and family – many of whom rely on the MBTA for their transportation needs – and I'm proud to see such generosity from the entire MBTA workforce. Thank you to our System-wide Accessibility Deputy Director Jennifer Ross for the wonderful idea, our Customer and Employee Experi-

(MBTA FOOD DRIVE, Pg. 6)

BLO HOSTS OPERA GALA



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The SoWa Power Station was an elegant setting for the Boston Lyric Opera Gala. Shown inset, a model courtesy of Living Art/1031 Productions adds to the ambience of the evening. See more photos on Pages 8 and 9.

EDITORIAL

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Although a Harris poll a few years back revealed that Christmas is the favorite holiday of the year among all age groups of Americans, we think that Thanksgiving, our uniquely American holiday, has much more to recommend it than Christmas.

Thanksgiving has its roots with the Pilgrims, long before the concept of a United States had crossed anyone's mind. It always has been a secular celebration of peace and relaxation. It simply is a day to be grateful for what we have, however much that may be.

Thanksgiving is a day of no pressure. It is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances.

In a world where anxiety seems to follow us 24/7, Thanksgiving provides a welcome respite from the commercialism that accompanies Christmas and most of our other holidays. There is no obligation to spend a lot of money (that many of us do not have in the first place) to buy the perfect gift in order to be the perfect spouse, or the perfect parent, or the perfect friend.

Thanksgiving demands nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

When we think of the Christmas vs. Thanksgiving debate, we think it's analogous to the late, great comedian George Carlin's skit about football vs. baseball (check it out on YouTube if you've never seen it!). In Carlin's telling, football is the equivalent of war in which the quarterback, known as the "field general," throws "bullet passes" and "long bombs" in the face of an opponent's "blitz" to pierce the "enemy defense." By contrast, the aim of baseball is to "be safe at home."

Similarly, while Christmas epitomizes our hyper-capitalist, consumerist, and frenetic society, Thanksgiving is its complete antithesis.

Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II.

Whatever our personal trials and tribulations may be, Thanksgiving reminds us how remarkably fortunate we are to live in this country. And in a day and age when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off (other than perhaps watching a football game.)

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.



Our office will be closed **Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27th** and **Friday, Nov. 28th**. Find our next issue on the streets Nov. 28th

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: **STEPHEN QUIGLEY**
(STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

MARKETING DIRECTOR: **DEBRA DIGREGORIO**
(DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

REPORTER/EDITOR: **DAN MURPHY**
(DMRPH4@GMAIL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: **KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT**

Transparency still needed despite MWRA tabling board vote on CSO Plan

By Sun staff

Although the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) ultimately didn't vote on the recently proposed Combined Sewer Overflows plan at its Nov. 19 board meeting, transparency is still being urged in the decision-making process going forward to allow the public to participate in the process.

A few weeks ago, the MWRA and the cities of Cambridge and Somerville unveiled sewage control proposals that raised serious concerns regarding what public health and the Clean Water Act demand for the rivers. (CSOs are intentional outflows of sewage and rainwater dis-

charged into rivers and streams during very wet weather, but during events called Combined Sewer Overflows, the amount of water coming through the system is more than the pipes can handle, especially during heavy rainfall, sending both the stormwater and the sewage into rivers and streams.) The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), and the organization Save the Alewife Brook (StAB) all opposed the proposed plan, which was selected from more than 30 possible solutions presented at a online public meeting held on Sept. 25. The removal of

the plan from the agenda for the MWRA's Nov. 19 board meeting apparently came in response to the concerns raised.

Despite this seeming coup, MyRWA is still encouraging the public to contact

Secretary Rebecca Tepper of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the MWRA board "demanding the highest level of CSO controls for the Mystic and Alewife and a transparent public process for deciding the plan that best meets the needs of our communities."

Visit https://mysticriver.org/csos?blm_aid=1259544 for more information.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GARDEN CLUB OF THE BACK BAY HOLDING HOLIDAY WREATH SALE

The Garden Club of the Back Bay is holding its annual Holiday Wreath Sale.

Each holiday wreath is a one-of-a-kind creation, handcrafted with care by the dedicated volunteer members of the Garden Club of the Back Bay. When you place your order, you'll choose your wreath size, ribbon style, and decorative theme—ensuring your wreath is as special as the season itself.

Each custom-made wreath costs \$175 and comes fully decorated. The preorder window for ordering is Oct. 6 through Nov. 28, and pickup/delivery is slated for Dec. 2–4. Local delivery available in Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and the South End. Quantities are limited.

Your purchase directly supports over \$30,000 in annual tree care across the Back Bay—made possible entirely through the generosity of our wreath supporters.

Visit www.gardenclubbackbay.org/store to order.

WINTER FESTIVAL/HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT SoWa

Start the holiday season with art shopping at its best. This year, our much-loved Winter Festival begins at 11am on Black Friday, November 28th, Small Business Saturday, November 29th and SoWa Sunday, November 30th.

After that, First Friday Open Studios is December 5th, 5pm-9pm! And Winter Festival Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays continue through December 28th starting at 11am.

The spirit of the season is alive at 450 Harrison Ave, Boston.

For more info, visit sowaartists.com/events

MEMORIAL FOR MARY DEISSLER SET FOR NOV. 29 AT KINGS CHAPEL

A memorial service for Mary Deissler will be held on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 11 a.m. at Kings Chapel, with musical preludes beginning at 10:45 a.m. A livestream option will be available as well.

Also, Mary's family has begun a fund at the Boston Landmarks Orchestra to help support its

mission of bringing free classical music everyone, including programs such as Music and Memory. Visit <https://www.landmark-sorchestra.org/> to learn more.

NSCS JAZZ CONCERT SERIES RETURNS DEC. 4 TO NEWCASTLE SARANAC COMMUNITY STUDIO

The NSCS Jazz Concert Series returns Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Newcastle Saranac Community Studio, located at 607 Columbus Ave. in Roxbury, in the heart of Boston's historic Jazz Square. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the concert runs from 6:30–7:45 p.m.

This concert features Jesse Taitt, an exciting and dynamic pianist and composer. The evening promises a dynamic program of original compositions and reimagined jazz standards, delivered with Taitt's signature energy and artistry.

Admission is \$10 for students/seniors and \$20 for general admission. Fenway Forward residents attend for free. Light snacks and soft drinks will be provided, and the venue is fully



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY PAUL BOLOGNA

CHRISTMAS TREE (from Page 1)

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

Hundreds of community members, as well as local officials, along with Mayor Michelle Wu - the first Mayor of Boston to join the annual ceremony - were on hand for the event, which included an Indigenous tree smudging ritual prior to the cutting of the tree. The 45-foot white spruce was planted 40 years ago by the Feener family who dreamed that it would one day be the 'Tree for Boston.'

Nova Scotia gifts a tree to the City of Boston each year in recognition of the aid Boston sent north after the deadly Halifax Explosion of 1917. Caused by the collision of two wartime ships - one of which was carrying explosives - the blast killed about 2,000 people, wounded 9,000 others, and leveled a large section of the city.

