

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## T's Green line service suspended until Dec. 22

By Kiran Rajamani

A major leg of the Green Line will be closed until Dec. 22 as MTBA crews replace century-old infrastructure. The work will halt service on major commuter rail lines between North Station and Babcock Street and Kenmore and Heath Street.

The closure will snarl daily travel from the North End during one of the busiest months of the year. The shutdown also includes the entire Green Line trunk under TD Garden, affecting thousands of riders who use the system to reach downtown offices, winter events and holiday gatherings.

Crews will replace a 130-year-old wooden catenary wire trough, part of the Green Line's

original tunnel system built in the late 1890s. The wooden structure, which houses the overhead wires that power trains, will be replaced with a modern metal system designed to improve reliability. Crews will also continue installing the Green Line Train Protection System, upgrade signals, conduct tunnel inspections and improve train stations.

### What stations are affected

During the closure: No Green Line service will run between North Station and Babcock Street on the B Branch, Kenmore on the C and D Branches, or Heath Street on the E Branch. Service north of North Station, including to Union Square and

(GREEN LINE CLOSURE, Pg. 3)

## ILLUMINATING THE COMM AVE MALL FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Immediately following the annual Holiday Tree Lighting on the Boston Common on Thursday, Dec. 4, Mayor Michelle Wu joined the FOPG and the Committee to Light Commonwealth Avenue Mall to turn on the holiday lights. Shown above, people attending enjoy the moment as the lights turn on. See more photos on Page 5.

## ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR BRINGS SANTA AND HOLIDAY CHEER TO SOUTH END

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Mayor Michelle Wu's Enchanted Trolley Tour stopped at Blackstone Square this past Saturday to spread holiday cheer and delight the children of the South End.

Shown left, Santa and Mrs. Claus with Leo Purvis.

Shown below, the crowd goes wild as Santa and Mrs. Claus take the stage.

See more photos on pages 8 and 9.



## E.R. Butler & Co. marks 25 years in Boston

By Dan Murphy

E.R. Butler & Co. is marking 25 years on Beacon Hill this month, since the manufacturer and seller of American hardware first opened its sole retail showroom at 38 Charles St. in late 2000.

The New York City-based company, which specializes in architectural hardware in early American, Federal and Georgian styles, was established in 1990, although its lineage can be traced back to the early 1800s, and includes E. Robinson &

Co., Wm. Hall & Co., the John Tein Co., L.S. Hall & Co., and Ostrander & Eshleman, Inc., among other historic firms.

In 2000, E.R. Butler & Co. opened its Beacon Hill showroom, which was designed by the company's owner, Rhett Butler, together with award-winning architect Gil Schafer, to resemble an Adam Federal-style home, with a 'floor-through' design that extends the length between Charles and River streets.

"Our Beacon Hill showroom is a wonderful, hidden, yet-known Boston gem that has been

pivotal to the company, because we serve as its only retail location," according to Nina Castellion, showroom manager, who is celebrating 24 years with the company this month.

The showroom's opening was timed to commemorate the company's 2000 merger with the W.C. Vaughan Co., a manufacturer of high-quality hardware since 1902.

E.R. Butler & Co. had previously served as the sole agent for the W.C. Vaughan Co., and

(E.R. BUTLER & CO., Pg. 4)



# EDITORIAL

## THE MAHA MOMS ARE RIGHT ABOUT TOXIC WASTE

As our regular readers know, we have been highly-critical of the so-called Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the least qualified and least knowledgeable person ever to lead the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), whose policies regarding vaccines and scientific research threaten the health of millions of Americans.

However, last week some prominent MAHA activists sent a petition to President Donald Trump urging him to fire Lee Zeldin, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, over a series of recent decisions by Zeldin that will pave the way for the use of proven harmful chemicals that ultimately will contaminate our air, our water, and our food.

"Rather than supporting your initiative to 'Make America Healthy Again', which millions of Republicans and independents alike embraced, Administrator Zeldin has prioritized the interests of chemical corporations over the well-being of American families and children," the petition reads.

Also supporting the petition is the group Moms Clean Air Force (MCAF), which seeks to protect children from the effects of air pollution and climate change.

"With every proposed deregulation, he (Zeldin) is allowing families and children to be exposed to more soot, more mercury, more methane, more toxic chemicals, more tailpipe pollution, and more climate pollution," said MCAF founder and director Dominique Browning. "Lee Zeldin must go."

And what have we heard from RFK Jr., the man who says he wants to make America healthy again and who himself was an environmental lawyer, had to say about Zeldin's kow-towing to the chemical industry?

Crickets -- and that says all we need to know about RFK's supposed commitment to Americans' health.

## HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Sunday evening, December 14, and will culminate on Monday, December 22.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM TO HOLD HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE ON DEC. 14

The Gibson House Museum, located at 137 Beacon St., will offer its Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Come see the Gibson House Museum dressed in its holiday best. Families and visitors of all ages will learn about 19th-century Christmas traditions, enjoy light refreshments, and find a warm welcome from the winter weather.

A raffle to receive a holiday wreath, courtesy of the Garden Club of the Back Bay, will also be drawn at the end of the event.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 per guest while children are admitted free of charge. Reservations are not necessary.

### BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS HOLIDAY PARTY SET FOR DEC. 16 AT KINGS BACK BAY

Join the Boston Ward 4 Dems on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Kings Back Bay (10 Scotia St.) to celebrate the holiday

season and the group's successes in 2025.

You can contribute to the party by bringing a baked dessert for the Annual BYODesert Competition, where once again, the tastiest baked item will be crowned; by contributing warm socks, gloves, mittens, and hats to the collection box; or by adding your favorite spices (unopened jars only please) to the group's collection for the Boston Public Library/Greater Boston Food Bank Spice Bank.

You can also donate to the part at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ward4holiday25>

## Minor modification to South End Urban Renewal Plan needed for Tremont Street project to move forward

By Dan Murphy

A minor modification to the South End Urban Renewal Plan must be approved before a proposed project at 436 Tremont St., also known as the Castle Square Apartments, can move forward, enabling the Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology to occupy ground-floor space there.

Franklin Cummings Tech is presently relocating to Nubian Square, but for many years, the nonprofit, private college, which offers technology and trades programs, has been headquartered at 41 Berkeley St., directly across the street from Castle Square

Apartments, said Jerry Chu, senior property manager at Castle Square Apartments, during a virtual meeting on the matter sponsored by the city's Planning Department on Monday, Dec. 8.

The college has subsequently collaborated with tenants on many occasions over the years, added Chu, and since Franklin Cummings Tech must vacate its South End site at the end of this year, ground-floor space at 436 Tremont St. is being repurposed to create Franklin Cummings Tech classroom space for HVAC installation and repair instruction.

This space is currently home to a daycare center, which opted

not to renew its lease about a year ago, said Chu, while another existing daycare center will continue to operate on site.

The project isn't expected to have any impact on tenants, who have been notified of and invited to participate in trade education that will soon be offered on site, said Chu.