This year's tree was scheduled to arrive by police escort at Boston Common at approximately

11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

Interim Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner Cathy Baker-Eclipse, Santa Claus, the Boston Park Rangers, and local school children will greet the tree at its final destination near the Boston Visitors Center at 139 Tremont St. The tree will be lit at approximately 7:55 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, as the City of Boston's official tree lighting is celebrated on Boston Common from 6 to 8 p.m. The ceremony will be broadcast live on WCVB Channel 5 starting at 7 p.m.

The annual tree lighting on Boston Common is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and title sponsor, The Province of Nova Scotia. The event is supported by presenting sponsor Amazon, signature sponsor Meet Boston, key sponsors Constellation Power and JetBlue, and media sponsors WCVB Channel 5 and The Boston Globe.

NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 2

accessible. For ticket information, visit: bit.ly/4iaZ6gS

AUTHOR LLYON WOO ON HAND DE. 10 AT UNION CHURCH IN SOUTH END

The South End Library Author Series welcomes Pulitzer Prize-winner Llyon Woo, who will discuss her book, 'Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom,' on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Union Church Connection Room, 485 Columbus

Ave., with its entrance off West Newton Street. (The free event will also be offered virtually.)

A Cambridge resident, Woo won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for biography for this rich narrative of William and Ellen Craft, an enslaved couple who in 1848 traveled in plain sight from Macon, Ga., to Philadelphia, Pa., with light-skinned Ellen disguised as a disabled white gentleman and William as her manservant. Continuing to Boston, the Crafts are kept safe by the people of Boston when men are sent to arrest them.

D-4 CRIME (from Page 1)

incidents.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were down nearly 25 percent as the number fell to 40 from 53 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 45.8 incidents.

Also, incidents of non-domestic aggravated assault were down almost 3 percent, with the number falling to 173 from 178 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 185.4 incidents.

Incidents of commercial burglary were up more than 14 percent as the number climbed to 48 from 42 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 65.2 incidents.

In contrast, incidents of residential burglary decreased nearly 36 percent, with the number dropping to 49 from 76 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 87.8 incidents.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle were down more than 9 percent as the number dropped to 377 from 416 last

year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 377.8 incidents.

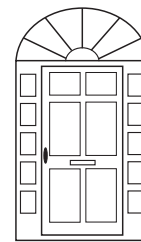
Conversely, other larcenies were up around 7 percent, with the number climbing to 1,955 from 1,821 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 1,570.2 incidents.

Incidents of auto theft were up approximately 20 percent as the number climbed to 149 from

124 last year. The five-year average for this category in the district is 136.8 incidents.

Citywide, Part One crime was down around 2 percent this year, with the number falling to 14,432 from 14,733 incidents last year. This year has seen a nearly 3-percent increase from the citywide five-year average of Part One crime of 14,057 incidents.

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An Appetite for Art

The Future of Art in Boston

By Arielle Appleby

Doors to the stately brick-walled SoWa Power Station opened to a maze of contemporary art booths on a nippy Thursday night in October. The smell of fresh paint lingered, ambient jazz cushioned a buzz of voices and laughter, while the signature sound of cocktail shakers prepped drinks for an edgy young crowd.

Many members of Boston's new generation say they are hungry for art, and perhaps for the first time, their appetite was satiated at the Affordable Art Fair held in October, a world-traveling exhibition that caps the price of creative work at \$10,000.

Boston's show featured 50 local artists, attracted 6,000 visitors, and generated approximately \$2 million in sales, according to Erin Schuppert, founder of the event.

"We are really excited about the positive energy and reception that we received in Boston," she said. "A lot of what I've been hearing is that people are excited to see contemporary art being presented in this way, and that Boston really needs this."

Founded in London in 1999, the art fair has

expanded to 15 cities worldwide. Organizers said the price cap for artwork makes it more accessible while supporting creative professionals. The Affordable Art Fair's goal is to open the door to contemporary art for the public. "The dead artists don't need the money," said Will Ramsey, the event's co-founder.

In a city where art is a pillar of its history, expressed in the iconic personal gallery of Isabella Stewart Gardner and the collections of early colonial art in the Museum of Fine Arts, many say the resurgence of artistic interest and the arrival of the Affordable Art Fair are key to preserving that



Visitors explore the galleries at SoWa Power Station.



legacy. The local art market differs from that of other American cities, according to Jameson Johnson, founder and editor of the Boston Art Review.

Unlike New York City's vibrant and energetic art scene, she said Boston lacks a robust network of commercial contemporary galleries operating on a national or inter-



national scale. "People aren't going out of their way to buy or indulge in art," Johnson said.

The city also lacks blue-chip galleries – prestigious, high-end spaces with exclusive access that creates mystery and intrigue –

which suppresses the artistic reputation of Boston. Johnson founded the Boston Art Review in 2017 while she was an undergraduate student at Northeast-

(ART IN BOSTON, Pg. 5)



Sen. Collins advocates for keeping Native American representation on the State Flag

Special to the Sun

With the Massachusetts Seal, Flag, and Motto Advisory Commission nearing its deadline to forward a final recommendation to the State House by December 15, 2025, Senator Nick Collins, who serves as co-chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, is raising urgent concerns about the process. The Commission, created by the Legislature to update the state's

historic emblems and which recently concluded its statewide public hearings, released three proposed designs for the seal, flag, and motto. Senator Collins is joining Native American residents who say they have been largely excluded from meaningful participation in the process and from the resulting proposals. In a letter submitted to the commission, Senator Collins stated his strong opposition to the most recent proposals. He argued that the attempt to

remove the representation of the Native American community as a central element of the Massachusetts seal and flag is particularly troubling. "The depth and significance of Native American history here in Massachusetts including as it relates to the early formations of our democracy cannot be white-washed away by this Commission. So, I urge you to reject the proposals put forth and maintain the presence of our Native American community front and center

on our flag and seal." Senator Collins also raised significant concerns about the proposed changes to the state motto, stating that it should remain in Latin. He emphasized that many of the most widely spoken languages in the Commonwealth are rooted in Latin, which he believes supports keeping the

motto in its current form for the sake of inclusivity. "Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, Cape Verdean Creole, and Haitian Creole are all derived from Latin. If one of the missions is to be inclusive, having the motto be spelled out in Latin does just that. An effort to turn (STATE FLAG , Pg. 6)

ART IN BOSTON (from Page 4)

ern University. She said the magazine works with writers from all stages, and their team of writers aspire to advance a world conversation about art. Many Boston organizations work to make art accessible, beyond the constraints of price. One of these organizations that was present at the event was Gateway Arts, a nonprofit that supports nearly 100 artists with disabilities, helping them develop a professional presence in the visual arts. "A disability should not be a barrier to the professional growth and opportunity for artists," said Gregory Liakos, director of Gateway Arts. "We believe that our artists are creating art that is as vibrant and creative, and as valuable as anything in contemporary art today." Liakos believes sustained momentum from events like the Affordable Art Fair could make art fairs a



staple in the city. "Boston's art community is growing, diversifying, becoming more contemporary," Liakos said, "and also more public."



Happy Thanksgiving!



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MBTA FOOD DRIVE

(from Page 1)

ence team for swiftly implementing the food drive, the many MBTA employees who filled our 'People Who Move Boston' bus with food items this Thanksgiving season, and to The Greater Boston Food Bank for the incredible work they do year-round to feed families throughout Massachusetts."

GBFB is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, serving 190 towns and distributing the equivalent of 90 million meals annually through a network of 600 food distribution partners and programs across Eastern Massachusetts. Nearly 2 million adults in Massachusetts – more than one in three residents – faced food insecurity in 2024, according to GBFB's annual Food Access Study conducted in collaboration with Mass General Brigham.

"What a wonderful and generous surprise this food donation is during what has been an incredibly difficult time for so many," said Cheryl Schondek, Chief Operating Officer at The Greater Boston Food Bank. "MBTA employees are truly humble public servants, and this thoughtful effort will go a long way towards helping to nourish our neigh-



GBFB, Salvation Army, and MBTA employees alongside the MBTA's "The People Who Move Boston" bus.

bors. What a great example of how we can come together as a community to make sure that everyone has access to healthy food."

The MBTA provided collection boxes at 17 locations throughout the transit system where employees gather and work. Facilities, garages, and

other locations included Charlestown, Everett Main Repair, Wellington, Orient Heights, Lynn, Arborway, Southamptton, Cabot, Braintree, Quincy, Riverside, Reservoir, JFK/UMass, High Street, and the State Transportation Building.

"For nearly nine years, I have focused on supporting riders with disabilities and older adults, which has given me a deep understanding of the diverse needs within our community," said MBTA System-wide Accessibility Deputy Director of Customer Engagement & Coordinated Mobility Jennifer Ross. "Like many, I was feeling powerless watching neighbors struggle, but I realized the best way to regain that power is through a focused act of kindness. Bringing this food drive forward was a tangible way to provide support. I am incredibly proud, yet unsurprised, that my dedicated colleagues across the MBTA —

who embody public service—immediately embraced this effort and made it a success. When we lend a helping hand, we empower both ourselves and our neighbors."

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X @MBTA, 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. For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit MBTA.com or follow @MBTA on social media.



MBTA's "The People Who Move Boston" bus transporting donated food to GBFB.

STATE FLAG (from Page 5)

motto into English only would exclude those who speak who do not speak or speak English as a second language to the aforementioned six languages."

Kathryn Akuahaha Watson, an Elder and tribal advisor for the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Tribe, expressed strong objections to what she describes as serious substantive and due process flaws in both the former special commission and the cur-

rent state advisory commission. She noted that the commission's original purpose was to address the harmful imagery of the raised arm with a sword on the crest and seal while retaining the figure of the "unknown Indian."

"Both the Special and Advisory Commissions have been given a duty, highly significant and impactful for hundreds of years to come and is a unique historical obligation," Watson said.

"The 400-year-old legal and historical Great Seal of Massachusetts is not a matter to be taken lightly, frivolously, whimsically, or capriciously, and its legal images and words must first be respected and preserved."

According to Watson, the mandate required evaluating only whether specific elements were harmful, offensive, or misunderstood, yet no discussion or vote ever established that the

Native figure met those criteria. She argued that its proposed removal is inconsistent with the commission's charge and unsupported by any formal finding. Watson also criticized the six week window between August and September, which coincided with Pow Wow season, saying it did not provide adequate time for Native input. She added that the 2024 study guiding the commission represented less than

one percent of Massachusetts residents and therefore could not be considered a reliable basis for such consequential decisions.

Residents interested in participating in the ongoing process are encouraged to submit written comments directly to the Mass Seal, Flag, and Motto Commission through its website.

Mayor Michelle Wu celebrates progress of Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub amid national SNAP emergency

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu gathered with partners of the Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub on Monday for a one-year progress update on the Hub's operations as partners work to address food insecurity exacerbated by the federal government shutdown and delay in SNAP benefits. In its first year of operations, the Food Access Hub served an average of 20,000 individuals every month, distributing almost 62,000 pounds of produce, on average, every single week. In one year, organizations collaborating through the Food Access Hub have distributed over 1,700,000 pounds of food to residents in need, which is the equivalent of almost 1.5 million meals made possible. The Food Access Hub also recovered 164,000 pounds of food that would have otherwise been wasted, rescuing the equivalent of 4 tractor trailers filled with food from being sent to landfills.

The Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub is a 27,000 square-foot warehouse space managed by the YMCA of Greater Boston, in partnership with 8 anti-poverty, food access, and food recovery organizations, with support from the City of Boston's Office of Food Justice and Mass General Brigham and serves as a regional center for recovering, storing, and distributing fresh and healthy food to address food insecurity across Boston. Located at 30 Northampton Street in Roxbury, the Hub supports the Wu Administration's strategy of unlocking larger-scale recovery from food manufacturing and distribution companies not previously possible without this scale of storage and collaboration, while simultaneously supporting expanded access to fresh produce for food distribution sites around the City.

"In the face of growing food insecurity, our city departments and community partners have worked tirelessly to protect our residents and coordinate all available resources," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am grateful for the many partners who have

gone above and beyond to collaborate. The Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub has helped expand our capacity to ensure every family in Boston has access to the nutritious food they need to be happy, healthy, and safe."

The emergency food system in Boston faced unprecedented demand during the pandemic and remains strained today. As food prices continue to soar, and Boston faces some of the highest grocery prices in the country, the need for storage — particularly cold storage — is critical. The Food Access Hub takes direct action on several recommendations from the Office of Food Justice's Food Recovery Assessment Report, released in November 2024, which identified an increased need for collaboration and cold storage infrastructure among organizations serving food insecure residents. In addition to supporting the Hub, the Office of Food Justice also awarded 12 grants, totaling \$500,000, to support neighborhood-based food distribution non-profits in procuring expanded cold storage for perishable food, including recovered and donated food.

The Food Access Hub partnership dovetails with action earlier this month by the City and the Boston Foundation to launch a Fund to keep food on the table for residents impacted by the federal uncertainty surrounding SNAP funding. Two weeks ago, the City and the Foundation seeded the effort with an initial \$1 million, and thanks to the Boston Foundation and generous partners, commitments to the Fund have grown to \$3.2 million. To-date, \$2 million has been distributed to the Greater Boston Food Bank and more than 60 food pantries and community-based organizations across Boston and the region. As part of this effort, the YMCA of Greater Boston has also received funds to work with a dozen partners to deliver more than 10,000 grocery gift cards to residents to purchase food at local stores.