Meanwhile, the proposed modification to the South End Urban Renewal Plan necessary for the project to move forward was scheduled to go before the Boston Planning & Development Agency board for a vote at its meeting on Dec. 11, which took place at City Hall, as well as virtually.

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

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# State House advances key legislation to fund arts and culture programs

By Arielle Appleby

Massachusetts, a state known for its historical significance, educational institutions, the Red Sox and coastal cuisine, also relies heavily on the economic fortune of its arts, tourism and cultural institutions.

“Public art is a means that connects our communities, elevates the lived experiences of those people in the communities, and helps make our spaces feel more welcoming and belonging,” said Emily Ruddock, executive director of the nonprofit MASSCreative, during an Oct. 21 hearing at the Massachusetts State House.

The Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development at the Massachusetts State House heard testimony on various pieces of legislation related to the future financing of arts and culture programs.

Two bills, the Creative Space Act and the PLACE Act, focus on a key element of supporting creative spaces and creators in Massachusetts. These acts were developed in 2022 by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council in collaboration with MASSCre-

ative.

The PLACE Act aims to establish a program for local art and community engagement over five years to support public art in Massachusetts, which is projected to generate \$2.5 million dollars. The Creative Space Act aspires to preserve and promote spaces in cities and towns for the creative economy.

“Sometimes we are two or three months into the year. Sometimes we’re one month into the year. Sometimes we’re seven months into the year before we know what our funding is going to be or receive a penny of it,” said Stacey David, executive director of the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau, in an interview.

David said the unreliable funding creates scheduling issues for advertising programs during busy seasons and important events.

Paul Niedzwiecki, CEO of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, believes setting Oct. 1 as a fixed annual distribution date provides a solution: “The timely release of these funds ensured that every dollar works harder, supporting small businesses, pre-



The Massachusetts State House.

serving jobs, and strengthening the communities that define the Massachusetts brand.”

But advocates say the funding issues are only part of it. They’re also fighting to preserve space for artistic pursuits despite legislative pushback.

“I think at a moment where there’s not only a loss of partnership, there’s actually outward aggression and hostility from the government in Washington,” said Massachusetts State Senator

Paul Mark in an interview last week, “I think it’s an important moment to be supportive of culture and arts.”

During the hearing, supporters pointed out the money is already there and distributing it faster would ultimately benefit the economy.

David added that the delays force them to scramble marketing campaigns at the last-minute for winter, even though Massachusetts is really more of a major

destination during fall. He said organizations are required to spend their budget by the end of the fiscal year.

“The biggest obstacle right now is that the federal government is actively reversing grants,” said Mark, “trying not just to cut off funding that is coming, but trying to claw back funding that has already come.”

Committee members appeared supportive of the legislation. “This is clearly a bill that we should be doing,” said state Sen. David Linsky during the hearing.

On Dec. 1, the bill advanced and was passed through the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which was the next step in the process en route to a vote on the floor.

According to a Boston Art Review article published on Oct. 25, if the bills are passed on the floor, they could be enacted as soon as the 2026 fiscal year.

*Arielle Appleby is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between The Boston Sun and the Boston University Journalism program.*

## Parks Department to host Winter Soccer Clinics

Special to the Sun

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Anthony Rougier Sports Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2026 Winter Soccer Clinic. This free clinic is designed to help athletes ages 9-17 maintain their skills during the offseason and get “a leg up” on the competition before spring soccer season.

Winter Soccer clinic takes place at Carter Playground Bubble, 709 Columbus Avenue. Professional coaches and trainers will guide participants through specialized drills and exercises tailored to their age groups. This

clinic caters to all skill levels, serving both junior players looking to improve their skills and senior athletes seeking advanced training.

Program Dates: Sundays, January 11 to February 8

Session 1: Ages 9 - 12

Times: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Session 2: Ages 13 - 17

Times: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Early registration is recommended as spots are limited. To register for the Winter Soccer Clinic, visit [boston.gov/parks-sports](http://boston.gov/parks-sports). For more information, contact [woodley.auguste@boston.gov](mailto:woodley.auguste@boston.gov) or call (617) 961-3084.

## GREEN LINE CLOSURE (from Page 3)

Medford/Tufts, will continue normally.

### Shuttle buses and alternatives

The MBTA will offer fare-free alternatives throughout the 15-day closure, including shuttle buses between Babcock Street and Back Bay on the B Branch, shuttle buses between Kenmore and Back Bay on the C and D Branches, and Route 39 buses to replace E Branch service between Heath Street and Back Bay. Accessible van service will run between Copley/Back Bay and North Station. Worcester Line commuter rail service between South Station, Back Bay and Lansdowne will operate fare-free, along with Route 57 buses.

Riders should plan for 20-30 minutes of extra travel time depending on their route, especially during peak hours or events at TD Garden.

Fitsum Ayalew, a Boston University, said he only recently learned about the closure. “I didn’t know that, and now that I know, it’s pretty annoying,” he said. “I take (the green line) every day, so it’s just frustrating.”

The closures arrive during the

holiday season, when restaurants, small businesses and community spaces in the North End experience some of their highest foot traffic. With North Station closed for Green Line boarding, the neighborhood expects reduced accessibility for visitors and residents alike.

Kevin Fleming, president of the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council, said the upcoming shutdown poses challenges for residents.

“It’s bad timing before Christmas. People have work holiday parties and gatherings of family and friends in the neighborhood over the next few weeks,” he said. “It would be better if this stoppage were in January.”

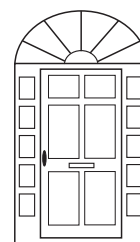
*Kiran Rajamani is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between The Boston Sun and the Boston University Journalism program.*

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# COMMON’S HOLIDAY TREE COMES ALIGHT

MAYOR’S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

A beloved Boston tradition, the 84th annual Holiday Tree Lighting took place Thursday, Dec. 4, on the Boston Common.

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 that city.



## E.R. BUTLER & Co. (from Page 1)

for many years, the two firms maintained a successful partnership, often collaborating both in manufacture and in the research of the designs, materials and methods of production, and patination.

Today, E.R. Butler’s American hardware collection in brass and crystal, which merges state-of-the-art technology with classic design is the cornerstone of its collection, while the Charles Street showroom also features collaborations with other like-minded designers, including Ted Muehling (which is only carried by 12 other vendors worldwide) and Gabriella Kiss, along with international manufacturers, such as Maison J. Vervloet-Faes of Brussels; J. L. Lobmeyr of Vienna, Austria, and the Porzellan Manufaktur Nymphen-



NINA CASTELLION (COURTESY OF E.R. BUTLER & CO.)

A look inside E.R. Butler & Co.’s showroom at 38 Charles St. on Beacon Hill.

burg of Munich, Germany.

Regarding the showroom and its unique product mix, which she describes as “jewelry for your

home and jewelry for yourself or loved ones,” Castellion wrote: “One of the best compliments we often get is, ‘your showroom is like a museum.’ Our reply is: ‘That it is, but it is better as you can take things home from us.’”

Meanwhile, E.R. Butler’s Charles Street showroom has become a destination for some travelers who make a point of returning to the store every time they visit Boston.

(Besides its Beacon Hill showroom, the company’s flagship location in the SoHo neighborhood of Manhattan is open by appointment and to the trade

only.)

“Our Beacon Hill showroom honors the company’s legacy and brings the designs back home to where many originated,” Castellion wrote. “With 25 years of clientele we have people who come to visit us when they are in town. Additionally, the overlapping theme of everything we make and

represent is design and craftsmanship, and thankfully, there are lots of people who understand the importance of that.”

E.R. Butler & Co.’s showroom is located at 38 Charles St. on Beacon Hill. For more information, visit [erbutler.com](http://erbutler.com), or call 617-722-0230 during regular business hours.



COURTESY OF E.R. BUTLER & CO.

‘Winters Beauty,’ a winter-themed tablescape created by Nina Castellion.



DON FREEMAN (COURTESY OF E.R. BUTLER & CO.)

Biedermeier candlesticks in oxidized bronze, designed by Ted Muehling, and made by E.R. Butler & Co.

## A Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 20 | 6:30 pm

Join us for a time of meditation, candlelight and music—featuring James Ruff, tenor and early Gaelic harp.



FIRST CHURCH BOSTON 66 Marlborough St. Boston, MA 02116 | [firstchurchboston.org](http://firstchurchboston.org)

Background photo: Noah Silliman on Unsplash | James Ruff photo: Pam Steel



COURTESY OF E.R. BUTLER & CO.

GI Series crystal knobs in a satin nickel finish from the E. & G.W. Robinson Collection for sale via E.R. Butler & Co.



ILLUMINATING THE COMM AVE MALL FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Mayor Michelle Wu at the podium.



A scene from the festive holiday event.



Pictured, left to right, are Liz Vizza and Liza Meyer, former and current presidents of the Friends of the Public Garden; Mayor Michelle Wu; Leslie Singleton Adam, chair of the Friends of the Public Garden board; and District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.

Mayor’s Office Photos by Mike Mejia

Immediately following the annual Holiday Tree Lighting on the Boston Common on Thursday, Dec. 4, Mayor Michelle Wu joined the Friends of the Public Garden and the Committee to Light Commonwealth Avenue Mall at the Alexander Hamilton statue to light up Commonwealth Avenue Mall for the holidays.

For the past 25 winters, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall’s trees have been illuminated with festive holiday lights. This seasonal display — inspired by the illuminated tree-lined boulevards of Paris — was the vision of the



Mayor Michelle Wu and Leslie Singleton Adam, chair of the Friends of the Public Garden board.

late Boston Parks Commissioner Justine Mee Liff and philanthropists Joan and Ted Bernard Cutler.

Their shared sense of civic pride inspired others in the neighborhood to join in supporting this effort, and under the auspices of the nonprofit Friends group, which works in partnership with the Boston Parks Department to care for and enhance the Public Garden, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and the Boston Common, the all-volunteer Committee to Light the Commonwealth Avenue Mall was established to help continue this beloved holiday tradition.

The lights on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall will be lit from Arlington Street to Charlesgate until late March.



The Boston Children’s Chorus performs.

CHRISTMAS WEEK  
TRASH + RECYCLING  
PICKUP SCHEDULE

Hey, Back Bay!

There will be **NO** waste collection  
on Christmas Day 12/25.  
Collection is **canceled**.

If your second collection day falls on a  
Thursday, then Monday 12/22 will be  
your **ONLY** waste collection day for the  
week of Christmas.



Visit [boston.gov/trash-day-app](https://boston.gov/trash-day-app) to  
view your trash schedule.



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TYPES NEEDED.**

Give now.





# Park Street School celebrates 25 years of opening its doors

Special to the Sun

It began as a wish in 1999. It grew into a desire.

And then, Park Street School (PSS) became a realized dream, backed by research. Long waiting lists at preschools in downtown Boston provided convincing evidence that there was demand for a high-quality preschool. A group of mothers met and dreamed, and Park Street Kids was born – officially incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the fall of 1999. With 36 Toddlers and Preschoolers enrolled and four faculty and staff, Park Street Kids opened its doors at One Park Street.

In the blink of an eye, again in recognition of the need expressed by community leaders and families, a decision was made in the fall of 2002 to offer an elementary school to the community. It would be called “Park Street School.” Finding 67 Brimmer Street in the flat of the Beacon Hill neighborhood was indeed a gift. For nearly 100 years, the building at 67 Brimmer Street was a landmark at the corner of Brimmer and Chestnut Streets. Home to schools and colleges since the Brimmer School left Beacon Hill, the building remained a historic symbol of Boston’s rich educational history. In September of 2005, Grades 1-3 and Kindergarten moved into their newly renovated building. In its twenty-fifth year, the school serves more than 225 students through sixth grade.

This December, Park Street School concludes its celebration of 25 remarkable years. And what a year it has been!

As the school prepares to

enter 2026, it looks back with immense gratitude for each family, student, friend, neighbor, and supporter. It looks back with tremendous thankfulness for its neighborhood and the larger community of downtown Boston. It looks back with appreciation for 25 years of dedicated educators who have sought to know and love each child, and who have inspired and guided PSS students toward a lifelong love of learning and care for others.

“This milestone is not just a celebration of our past,” shares Park Street School Founding Mom Laura Perkins, “but it is a testament to God’s faithful provision and the strong foundation we have built together. We marvel at both God’s faithfulness as well as the dedication of our families that have shaped our vibrant community.”

For over the past quarter-century, Park Street School has remained steadfast in its mission to serve and unite children from many backgrounds in the Boston area and to be a school that embodies the highest academic standards. Tracy Bradley, Park Street School’s founding Head of School, who remains at the school’s helm, remains grateful, as well, for the school’s commitment to its original mission and vision. “Our commitment to maintaining high academic standards and fostering the development of the whole child, while modeling empathy and care,” she says, “has allowed us to cultivate a diverse community where families and faculty come together to enjoy authentic friendship and support.”

Kicking off the year, Park Street School’s community enjoyed several events and new ventures including: the inauguration of its first Founders Day over the weekend of October 25, 2024, with a Convocation Chapel, an all-school Celebration on the Esplanade, the Introduction of the new PSS Mascot – the PSS Knight, and a Founder’s Day Dinner with Founding families, the Board of Trustees, and Board of Visitors. The school kicked off its Capital Campaign and saw two building projects near completion (which are never convenient for neighbors, but which also spark deeper gratitude for them!). They also enjoyed a spe-

cial Alumni Reception, Pancake Breakfast, and an extra-special 25th Anniversary Gala at the Boston Public Library in April.

As the school looks forward to the next milestone, it does so with excitement, purpose, and great enthusiasm. Armed with a new five-year strategic plan, and

with a newly enhanced Science Lab, a much-needed flexible, multi-purpose space for students for performing arts, after-school programming, and special events, and new rooms designed for individualized instruction,

(PARK STREET SCHOOL , Pg. 7)



Shown are scenes from the past 25 years at Park Street School.