"Mayor Wu's swift, compassionate leadership in this



Mayor Michelle Wu

moment of federal failure reflects the best of our communities values, and the Boston Foundation is proud to stand with her—and with our remarkable community of donors—to ensure our neighbors don't go hungry," said Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. "Together, we are rallying the generosity and commitment of this community to support the food banks, pantries, and front-line organizations working tirelessly to make sure every family in Greater Boston has fresh and healthy food."

According to the National Resource Defense Council, an estimated 130,000 tons of food are wasted in Boston each year from the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, comprising over 25 percent of all waste. In 2023, the City of Boston signed onto the Milan Food Policy Pact, the world's first international agreement focused on urban food policies, guiding cities toward sustainable, equitable food systems. In March 2024, Mayor Wu and Boston City Council allocated \$2 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act to launch the Food Access Hub — a pilot project based on Milan, Italy's innovative Food Waste Hubs — and support cold storage at additional sites across the City. Mass General Brigham later committed \$3 million in September 2025 to support the project over 5 years and will evaluate how the project impacts local health outcomes.

The YMCA of Greater Boston has partnered with 30 local food access, food recovery, and

food system organizations to develop a strategy and collaborative structures, leased the former Amazon warehouse at 30 Northampton Street with 5,500 square feet of refrigeration and freezer space, and begun working with partners to expand the Food Access Hub's food recovery and distribution operations.

"Recent events even further illustrate how critical it is that we have the most innovative, collaborative, efficient food system possible to meet the needs of our neighbors," said David Shapiro, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "This collaborative food hub is more than a storage and distribution center — it's a model for how we can remove barriers, share capacity, and collaborate, as individuals and organizations, to reduce waste, increase access to fresh and nutritious foods, and strengthen the resilience of communities across Boston. None of this happens alone. We are grateful to Mayor Wu, the City Council, Mass General Brigham, and our partners across the city who believe, as we do, that reliable access to healthy food is a fundamental part of community health and thriving."

"At Mass General Brigham, we believe that food is medicine and that investing in partnerships like the Food Access Hub strengthens the foundation for long-term health," said Dr. Elsie Taveras, Chief Community Health and Health Equity Officer at Mass General Brigham. "Our research shows that one in three Massachusetts residents faces food insecurity, underscoring how urgent this work is. By embedding these efforts directly in the neighborhoods we serve and collaborating with organizations that know these communities best, we can make

nutritious food more accessible, support better management of chronic disease, and move closer to creating a healthier Boston for everyone."

"Like many cities around the world, far too much food comes to Boston but does not get consumed, which is why 8 percent of all global carbon emissions come from food waste," said Brian Swett, Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston. "This Hub is a win-win for Boston, putting healthy and nutritious food on the tables of families in need while simultaneously reducing our City's carbon footprint."

"The model of the Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub has demonstrated the value of investment in a more resilient and collaborative food system that creates collaboration that builds on our strengths," said Aliza Wasserman, Director of the Mayor's Office of Food Justice. "We intend to continue our progress until we have drastically reduced the amount of fresh, healthy food that goes to waste while our neighbors struggle to afford nutritious, culturally relevant food."

"Our work to address skyrocketing food insecurity by maximizing scaled food recovery opportunities is drastically improved through this partnership" said Rachel Albert, Executive Director of Food Link. "The radical collaboration in every phase from visioning to operations will allow us to maximize this infrastructure investment."

The Greater Boston YMCA and the City of Boston are currently working with partners across the city to develop a network with innovative, grocery-style pilot distribution centers for fresh food. The City anticipates this phase of the pilot project to begin in early 2026.

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@thebostonsun.com & deb@thebostonsun.com

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA PRESENTS THE OPERA GALA



Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Elizabeth Wood with Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan .



Leonard and Maria Michaud.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Opera Gala is the Boston Lyric Opera's signature event of the year. Held at the SoWa Power

Station, guests came to support the organization that enriches Boston with performances accessible to all.



BLO Executive Director Bradley Vernatter, Susan Goldberg (WGBH journalist), and Jonathan Soroff.



Thomas and Sonja Hout.



Kyla de Asla and Jane Akin.



Alicia Cooney receives a Citation from Councilor Sharon Durkan on behalf of the Boston City Council with Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Russ Lopez, Jane Papa, and Andrew Sherman.



Neal Ferreira presents Vocalist Mary Kray with the Steven Shrestinian Award For Excellence.



Steven and Jane Akin receive a Citation from Councilor Sharon Durkan on behalf of the Boston City Council with Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Neil Ferreira presents Vocalist Mary Kray with the Steven Shrestinian Award For Excellence.

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA PRESENTS THE OPERA GALA



Alex and Rumena Senchak receive a Citation from Councilor Sharon Durkan on behalf of the Boston City Council with Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Maria Park and Dion Chay.



Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins, on behalf of the State Senate, presents a Citation to Jane and Steven Akin with Boston Lyric Opera Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Boston Lyric Opera Gala Host Neal Ferreira, Steve Maler, and TJ Liquori.



Jeff Nelsen with Morgan Beckford.



Boston Lyric Opera Gala Stage Director James Blaszkowski, Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen, and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins, on behalf of the State Senate, presents a Citation to Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockheart with Willa Bodman and Boston Lyric Opera Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



April and Geoff Stein.



Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins, on behalf of the State Senate, presents a Citation to Lee Pelton with Boston Lyric Opera Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Boston Lyric Opera Executive Director Bradley Vernatter and Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins.



Priscilla H Douglas and Melissa Gilliam.



Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan thank attendees for their support.



Co-chairs of The Opera Gala 2025 Alex Senchak and Alicia Cooney speak.



Betsy Ridge and Sandra Gilpatrick.

Coastal climate resiliency issues at the center of the Massachusetts MBC annual hearing

Special to the Sun

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay hosted their annual hearing at the Massachusetts State House on the condition of the 15 metropolitan beaches stewarded by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). DCR's new Commissioner, Nicole LaChapelle, testified on the agency's ongoing work to ensure the beaches are welcoming to all and strengthen the resiliency of DCR properties along the Boston coastline.

"Our coastline is vital to Massachusetts – it shapes our way of life, our economy, and who we are as a state," said LaChapelle. "Our first priority is to find out which beaches are at short-term risk from impacts of coastal storms and then work collaboratively towards a shared understanding of coastal resilience needs – rooted in equity, access, conservation, and suitability – that can be met efficiently and cost-effectively."

She also emphasized the importance of collaborating with multiple agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Boston, and the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). "These partnerships are vital because tackling extreme weather requires everyone at the table. We need a 'One Massachusetts' approach to protect our communities and our coastline because extreme weather does not recognize geographic boundaries," LaChapelle noted.

"In the past two years, we've

made significant strides in accomplishing the recommendations of the Breaking Barriers report and improving water quality at some of our priority beaches," remarked MBC Co-Chair, Senator Brendan Crighton. "That's been the result of these fantastic partnerships between the Commission, Save the Harbor, and DCR."