COURTESY PHOTOS





SCENES FROM PARK STREET SCHOOL THROUGH THE YEARS

COURTESY PHOTOS



PARK STREET SCHOOL  
(from Page 6)

multi-media and learning labs, private meetings, and larger conference room spaces, the school is poised to enter 2026 ready for growth.

“We’ve been incredibly blessed,” concludes Tracy Bradley, “We are so thankful for our location here in Beacon Hill, and the many downtown neighborhoods we have the privilege to serve. We look forward to seeing how we can serve families in the coming 25 years. What a privilege it has been!”





MAYOR’S ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR STOPS AT BLACKSTONE SQUARE



The Animal Rescue League of Boston promoted some of the four-legged friends in their care waiting to find forever homes.



Cynthia White relaxed on a park bench with Sybil.

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one item to entire estates.



Shown above and below, the Enchanted Trolley made sure everyone got to meet Santa and Mrs Claus.



Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn.



Aura is happy to meet with Rudolph.



Joe and Louisa Lehrberd are excited to see Santa arrive.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with Amanda Toney and her kids Ariana Rivera and Anthony Graham.



Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.



Kids young and old wait for Santa and Mrs Claus to take the stage.



Santa and Mrs Claus arrive to excited fans.



MAYOR’S ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR STOPS AT BLACKSTONE SQUARE



Blackstone Square was filled with neighbors excited to celebrate the start of the Holiday Season with the arrival of the Enchanted Trolley Tour.jpg



The Holiday Tree helped illuminate Blackstone Square.



Boston City Hall Liason to the South End Sarah Shaw (right) and Ronnie Moore offer complimentary pizza from Nichols South End on Tremont Street.



Amy Sutherland and Chase Souders with the Animal Rescue League of Boston.



Union Park Neighborhood President Andrew Veneziano and President of the Blackstone Franklin Square Association Jonathan Alves are happy to declare that the South End is shining together’.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with Shauna Sullivan and Matthew Mues, Blackstone/Franklin Board member.



Neighbor Health CEO Jamie and Shirin Hazard, VP Jeff Schuster and Gloria Salazar, Emily Martin(Neighbor Health), BPD Captain Shawn Burns.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu mingles with constituents.



Madeline’s on Clarendon Street offered complimentary candy bags.



Melitza and Fraditza meet Santa and Mrs Claus.



Egypt Thomas gets some help from his mom Shaquana Peebles in hi-fiving Frosty The Snowman.



# Wu shares Boston's winter weather preparations

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and City officials has announced winter weather preparations currently underway in the City of Boston and resources available to residents and those who are most at risk, including older residents, those with disabilities, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

"As the winter season approaches, we are making preparations to ensure all Boston residents are connected to the resources they need all season long," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our City departments are working around the clock to keep our community members safe and warm as temperatures drop. In case of a winter weather emergency, I encourage all residents to stay alert, look after your neighbors, and reach out to the City for support."

The Public Works Department (PWD) currently has 37,000 tons of salt on hand to treat City streets. PWD has 175 pieces of in-house snow clearing equipment and has the capability to place over 800 additional pieces on the roads during large storms. As part of their neighborhood plowing operations during winter storms and to ensure the safety of riders following events, PWD allocates pieces of equipment to clear snow from Boston's dedicated bike lanes.

The Office of Emergency Preparedness monitors forecasts and maintains close communication with the National Weather Service. Emergency Preparedness also works across City departments and with external partners to ensure coordinated response plans are in place leading up to extreme weather events. Residents can sign up to receive AlertBoston, the City's emergency mass notification system, by phone, text, or email

for information during weather events, including information if a snow emergency/parking ban is declared. Safety tips on how to prepare for winter storms are on [boston.gov](http://boston.gov). AlertBoston notifications are available in 11 languages.

This year, A&M Home Services and Mass Trucking, two Boston-based, minority-owned businesses, will continue to assist the Public Works Department during snow and ice control operations, clearing City-owned stairways and footpaths. Both contracts are part of the City of Boston's Sheltered Market Program aimed at promoting equity in procurement.

## Rules on clearing snow:

- Property owners must fully clear snow, sleet, and ice from sidewalks and curb ramps abutting the property within three hours after the snowfall ends or three hours after sunrise if the snow ends overnight. Curb and pedestrian ramps to the street should be cleared fully and continually over the duration of the storm to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. If a storm will last over an extended period of time, property owners are asked to continually check ramps abutting their property for compliance.
- Removal of snow and ice from a private property to the street or sidewalk is prohibited.
- Failure to comply with the rules can result in fines issued by PWD's Code Enforcement Division. Fines associated with improper removal of snow can be found here.

## Parking during a declared snow emergency:

- If a snow emergency is declared, cars will be ticketed and towed if parked on a posted snow emergency artery.

- Space savers must be removed within 48 hours after a snow emergency has been lifted. Please note: space savers are NOT allowed in the South End and Bay Village.

- During declared snow emergencies, discounted parking is available at some parking lots and garages for Boston residents. A list of discounted parking garages can be found here.

## Trash and recycling:

- During severe snowstorms, recycling and trash collection may be canceled, but this is extremely rare. Most often, severe snowstorms can cause delays in service. Residents can download the free Trash Day App to view neighborhood recycling and trash schedules, locate a textile dropbox in their neighborhood, and to find out what items they can and can't recycle.
- Crews have a difficult time reaching trash barrels and recycling carts placed behind snowbanks. Residents and business owners are asked to clear an area at the curb for collection or place containers next to or in front of snowbanks.

## Caring for vulnerable populations:

- If you see a person experiencing homelessness or vulnerable individuals out in the cold who appear immobile, disoriented, or underdressed for the cold, please call 911.
- The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) utilizes a city-wide network of emergency shelters, outreach providers, city agencies, and first responders to assist those in need of shelter.
- Boston Public Health Commission's emergency shelters are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and when temperatures are below freezing (32 degrees),

amnesty is in place for those with nonviolent restrictions. Men can access shelter at the 112 Southamptton Street Shelter, and women should go to the Woods Mullen Shelter at 794 Massachusetts Ave. BPHC and the City also work closely with other shelter providers in the city to ensure that no client is without shelter, food, resources, and a warm respite from the cold.

- Any person needing shelter should access shelter directly, any time of day or night.

- During extreme cold weather, street outreach teams operate with extended hours and provide mobile outreach vans on the streets in the evening and throughout the day.

## Dress for the weather:

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent, and cover any exposed skin.
- Always wear a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.
- Dress children warmly and set reasonable time limits on outdoor play.
- Restrict infants' outdoor exposure when it is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Watch for signs of frostbite:

- Signs of frostbite include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately by calling 911.

## Watch for signs of hypothermia:

- These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If you or someone you know shows any of these symptoms, get in touch with a healthcare provider immediately. If symptoms are severe, call 911.

## Safety tips:

- If you are able, keep catch basins and fire hydrants clear of snow and debris. This will help prevent flooding and allow for access in the event of an emergency. For a map of catch basins and fire hydrants, visit here.
- Shoveling snow requires significant exertion; please be cautious and pay attention to symp-

toms. Stop if you feel chest pain, shortness of breath, lightheaded, nauseous/vomiting. Call 911 if those symptoms do not resolve quickly.

- Snow piles can make navigating intersections dangerous for walkers and drivers. Please take extra care when turning corners with snow piles that might limit visibility.

- Carbon monoxide poisoning is a concern during winter weather, especially with the use of generators. Residents should use their home heating systems wisely and safely, and have a working carbon monoxide detector on each floor of the home. Call 911 immediately if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Sitting in a car while idling can be deadly if the tailpipe is blocked. Do not let children sit in an idling car while shoveling. Clear any household exhaust pipes of snow.

- Have a contractor check the roof to see if snow needs to be removed. If roof snow can be removed from the ground with the use of a snow-rake, do so with caution. Avoid working from ladders and be mindful of slippery surfaces.

## Heating guidelines for property owners and tenants:

- In accordance with the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, the heating season officially begins on September 15 and runs through May 31. Property owners must heat habitable spaces at a minimum temperature of 68 degrees between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. and 64 degrees between 11:01 p.m. and 6:59 a.m.

- In cases of emergency, property owners are encouraged to keep a list of licensed contractors (electrician, plumber, and general contractor) on file. Tenants experiencing problems with their heating system should check the thermostat, ensure the dial is turned on, and report insufficient or no heat problems to the property owner or manager immediately.

- If your landlord or property manager is unresponsive, contact the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) at (617) 635-5300 to file a complaint, or call 311.

## Heating safety:

- Never try to heat your home

(WINTER WEATHER, Pg. 11)



# Happy Holidays!

*Before this paper goes in the bin, consider one of these quick holiday reuse ideas*

**Wrap Small Gifts:** Use pages for rustic, eco-friendly wrapping.

**Cushion Fragile Gifts:** Scrunch up pages to protect items during shipping.

**Streak-Free Cleaning:** Use crumpled paper to polish windows and mirrors.

**Fire Starters:** Twist sheets for a quick way to light a fireplace.



# Deborah Jones, Nursing Dean and Chief Integration Officer at University of Texas Medical Branch, appointed President at MGH Institute of Health Professions

Special to the Sun

Deborah J. Jones, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN, Chief Integration Officer, Senior Vice President and School of Nursing Dean for The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), has been appointed president of the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

"I am inspired by the IHP's mission to educate health professionals and researchers who will drive innovation in the delivery of equitable and interprofessional care," said Jones. "This mission aligns deeply with my own purpose, which is to bring together people, ideas, and systems for the greater good, because the greater good is stronger than any individual part. I am honored to be leading the MGH Institute of Health Professions into its next chapter."

Jones succeeds President Paula Milone-Nuzzo, who is retiring



Deborah J. Jones, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN

after eight years of distinguished leadership. The selection of Jones follows a national search that drew a notable pool of candidates from across the health professions and higher education landscape.

"Dr. Jones brings the right combination of experience, insight, and interpersonal skill to lead the Institute into its next

chapter," said MGH Institute Board Chair Jeanette Ives Erickson. "Her commitment to students, faculty, and staff—along with her strong sense of mission and collaborative approach—resonated across our community."

Dr. Jones joins the Institute—the only degree-granting entity within the Mass General Brigham healthcare system—with an extensive background in academic nursing leadership, interprofessional education, academic-clinical system collaboration, expanding educational programs, and strengthening clinical and community partnerships. Under Jones' leadership as nursing dean, Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates from UTMB achieved the highest NCLEX pass rates among large schools in Texas for four consecutive years, faculty retention exceeded 98%,

doctoral preparation of faculty increased from 57% to 98%, and the previously unranked research enterprise is now in the top 50% of U.S. nursing schools in NIH funding.

When Jones served as UTMB's Interim Provost for a year, she had leadership oversight and fiscal accountability for the entire academic enterprise, including more than 4,000 employees, 3,800 students, and a \$788 million budget. She advanced strategic initiatives that strengthened financial sustainability, expanded academic programs, improved clinical placement alignment, and enhanced faculty recruitment and retention.

"Dr. Jones has worked within complex health systems and is recognized for her ability to build constructive relationships across clinical, academic, and community organizations," said

David Brown, MD, President of the Academic Medical Centers for Mass General Brigham. "Her background positions her well to strengthen the Institute's role within Mass General Brigham and support its contributions to workforce development across the system."

Jones will become the MGH Institute's seventh president when she begins her role on January 18, 2026.

MGH Institute of Health Professions educates the next generation of healthcare leaders with a tested and proven approach—grounded in a commitment to health equity, defined by collaboration, and backed by Mass General Brigham. As the only degree-granting member of this world-class health system, the Institute provides students with access to clinical sites, research opportunities, and mentorship.

## WINTER WEATHER (from Page 10)

using a charcoal or gas grill, the kitchen stove, or other product not specifically designed as a heater. These can cause a fire or produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide very quickly.

- Have your heating system cleaned and checked annually.
- Make sure all vents are clear of snow or any other debris.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas produced whenever any fuel is burned. Common sources include oil or gas furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, stoves, and some space heaters. It has no smell, taste, or color. It is a poison and is deadly.

### Keep water flowing and pipes unfrozen during extreme cold:

- The Boston Water and Sewer Commission recommends homeowners locate a home's main water shut off valve, and learn how to use it. Should a frozen pipe burst, shutting the main valve quickly will minimize flooding and property damage.
- Homeowners should insulate pipes in unheated areas like basements, garages, and crawl spaces. Use inexpensive hardware store materials to prevent pipes from freezing and to keep warm water flowing.
- Circulate warm air around

pipes by keeping cabinet doors open. Circulate a trickle of tap water through pipes during extreme cold to help prevent them freezing up.

- Locate your water meter, protect it from drafts, and make sure basement doors and windows are shut tight.
- If pipes do freeze, slow thaw with a hair dryer. Never use an open flame to thaw pipes. If water is lost in all taps, call BWSC 24-hour Emergency Assistance Line at 617-989-7000.

### Emergency home repair resources:

- Income-eligible homeowners and Boston's residents over age 62 can receive assistance with winter emergencies and repairs, such as fixing storm damage, leaking roofs, or leaking/frozen pipes. Grant and loan funding is available. For assistance, residents should call the Mayor's hotline at 311 or the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663).
- In addition, the Mayor's Seniors Save program helps income eligible Bostonians over the age of 60 replace old, inefficient heating systems with a brand new heating system before a failure occurs during the cold winter months. Grant and loan funding is available. Eligible owners should also call 311

or the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663) to be connected with a City staffer to provide additional details.