LaChapelle shared that over the past year, DCR has invested \$15 million in capital improvements to the Metro Beaches and is on track to invest an additional \$12 million in the current fiscal year. The past year's investments include improvements to bathhouses, the harborwalk, playgrounds, and utility services.

The Breaking Barriers report was published in 2023 by the MBC to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion on the Metropolitan Region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

"When the Metropolitan Beaches Commission was founded, we focused on the foundational aspects of ensuring our beaches were safe and accessible," said MBC Co-Chair Rep. Adrian Madaro. "Now, almost 20 years later, with the impacts of climate change affecting our coastline, the Metro Beaches Commission will continue to be crucial to ensuring healthy beach access for our communities."

"I look forward to collaborating with Commissioner LaChapelle on our ongoing efforts to enhance climate resiliency and accessibility on America's first public beach, so it may continue to serve as a premier destination for residents across the Com-

monwealth," said MBC Commissioner Rep. Jessica Giannino.

Save the Harbor then testified on climate preparedness in relation to the release of the ResilientCoasts report.

"Last year the Commissioner requested beach vulnerability assessments for our region's public beaches," noted Chris Mancini, Executive Director of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. "CZM came through with that information showing 16.6 miles—about 20 percent—of the MBC's publicly available beaches are vulnerable to short-term coastal erosion."

"We are also pleased to see the property buyback program featured in the ResilientCoasts Plan," Mancini added. "This demonstrates Massachusetts's forward-thinking regarding the rate of change on our shores."

MBC House Vice Chair Rep. Joan Meschino remarked, "This is a great moment for the Commission because [climate resiliency work] gives us a reason to invest in our city's beaches."

Staff from Save the Harbor highlighted the organization's collaboration with DCR to appropriate more funds from the Mass Ready Act towards climate adaptation and beach vulnerability assessments.

Between the Breaking Barriers report, the ResilientCoasts Plan, and the Mass Ready Act, Massachusetts is taking a multi-pronged approach to prepare itself for a changing climate.

In the meantime, people continued to flock to the beaches for rest and recreation, as evidenced by the continued success of the Better Beaches Program. This program aims to give decision-making power over community spaces directly to community members. This year, Save the Harbor and DCR distributed \$315,000 to 75 grantees to run 182 free cultural festivals, fitness and wellness events, beach parties, and more along DCR's beaches.

"Our public beaches belong to everyone, and together we can make sure that every visitor can see themselves reflected at each of our 15 metro beaches," stated LaChapelle.

About Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is the region's leading voice for clean water and continued public investment in Boston Harbor, the region's public beaches, and the Boston Harbor Islands. Since 1986, our mission has been to restore and protect Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay, and the

marine environment, and share them with the public for everyone to enjoy.

Save the Harbor is committed to making Boston Harbor, the Islands, our beaches, and our programs inclusive, equitable, diverse, and accessible to everyone and anyone. We provide free programs, events and create opportunities for people to experience Boston Harbor and our spectacular urban natural resources first-hand, with an emphasis on breaking down barriers of race, language, income and ability.

About the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees nearly half a million acres of land, making up one of the largest and most diverse state park systems in the country. Our work focuses on nurturing the vital connection between people and the environment by protecting, promoting, and enhancing our commonwealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr or contact us at mass.parks@mass.gov.

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Shown (left to right) are Metropolitan Beaches Commissioners Nicole McClain, Margaret LaForest, Rep. Adrian Madaro, Department Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Executive Director Chris Mancini, Rep. David Biele, Rep. Joan Meschino, and Commissioner Susan Hamilton.

FRESH & LOCAL

Better Sandwiches

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Now is the perfect time of year to share tips on making better sandwiches. 'Tis the season for traditional sandwiches made from holiday roasts. It's a great time to make whole loaf sandwiches that can be cut to serve a crowd, to pile a platter with an assortment of sandwiches, or spread a table with the ingredients for a build-it-yourself sandwich buffet.

What's more, our area is in the midst of a Florentine sandwich shop frenzy, with lines snaking out of All'Antico Vinaio on Boylston Street in Boston. Walking by it one day, Penny saw a short line, and we enjoyed our first taste. We both loved one of the combinations but decided to wait until the newness and craze had settled down before visiting again. More on what we learned from this exceptional sandwich menu later.

Pro Tips for Better Sandwiches

Last summer, the EatingWell website published a great article on making better sandwiches. In "Why Deli Sandwiches Taste Better Than Yours," they asked Paulie James, owner of the popular Los Angeles deli Uncle Paulie's, why his sandwiches were so acclaimed.

He advised sourcing the best-quality, freshest ingredients, including the right bread for the particular sandwich. He reminded us that "...no one wants to hyperextend their jaw taking a bite from a sandwich made with bread that was cut too thickly..." That bread should be stacked with freshly sliced meat, cut to a thickness that suits your recipe.

Next, while building your sandwich, pay attention to the ratio of the ingredients you're stacking. Too much of a wet ingredient can make for a soggy

result; too little can make your sandwich dry and unappealing. He suggests that with make-ahead sandwiches, you offer or pack your spreads and wet veggies on the side and add those when you're ready to eat. You also allow guests with aversions or allergies to avoid additions like mayo or nut spreads.

Finally, he recommends careful seasoning. By this, he means adding the little extras that will make a sandwich sing. "Using a squeeze of lemon, fresh herbs, or just good old salt and pepper (especially on ingredients like greens, tomatoes, radishes, avocados, etc.) can go a long way in transforming your sandwich from tasting homemade to deli level."

Make It Yourself

When you find a great sandwich out in the wild, or remember one from another place and time, consider what made it so



Here is Penny's homemade, open-faced version of our favorite All'Antico Vinaio's La Paradiso sandwich.

delicious, and create your own version. It might be the turkey sandwich your uncle made after Thanksgiving. What's different about the one you make today? Was it white bread, or did he

make small ones on leftover dinner rolls? Was the turkey sliced or shredded? What kind of stuffing did he add, and what added

(FRESH & LOCAL, Pg. 13)

Swearing-in ceremony for Mayor Wu and the Boston City Council set for January 5

Special to the Sun

The 2026 Boston Inauguration Committee today announced that the City of Boston will host Mayor Michelle Wu's swearing in ceremony for her second term as mayor on the first Monday of the year in accordance with the City Charter, on January 5th, 2026 at 10 a.m. The inauguration ceremony for Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston City Council will take place at the historic Boston Symphony Hall. Following the ceremony, Mayor Michelle Wu will host a series of events and activations throughout the week to highlight and connect our city. Julia Leja will serve as the Chair of the Inaugural Committee, and Jessicah Pierre, who will transition out of her role as the Chief Communications Officer for the City of Boston, will serve as the Creative Executive Producer spearheading the communications strategy and creative direction for the inauguration and community events that will take place across the city during the week of January 5th, 2026.

"Our mission is to make Boston a home for everyone and I'm

honored to continue to serve our communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Over the last four years of our administration, Jessicah's leadership, creativity, and dedication to our city have been essential to delivering results and connecting residents across our neighborhoods, creating empowering spaces and celebrating our communities. She has been an essential advisor and visionary stewarding our administration's most important initiatives and foundational responsibilities. I'm grateful that her leadership will help us kick off the new year with a focus on Boston's progress and determination to keep moving forward."

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to create spaces for residents to build community and engage in a shared vision for the City of Boston," said Jessicah Pierre. "Serving as the Chief Communications Officer for the city that raised me has been the honor of my lifetime and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to continue to serve in this new capacity."

Pierre has served as Chief Communications Officer for the City of Boston under the lead-

ership of Mayor Michelle Wu since December 2021, driving communications and messaging strategy for the City of Boston. In this role, she served as the lead communications director, spokesperson and advisor to the Mayor elevating the City of Boston's brand and the Wu administration's policy priorities to Boston residents, the media, funders, community organizations, and partners. She has also executed the City's biggest events such as Mayor Wu's annual State of the City addresses. In alignment with Mayor Wu's goals, Pierre has ensured the City of Boston's messaging is accessible to everyone. She has led outreach to multilingual media platforms and deepened relationships with community-based media. She has also spearheaded the City's partnerships with content creators to help reach residents where they are—executing on the City of Boston's first ever Content Creator Summit.

Media guidelines for Mayor Wu's swearing-in ceremony and additional details on the events and activations happening the week of the inauguration will be shared at a later date.

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PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The arch in the last clue is in front of the Mary Baker Eddy Library at 210 Massachusetts Avenue. It was designed by architect Chester Lindsay Churchill and completed in 1934.

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Masone Ft	Walsh, Christopher S	117 Saint Botolph St #1	\$2,750,000
Zeytoon Rt	125 Commonwealth Ave LLC	125 Commonwealth Ave	\$13,350,000
Kerins, Ian S	Lehan, Connor	157 Beacon St #5	\$1,537,500
Robinson, Frances L	Lee J Twomey RET	180 Beacon St #7G	\$2,630,000
Hld Entity I T	Steamboat Realty LLC	194 Beacon St #1	\$7,500,000
Hld Entity I T	Steamboat Realty LLC	194 Beacon St #2	\$7,500,000
Hld Entity I T	Steamboat Realty LLC	194 Beacon St #3	\$7,500,000
Hld Entity I T	Steamboat Realty LLC	194 Beacon St #4	\$7,500,000
Hld Entity I T	Steamboat Realty LLC	194 Beacon St #5	\$7,500,000
Mitkonis, Christina	Newbury 3d LLC	294 Newbury St #3D	\$1,025,000
Wang, James L	Li, Shengqi	319 Marlborough St #5	\$1,650,000
Casavant, Brad	Rimmeler Haskell Ft	382 Marlborough St #4	\$2,210,000
Ferraro, Steven	William J Cook RET	400 Stuart St #17C	\$1,725,000
Della Spring T2016	Oconnor Nt	63 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$2,800,000
Clancy, Ian	Levis, Brian M	69 Saint Botolph St #1	\$865,000
BEACON HILL			
Ridge, Betsy	Cornelia V H Potter T	145 Pinckney St #403	\$825,000
Ridge, Betsy	Cornelia V H Potter T	145 Pinckney St #405	\$1,800,000
Ridge, Betsy	Cornelia V H Potter T	145 Pinckney St #407	\$1,800,000
Olney 3rd, Richard	Hsiu Mei Chu Lt	151 Tremont St #23P	\$1,400,000
Garcia, Reina P	Berenson, John	170 Tremont St #1103	\$1,237,500
Emilia Rosti T	Yang, Lishang C	32 Hancock St #2B	\$1,530,000
Yang, Lishang C	Arapaho Showroom Ltd	32 Hancock St #2B	\$524,571
William N Carlile Iii T	667 Tremont Street LLC	667 Tremont St #2	\$1,425,000
Van Deventer, Paul	Checkelsky, Joseph G	1 Primus Ave #1-12	\$755,000
Flanders, Stephanie L	Teperdijan, Elvira	21 Beacon St #7E	\$715,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Corbaci, Deniz C	Carroll, Tara	21 Aberdeen St #3	\$475,000
Spivey, Kim M	Peterson, Brian	15 Follen St #1	\$1,740,000
Stephen P Jonas 2005 RET	Davitian, Bernard	1 Huntington Ave #1202	\$5,250,000
Nelson, Katherine	Carter, Alison R	114 Chandler St #G2	\$720,000
Horowitz, Leah	Oh, Hyesun H	15 Waltham St #B605	\$800,000
Collins, Sydney	2a4a Milford LLC	2-A Milford St #3	\$3,080,000
Farrokhi, Farid	Goodman, Jennifer C	251 Shawmut Ave #1	\$2,275,000
Lewis, Daniel R	Downes, James T	37 Union Park #2	\$1,275,000
Pcg 1993 Ft	Miller, Ellen E	6 Milford St #2	\$3,140,000
Rodriguez, Alejandro	73 Worcester Street LLC	73 Worcester St #4	\$875,000
Fauth, Jennifer	Deninno, Garrett	9-11 Worcester Sq #5	\$2,025,000
Wang, Lixia	Lozano, Aldo	108 Peterborough St #7F	\$750,000
Wu, Xueling	Xu, Hong	12 Stoneholm St #529	\$470,000
Hassan, Mohamed	Amr, Attawia M	56 Charlesgate E #149	\$475,000
Maliel, Jacob	Sandoval, Shane	82 Berkeley St #5	\$1,630,000
Lima, Bruna	Park, Min G	47-55 Lagrange St #7C	\$198,698

ADVENT SCHOOL’S FALL BENEFIT MAKES A SPLASH AT THE AQUARIUM



(Left to right): Stephania Garetto, Jose Fillat, Diane Zhang, Joshua Dilk, Ryan Kaufman, Erica Groetken.

Courtesy Photos

The Advent School community dove into a night of celebration and generosity at its 2025 Fall Benefit, held last Friday at the New England Aquarium. More than 200 guests — including current and past parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends — raised an impressive \$265,000 for the school.

Proceeds from the event will support Advent’s Teacher Championship Fund, Boston and Beyond field trip programming, Financial Aid resources, and other key initiatives. Together, these efforts strengthen the school’s mission to nurture bright minds, support exceptional teachers, and expand learning opportunities across Boston.

The evening was filled with joy, community spirit, and a touch of ocean flair. The Advent School extends heartfelt thanks to the Benefit Committee, event partners, and everyone who helped make the night a success!



(Left to right): John Lee, Sarah Lee, Katie Guarino, Artie Bonney.



(Left to right): Brian Langhorst, Margaret Langhorst, Taylor Kearns, Lauren DeMore.



More than 200 guests came out in support of The Advent School’s annual Fall Benefit.



(Left to right): Miranda Shao-Davis, Helen Towns, Kristen Brooks, Brian Amper, Coleen Lynch, Lisa Salerno.