### Tips for what to do before a power outage:

- Before a weather event prepare your home by:
  - Ensuring that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and have fresh batteries.
  - Consider purchasing a generator to provide power during an outage. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and learn how to use it safely before an outage.
  - Ensuring that you have sufficient heating fuel. Consider safe backup heating options such as fireplaces or woodstoves.
  - Have a landline phone with a corded receiver.
  - Fully charge your cell phone, laptop, and other electronic devices.
  - If you have a water supply (such as a well-water pump system) that could be affected by a power outage, fill your bathtub and spare containers with water. The water in the bathtub should be used for sanitation purposes only. You can pour a bucket of this water directly into the toilet bowl to flush it.
  - Keep your car's gas tank full. Pumps at gas stations may not

work during a power outage.

- Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings to keep food cold (but remember to reset them back to normal once power is restored).
- If you have life-support devices, such as home dialysis or breathing machines, or other medical equipment or supplies that depend on electricity:
  - Talk to your health care provider about how to use them during a power outage.
  - Contact your local electric company and equipment suppliers about your power needs. Some utility companies will put you on a "priority reconnection service" list.
  - Let the fire department know that you are dependent on life-support devices.
  - If you have medication that requires refrigeration, check with your pharmacist for guidance on proper storage during an extended outage.

### Tips for what to do during a power outage:

- Follow instructions from public safety officials.
- Call 911 to report emergencies including downed power lines.
- Call your utility company to report power outages and get restoration information.
- National Grid 800-322-

3223

- Eversource 1-800-592-2000
- Stay away from downed utility wires. Always assume a downed power line is live.
- If a traffic light is out, treat the intersection as a four-way stop.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy.
- Use generators and grills outside because their fumes contain carbon monoxide. Make sure your carbon monoxide detectors are working.
- If possible, use flashlights instead of candles. If you must use candles, place them in safe holders away from anything that could catch fire. Never leave a burning candle unattended. Never go to sleep with candles burning.
- Unplug sensitive electronics to avoid power surges when power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.
- Be a good neighbor. Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions, and those who may need additional assistance.



# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The arched window in the last clue is on the Johnson Building of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square. Today's answer is from a 1971 photo of the building under construction, with what was then known as the Hancock Tower rising in the background.

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](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Li, Terrence	Sparks, Jeffrey A	12 Braddock Park #2	\$900,000
Mcguinness, Shawn L	Spruill, Jeffrey A	16 Holyoke St #2	\$1,025,000
165 Wc T	165 Wc LLC	165 W Canton St	\$8,500,000
Prashant & Renae Murti RE	SI Group Properties LLC	20 Boylston St #3	\$825,000
Groen, Didi	Harake T	259 Marlborough St #5	\$2,150,000
430 Stuart Street 25d Nt	Ddyl LLC	430 Stuart St #25D	\$1,700,000
Murray, Robert S	Wright, Ekaterina O	461 Beacon St #1	\$915,000
Thomas Ft	Johnston, Anne E	90 Commonwealth Ave #18	\$2,225,006
BEACON HILL			
Nicolas, Karl	Thibodeau, Charlotte B	133 Myrtle St	\$3,400,000
Mercado, Rachel	Middlebrook Forbes Ft	2 Hawthorne Pl #16P	\$429,000
Paul, Ayan	2147 Ho Owner LLC	2149 Washington St #601	\$670,000
Koeppel, Seth	Santa Fe Styling Co Inc	528 Tremont St #1	\$950,000
59 Chestnut Street Rt	Rogers, Alex A	59 Chestnut St	\$8,600,000
Livingstone, Anne	667 Tremont Street LLC	677 Tremont St #3	\$1,040,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Christian Karabelas Irt	Ledermann Us Re Corp	10-14 Union Park St	\$5,000,000
Pellegrini, Mark	639 Salem End Road Rt	203 W Springfield St #1	\$1,550,000
Plourde, Matthew	Costantino, Gregory P	41 Worcester St #2	\$1,200,000
Charlesgate Prop LLC	Hall, James D	107 Jersey St #7-16	\$619,500
Aleo, Mark D	82 Jersey Street Rt	82 Jersey St #B1	\$490,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Toledano, Amy	Project 10 Rockland LLC	10 Rockland St #1	\$549,000
Sudarsanam, Yasaswini	Project 10 Rockland LLC	10 Rockland St #2	\$569,000
Ramea LLC	Bresnehan, John F	85 E India Row #25H	\$835,000
Snow Jr, Patrick R	Hanlon, Thomas J	120 Commercial St #3-3	\$700,000

## CITY PAWS

# Digital dog training resources

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We often remind our readers that the cold, wet weather of winter is a perfect time to reinforce your dog's training. Keep in mind that, just as you get tired when you have to adapt to a new tech tool, adjust to a significant phone update, or take classes to learn a new skill, your dog is ready to rest after a good training or retraining session. So, add some training to your schedule for the winter months.

Good training is ongoing  
Dog training is really a mat-



While your dogs can't be trained by watching a screen, you can learn how to train dogs with digital resources.

(CITY PAWS, Pg. 13)



# Frozen Fire Festival 2025 to debut in Boston at the Anchor



A firebreather wows spectators at a previous Frozen Fire Festival.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Welcoming global fire and cirque performers in a one-of-a-kind winter spectacle

Special to the Sun

Attendees will be immersed in mesmerizing fire and ice installations while taking in captivating fire and world-class cirque performances. This vibrant destination offers an unforgettable experience for the senses. Inspired by the region's creative culture and brought to life by The Anthem Group, for the first time in its home city, the Boston waterfront will transform into the internationally recognized, Frozen Fire Festival – a must-see experience for all ages.

The festivities kick off with the highly anticipated return of The Anchor's Annual Winter Garden

Tree Lighting on December 11th – a moment made even more meaningful after heartbreaking vandalism forced the cancellation of the 2024 display. This year, The Anchor team proudly relights its breathtaking grove of more than 175 illuminated trees, transforming the waterfront once again into a sparkling winter wonderland.

The festival will continue throughout the weekend from December 12th – December 14th with daily programming including cirque-style fire performances, live music, glowing fire installations, holiday market vendors

(FROZEN FIRE FESTIVAL, Pg. 14)

## CITY PAWS (from Page 12)

ter of training yourself, and that should also be ongoing. Early in our dog days, we relied on books and training classes. Today, you can keep up with the latest research and adapt to new methods from experts with digital resources. While some of these have fees, others are free online or at your local library. Penny has taken a recommended dog-training class on Kanoopy, thanks to the Boston Public Library. Even an old dog guardian can learn new ways.

We stay up to date with the latest training methods and ideas by subscribing to dog publications like the Whole Dog Journal. You can also follow Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) Emeritus, on “The Other End of the Leash.”

YouTube and other video services have many offerings for those who want to refine their skills so they can work with their pup in new ways. However, as with all Internet sources, you will find both good and bad options.

### Positive training is the key

Good training is about positive reinforcement, not punishment. That means no devices like choke chains or shock collars. If you Google, “Where are shock collars banned?” you will be shocked by the number of

places where they are illegal and stunned by some of the punishments for using them. For example, Wikipedia notes that, in the Netherlands, “Its use is subject to €20,000.00 fine and three-year prison sentence.”

We highly recommend following renowned trainer Victoria Stilwell and the resources she offers on her site [www.positively.com](http://www.positively.com). She has gathered a roster of writers on the topic and even has a “Find a Trainer” box on her site in case you need an in-person option after exploring the digital world.

### What Works for Dogs

As you think about how you will approach any training with your dog, try to imagine yourself in the dog's position and think about the ways you can refine what you are saying and make what you want to happen clearer to the dog. Ask yourself if you would be able to figure out what you are asking if you didn't speak the language?

Part of training yourself to train your dog is learning how dogs learn and what is important to them. Then be more specific and think about how a particular training method, reward, or hand signal will work for your dog.

Make a list of the behaviors you want to reinforce and those you would like to add to your dog's life. These will not be the

same for those living in a single-family home as for those living in a dog-friendly condo or apartment building. As one of our former editors likes to say,

“You Do You” and personalize your training to your needs and those of the unique creature on the other end of your leash.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

The weather outside is frightful...

.But your budget can still be delightful!

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# MBTA celebrates 25th annual Fill-A-Bus with Gifts program

Special to the Sun

The MBTA and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) celebrated the 25th Annual Fill-A-Bus with Gifts program. Employees from both state transportation agencies donated a total of 2,746 toys this year, which will be donated to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home.

"Fill-A-Bus is entirely employee-led and represents the spirit of what we stand for as public servants, making people's lives better," said Interim Secretary and MBTA General Manager

Phillip Eng. "I want to thank the MBTA employees who organized this program, which is in its 25th year, as well as my colleagues at the T and MassDOT who showed generosity by donating gifts that filled our bus. I'm also grateful to our partners at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home for distributing these gifts to families every year."

"The MBTA's Fill-A-Bus with Gifts event is a special chance for employees to give back to the communities we work with year-round. Each holiday season, the Fill-A-Bus visits MBTA garages,



COURTESY PHOTOS

MBTA Graphics Manager David Wood (front left), who has organized the Fill-A-Bus with Gifts event for the eighth year, kneels with MBTA Bus Operator Dionna Johnson (front right), who drove the holiday bus route for the first time this year. They stand with representatives from Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home.



Donated toys cover the inside of the MBTA Fill-A-Bus.

RMV locations, MassDOT offices, and other sites to engage as many people as possible," said MBTA Graphics Manager David Wood, who has organized the Fill-A-Bus with Gifts event for the past eight years. "Each year, I'm proud to see so many of my transportation colleagues get involved. The generosity shown by my peers brings a lot of joy to countless families during the holidays."

This year, MBTA and MassDOT employees donated a record-breaking 2,746 gifts (up from 2,651 in 2024) to their Fill-A-Bus partners at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC), the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home.

"Last year, MSPCC provided gifts to almost 1,000 children," said MSPCC Director of Development Melanie S. Lima. "The

presents donated through the MBTA and MassDOT Fill-A-Bus program are far more than toys—they offer moments of joy, and help children feel valued and included. Because most MSPCC families live in poverty, parents often tell us they want to create a happy holiday for their children, but financial strain makes that difficult and stressful. The generosity of the Fill-A-Bus programs helps MSPCC ease some of that burden and ensure that hundreds of children experience a brighter, more joyful holiday season."

"The Yawkey Club of Roxbury is proud to partner with the MBTA once again for the Fill-A-Bus toy drive," said Corey Manning, Executive Director, Yawkey Boys & Girls Club of Roxbury. "As we celebrate our 115th anniversary, this effort reflects exactly who we are at our core, a community that shows up for

young people and families. The MBTA's support helps us bring joy to hundreds of children, ages 6 to 12, during the holidays, and we are grateful to stand together in service of our neighborhoods as we continue saving the world one smile at a time."

"Partnering with the MBTA and MassDOT via the Fill-a-Bus initiative, has helped us bring a little joy, laughter, and fun to many of our families. What seems like a simple toy, means so much more to our families—it represents a moment of normalcy, happiness, and hope," said Heading Home Chief Development Officer Karen Grant. "Nothing beats seeing the smiles on the faces of the kids, adults, and volunteers when the toys are dropped off at our shelters. Thank you to the MBTA and MassDOT and everyone who makes this possible."

## OBITUARIES

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## FROZEN FIRE FESTIVAL (from Page 13)

and make-your-own s'mores and hot chocolate garden. The celebration will also feature the lighting of The Anchor's menorah lighting on December 14th, creating a warm and inclusive holiday atmosphere for the entire community and concluding the weekend event.

This year's festival will host a lineup of national and international performers, including headliner Orissa Kelly from London,

blended with regional and local Boston talent, delivering a high-energy roster across all three days.

Patrons will stay warm with

heated glowing igloos, outdoor heat lamps, fire pits, cozy fleece blankets and a myriad of warm, mulled and hot beverages. Guests are invited to explore several hospitality outlets, including the S'mores and Hot Chocolate Garden, The Anchor Kitchen and The Polar Bar, featuring a curated collection of local and international brews alongside a robust wine and specialty drink selection.

Anthem President Chris Sinclair shares, "We are thrilled to bring this beloved festival to The Anchor and showcase Boston as a vibrant winter destination. It brings together holiday shop-

ping, unique all-ages activities and outstanding food and beverage. Yet the most special aspect is the performances - Boston has never seen anything like this event before."

The Frozen Fire Festival will also feature curling rinks, providing all-ages fun and interactive play along the waterfront. Festival specials, preferred seating, and VIP Igloo Packages are available now.

Full details are available on Facebook and Instagram at @FrozenFireFestival and at www.frozenfirefestival.com.



# Boston Public Art Triennial concludes inaugural exhibition, Triennial 2025: The Exchange, marking a new era for public art in Boston

Special to the Sun

On October 31, 2025, the Boston Public Art Triennial (The Triennial) officially concluded its inaugural citywide exhibition, Triennial 2025: The Exchange. Presented in partnership with the City of Boston, Triennial 2025 marked a triumphant success in transforming Boston's historic public spaces into vibrant venues of creativity, collaboration and civic dialogue.

Triennial 2025 achieved a first-of-its-kind exhibition between May 22 and October 31, bringing 24 large-scale artworks to outdoor and publicly accessible sites across eight Boston neighborhoods, including East Boston, Charlestown, Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, Downtown, Back Bay and Fenway, as well as Cambridge. Focusing on neighborhoods and populations not typically included in conversations about contemporary art, The Triennial, the 501(c)(3) organization behind the exhibition, overcame narrative and logistical challenges by tapping into the City of Boston's relationships with community liaisons and building over 75 unique partnerships with cultural and community organizations that would make their facilities, resources and representatives available for public programming.

Over six months, Triennial 2025 connected artists, communities, and partners across sectors, all with a shared mission to build a more vibrant, bold and equitable city through public art that opens minds, conversations, and spaces. Over six months, the \$8 million initiative reached over 2.7 million views from people of all backgrounds and ages, ranging from local Bostonians to tourists visiting from far-flung locations. The effort also garnered local, national and international attention from leading cultural keepers, critics and media, reinforcing Boston's growing reputation as a contemporary art city and expanding its status as a global leader in cultural innovation.