FRESH & LOCAL (from Page 11)

moisture to the finished product? Despite the lovely chutney we have with our Thanksgiving dinner, we still have a small can of Ocean Spray jellied cranberry sauce for sandwich making.

Penny decided that instead of waiting in a long line, she would shop for great ingredients and

create her own version of our favorite All’Antico Vinaio’s La Paradiso sandwich. She decided to go open-faced as she does with many sandwiches. She spread thinly sliced focaccia with pistachio cream, sprinkled on pistachios, added stracciatella, and piled on pistachio mortadella

slices. She couldn’t resist ending with another smear of pistachio cream. Delish!

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



The parents of The Advent School’s Sixth Graders gather for their final Benefit before graduation!



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City, Northeastern announce new five-year pilot agreement and 10-year Institutional Master Plan, including historic commitments on housing and community benefits

Special to the Sun

The City of Boston and Northeastern University announced landmark agreements on an Institutional Master Plan (IMP) and Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT), which include unprecedented housing commitments and community benefits for the City and neighborhoods around Northeastern. The IMP includes approximately \$62.5 million in community benefits over the next 10 years, as well as \$16.5 million in community benefits and \$6 million in linkage associated with the Matthews Arena redevelopment. The new PILOT agreement includes a commitment of more than \$49 million in cash and community benefits over the next five years.

"Boston thrives when our leading institutions match their global reach with a deep commitment to our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Through these landmark agreements, Northeastern will deliver much-needed on-campus student housing, redevelop the historic Matthews Arena for its next chapter in this city of champions, invest tens of millions for affordable housing and community benefits, and respond to important neighborhood feedback with improvements to public access at Carter Playground and resources for planning and beautification in Nubian Square. Our five-year PILOT agreement sets a new standard for higher annual cash payments and community benefits at a time when Boston taxpayers need relief. This agreement is proof that even in an uncertain time, Boston can come together with our institutional partners to move the city forward."

"Northeastern's Institutional Master Plan represents a balanced approach that allows the University to invest in its institutional growth with a renewed commitment to housing stabilization for the surrounding communities," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "I look forward to working with Northeastern to realize the historic and transformative plans in this IMP."

The IMP enables eight new projects that the University plans to pursue over the next ten years, including on-campus student

housing, the long-planned redevelopment of Matthews Arena, and academic spaces. Significant investments in housing, jobs, and community development are associated with these proposed projects, each of which will go through the Article 80 development review process run by the City's Planning Department.

"The approval of the new Institutional Master Plan marks a significant milestone in the ongoing development of Northeastern University's Boston campus to support our academic mission," said Northeastern VP & Chief of Planning, Real Estate and Facilities Kathy Spiegelman. "We look forward to working closely with the City and our community partners as we bring this vision to life, ensuring that our physical campus continues to meet the evolving needs of our students, faculty, staff, and the broader Boston community."

Housing Commitments

Under the IMP, Northeastern will contribute \$10 million over the next ten years to invest in housing stabilization in the city. This money will be allocated to the City's Housing Stabilization Fund, Acquisition Opportunity Fund, or other City housing programs. In addition, in response to calls from the community Task Force that Northeastern reduce the demand for off-campus housing, which impacts surrounding neighborhoods, the University made specific commitments to bring down the off-campus student population. Building on the momentum of the new 1,215-bed residential tower at 840 Columbus, which broke ground in August, the University set a further target to deliver an additional 1,000 new student beds in the next five years. The City will continue monitoring students' off campus housing impact through the University Accountability Ordinance report. For the first time, should the University increase its off-campus student population, the City will require Northeastern to develop a mitigation plan and seek City approval through a public hearing at the BPDA Board.

"Reclaim Roxbury thanks both Mayor Wu's Administration and Northeastern Univer-

sity for negotiating a stronger and more equitable Institutional Master Plan that reflects our community's advocacy. We're proud that our collective efforts helped secure \$1,000,000 annually to support housing stabilization for Roxbury residents" said Reclaim Roxbury Executive Director and Northeastern Task Force Member, Armani White. "We also appreciate Northeastern's responsiveness to community and City calls for greater transparency, accountability, and partnership, resulting in stronger commitments to build more on-campus student housing, hire local and MWBE contractors, and expand community access to Carter Playground and the Field Bubble. These wins are proof that when residents, the City, and our institutions work together, we can achieve shared prosperity rooted in equity and respect."

Redeveloping Matthews Arena

The IMP also includes the long-planned redevelopment of Matthews Arena, which is set to begin immediately. Matthews was built in 1910, burned down in 1918, and was replaced with the current structure in 1920. Previously known as Boston Arena, this facility was the original home of the Boston Bruins and Celtics; hosted rallies for Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Howard Taft, and FDR; receptions for Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart; and the funeral of Boston sports icon Reggie Lewis. While the historic integrity of this structure was significantly impacted by renovations and additions in 1950, the redeveloped arena will preserve and incorporate the terracotta arches still remaining from the original 1920 arena. The new arena will include basketball and hockey facilities, general fitness and recreation space, and create new athletic and recreational opportunities for community members. The project will include public realm improvements including new sidewalks and landscaping on St. Botolph Street and Gainsborough Street.

The multi-purpose arena project will contribute \$5,025,800 in Linkage funding in support of affordable housing, and \$977,600 in Linkage funding in

support of workforce training. The project will fund an expansion of the pedestrian space on Gainsborough Street and accessibility improvements to a nearby MBTA station. The arena will also include bike parking, a bike-share station, and a \$130,200 contribution to the Boston Transportation Department in support of the bikeshare system and expanding access to alternative forms of transportation. The terra cotta arches marking the entrance of the existing building will be salvaged and reinstalled in the lobby of the new building and there will be exhibits on the history of the arena to preserve its importance to the University and City. The new arena will also be sustainably designed with the use of geothermal wells and solar panels.

IMP Community Benefits

Northeastern will extend a broad range of community benefits negotiated in its last IMP. The University remains committed to its partnership with the Boston Public Schools, including meeting the full demonstrated need of all admitted students and offering pre-college programming to ensure BPS students are college-ready. The City and the University will engage and collaborate on consolidating, adapting, and creating new innovative programs to ensure that what is offered remains effective and of value to the community.

The University is also renewing its commitment to the local and MWBE procurement goals from the 2013 IMP. These goals include 20% of all University discretionary spending to SLBEs and 12% to MWBEs as well as 30% of design and construction spending to MBEs and 10% to WBEs. Northeastern's combined FY24 supplier spend across all underrepresented businesses totaled approximately \$335.54 million. As part of this renewed commitment, the University has agreed to contract with a consultant to explore methods and tools to achieve these spending goals within this new IMP term.

Under the IMP, the Boston Parks Department and University will amend their decade-old license agreement Carter Playground in response to community feedback to expand the

evening and weekend hours of BPS and community use of the athletic fields and tennis courts, which are maintained by the University. The revised agreement will expand afterschool, evening, and weekend hours on the fields during all seasons, and under the winter Bubble, allowing more BPS teams and community clubs to make active use of these facilities. The agreement will also improve signage and scoreboard and restroom access to make the fields a better resource for all community members. Northeastern has also committed to annual reviews of this arrangement, and future negotiations after the completion of the new arena to further expand community access.

"Carter Playground is a public park and one of the busiest and most important athletic facilities in Boston," said Interim Parks Commissioner, Cathy Baker-Eclipse. "We are pleased that the updated agreement will give BPS student athletes and community groups even more access to these excellent facilities, during all seasons, and we thank Northeastern for their continued partnership."

Community Space

The University will operate a space with community focused programming on the ground floor of their new dorm building at 840 Columbus Avenue which is currently under construction at a cost of approximately \$20 million over the next ten years. Programming in this space will support educational access, jobs and workforce development, small business support, and building capacity for existing community organizations that address economic development.

Landmark PILOT Agreement

Beyond commitments included in the new IMP, Northeastern has agreed to a new five-year Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) agreement with the City, which includes cash and community benefits commitments of more than \$49 million over this period.

Northeastern has been a long-standing partner with the City of Boston through Boston's

Boston Harbor Now bolsters resilient, welcoming Harborwalk with first-ever placement of a new dedicated manager

Special to the Sun

Building on its nearly 10 years of work to create a vibrant, welcoming, and resilient Boston Harborwalk, Boston Harbor Now has appointed its first-ever Senior Manager for Harborwalk, Access and Resilience overseeing the 43-mile coastline public trail.

The recruitment of Jason Rundle, a coastal access and environmental advocate who also holds a graduate degree in public health, puts a dedicated lead and champion in charge of all aspects of implementing Boston Harbor Now's Harborwalk 2.0 vision for an improved, 43-mile public waterfront trail that is resilient to the impacts of rising sea levels and storm surges while remaining fully accessible and welcoming to all. Rundle will also focus on local and state policy and regulatory reforms in support of climate resilience projects along the waterfront, and build coalitions of partners to activate Boston's Harborwalk with new,

welcoming public programming and special events.

"We're excited to welcome Jason Rundle to our team, both as a talented and experienced open space advocate and environmental leader and as the embodiment of Boston Harbor Now's commitment to ensuring the Harborwalk remains one of our City's most vital and beloved public assets," said Boston Harbor Now Chief Impact Officer Linda Orel. "This role has been needed for a long time to help our waterfront live up to its full promise for everyone. We're truly grateful to the donors and partners who stepped up to make it happen. Their support means we can better care for the Boston Harborwalk and ensure more people experience the full benefits of living in a premier coastal city."

Having recently marked its 40th anniversary, the Boston Harborwalk is the result of decades of collaborative planning and development that have



Jason Rundle.

transformed the city's waterfront and ensured public access to it throughout East Boston, Charlestown, and from the North End through Wharf District, the South Boston Waterfront, into Dorchester. Boston Harbor Now has been a key leader in ensuring that new and redeveloped properties along Boston Harbor comply with Massachusetts Chapter 91, the state's Public Waterfront Act that protects the public's right to

access, use, and enjoy the waterfront. This work helps guarantee that these projects meet public access requirements and fulfill their commitments to provide facilities of public accommodation, including community meeting rooms, public restrooms, and other resources required as a condition of their development approvals.

Harborwalk 2.0, one of Boston Harbor Now's most important strategic priorities for the next five years and beyond, is a set of planning and design standards designed to ensure that the waterfront is:

- Accessible and welcoming to all residents and visitors, with well-marked connections to adjacent neighborhoods, robust water transportation options, and widespread access to the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park.

- Continuously improved, through physical improvements and nature-based approaches - like restored wetlands and liv-

ing shorelines - to buffer coastal neighborhoods from climate impacts, ensuring maximum resiliency to climate impacts.

- Enlivened year-round destination with programs and amenities that attract people from all over Boston and beyond.

- Rundle said: "The Harborwalk is a uniquely wonderful open space where people can connect to Boston's history, culture, and one another. I'm excited to collaborate with the more than 360 property owners and managers along the Harborwalk to make it even more of a place of joy and connection for every Bostonian and the millions of annual visitors."

Rundle earned both a bachelor's degree in health science and a master's degree in environmental health from Boston University. He previously led policy initiatives at Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, where he worked on the front lines of coastal access advocacy and environmental justice.

AGREEMENT (from Page 14)

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

The new agreement is the first written PILOT agreement between the City and Northeastern in decades, creating a pre-

dictable and reliable schedule of valuable partnership benefits for the City.

As part of the new five-year agreement, Northeastern will increase its annual PILOT cash payments to the City from \$1,900,000 in FY25 to \$2,600,000 in FY30. This represents a 36.8% percent increase over Northeastern's present-day PILOT contribution baseline which has not changed since 2020.

Investments in Nubian Square

Incremental cash contributions will support city-wide priorities, and include community

investments and planning in Nubian Square and Roxbury in response to the Wu administration's priority of investing in the vitality and opportunity in Nubian Square. Funds will support beautification and other community-led initiatives for the Square.

PILOT Community Benefits

Additionally, Northeastern commits to contributing annual PILOT community benefits valued at a total of \$37 million over the term of the 5-year agreement, benefits that will be reported annually to the City and subject to annual review to align with

city and community needs. This amount reflects Northeastern's commitment to sustain and grow its baseline community benefit commitments to support public education, housing, community access to public and institutional spaces, and a mutually agreed list of other shared City and institutional priorities. Community benefits eligible to be counted toward this goal are quantifi-

able, directly benefit City of Boston residents, are not included in other arrangements such as IMP and Article 80 agreements, and are not part of the core mission and services of the institution.

Northeastern and the City commit to renewing a mutually agreeable voluntary PILOT agreement before expiration of the proposed five-year agreement on June 30, 2030.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT
Plymouth Probate
And Family Court
52 Obrey Street
Suite 1130
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508)747-6204
ORDER FOR SERVICE

BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING
Docket No.

PL25D0881DR

Tiara Linay

Spurill

vs.

James Terrell

Spurill

Upon motion of plaintiff(s) for an order directing the defendant(s), to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with

Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom.
Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing
to the court that this is an
action for Divorce 1B.

Pursuant to Supplemental
Probate Court Rule 411,
an Automatic Restraining
Order has been entered
against the above named
parties. Defendant cannot
be found within the
Commonwealth and his/
her present whereabouts
are unknown. Personal

service on defendant is
therefore not practicable,
and defendant has not
voluntarily appeared in
his action.
It is Ordered that defendant is directed to appear,
plead, answer, or otherwise
move with respect to the
complaint herein on or
before the return day of
January 2, 2026.
If you fail to do so this
Court will proceed to a

hearing and adjudication
of this matter.
Date: October 23, 2025
Honorable Megan English-
Braga
Justice of Probate and
Family Court

11/20/25
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