"With Triennial 2025, we set out to expand what public art can mean for Boston. With the City of Boston, phenomenal artists, dedicated community leaders and extraordinary partners, we did just that—we created something as dynamic

as the city itself and truly reflective of Boston's cultural legacy and its diverse voices," said Kate Gilbert, Executive Director of the Boston Public Art Triennial. "Triennial 2025 showed that Boston is ready to embrace big ideas and lead nationally in public art. We're proud to carry the momentum into the next phase of building a vibrant, open and equitable arts landscape."

Co-curated by Artistic Director Pedro Alonzo and Curator Tess Lukey, The Exchange invited dialogue around pressing global and local issues through themes of Indigeneity, climate and biodiversity, health and recovery and shared humanity. The Exchange brought the work of 19 artists to Boston, spanning 16 new commissions and five temporary and permanent projects throughout Boston art museums and institutions, including the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, MassArt Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) and MIT List Visual Arts Center.

The Exchange, featured renowned global, national and local artists including Beatriz Cortez, Julian Charrière, Adela Goldbard, Nicholas Galanin, Stephen Hamilton, Ekene Ijeoma, Laura Lima, Cannupa Hanska Luger, Patrick Martinez, Alan Michelson, New Red Order, Chiharu Shiota, Gabriel Sosa, Swoon, Lan Tuazon and Yu-Wen Wu. Three additional local artist contributions were made possible by the Triennial's Public Accelerator Program; cultivated by Assistant Curator Jasper Sanchez, they included Andy Li, Alison Croney Moses and Evelyn Rydz, whose works transformed a National Park site in Charlestown. Croney Moses was subsequently named an ICA 2025 Foster Prize winner, underscoring the Accelerator's role in propelling Boston's homegrown talent.

"The Boston Public Art Triennial has showcased the very best of what our city's public spaces represent—joy, community, and dialogue," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The citywide artscape was a vibrant and bold opportunity for our communities to gather in neighborhoods across the city to share in reflecting on these incredible pieces. From historic public buildings like the Boston Public Library and City Hall to our parks, and waterfront sites,

Triennial 2025 turned Boston into a living gallery that reflects our city's rich, layered history and cultural legacy."

The closing week was marked by Making Public: Triennial 2025 Convening, a day-long gathering on October 24 at Roxbury Community College (RCC), supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts with support from the Barr Foundation, that brought together artists, curators, community leaders and cultural practitioners for a robust exploration of the role of public art in shaping a more open and equitable city. Over 200 attendees joined the ongoing conversation about how art shapes shared space and celebrated the long-term installation of Ekene Ijeoma's project, Stone Circle Bench, which will remain on view at RCC through 2026.

At the convening, Gilbert announced the Triennial will continue its commitment to supporting contemporary artists and fostering community engagement in Boston's throughout 2026 and 2027 as it begins preparations for its next citywide exhibition in 2028. The Triennial will commission new public art projects across neighborhoods; host interdisciplinary programs focused on art, civic engagement and more; and fund the annual Public Art Accelerator, a skill-building and grant-funding program supporting early-to-mid-career Boston-based artists in creating temporary public projects.

"The Boston Public Art Triennial has exemplified how collaboration and access can transform cultural participation," said Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council. "By centering artists and community voices, the Triennial is not only redefining how Boston engages with contemporary art but also setting a powerful example of how investing in public art can shape more connected, creative and inclusive communities across the Commonwealth."

Developed in partnership with more than 75 organizations, including the Boston Public Library, Samuels & Associates/Lyrik, and local colleges and universities including Boston University College of Fine Arts and Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Northeastern University Center for the Arts, Roxbury Community College, Tufts Uni-

versity Art Galleries and School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts, and University of Massachusetts Boston Art on the Point, the exhibition demonstrated what becomes possible when collaboration drives creative practice.

"Boston has become a public arts city and the Triennial allowed us to showcase that across a city-wide canvas. The artists engaged on this project, and the array of neighborhoods where the installations took place, are very representative of Boston as a whole and the creativity, vibrancy and diversity that define our destination. We are already excited for the next iteration in 2028," said Martha Sheridan, President and CEO of Meet Boston.

The Exchange's artist-driven, expert-supported model prioritized community collaboration within each project's neighborhood. Highlights included Gabriel Sosa's work *Ñ Press*, an interactive local print studio that offered 58 printing workshops in partnership with Maverick Landing Community Services, and Laura Lima's work *Indistinct Form* (Forma Indistinta) a collaboration with Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center, which featured a one-time special performance of Haydn's "The Lark" with a string quartet from Boston Symphony Orchestra.

"When artists and communities work side by side, art becomes a catalyst for connection, reflection, and shared pride," said Rita Lara, Executive Director of Maverick Landing Community Services. "The process of working with Gabriel and bringing the Triennial to MLCS has reaffirmed how important creative spaces are and how vital opportunities for shared experiences are to our neighborhood in East Boston."

The exhibition projects were complemented by 115 free public programs, including panels, workshops, performances, and participatory experiences where residents and visitors engaged with public art.

Programmatic highlights throughout The Exchange included Adela Goldbard's *Invadieron por mar*, *respondemos con fuego*. Un presagio., a fiery pyrotechnic performance that drew over 1,000 spectators to City Hall Plaza to witness the ceremonial burning of a 17th-century galleon replica crafted from invasive reeds, and

The Urge 2 Merge with New Red Order, an innovative live event weaving together performance, public assembly, academia, music and film festival invited 750 guests into an immersive six-hour performance of "discursive delirium and historical hallucinations" on the unruly legacy of Thomas Morton, inspired by New Red Order's project *Material Monument to Thomas Morton* (Playing Indian).

"From bringing stunning performances with Castle of Our Skin to working with youth in East Boston at Zumix, partnerships have been the living framework of this Triennial," said Marguerite Wynter, Triennial Director of Partnerships and Engagement. "Working closely with our community collaborators has allowed us to listen deeply and act responsively. We've learned a great deal from these exchanges—lessons we hope to carry forward, evolving them into future collaborations that honor the city's multiplicity and collective creativity."

The Boston Public Art Triennial 2025 is powered by \$8M in contributions from supporters, including founding donors Alno-ba / Lewis Family Foundation, additional funders Barbara and Amos Hostetter, Joyce Linde and the Linde Family Foundation, and major funders such as the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Barr Foundation and Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation. The event also received significant backing from organizations such as The Boston Globe, Samuels & Associates, The Boston Foundation, Wagner Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, VIA Art Fund, Meet Boston, New England Foundation for the Arts Public Art Program with funding from Barr Foundation, The 'Quin Impact Fund, Girlfriend Fund, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and more. Individuals and families such as Lisa Tung & Spencer Glendon, Meg & Tomás Bergstrand, Amy & David Abrams, Faith & Glenn Parker and Dwight & Kirsten Poler added to this collective generosity, ensuring the success of an inclusive and transformative public art experience throughout Boston.

To learn more about Triennial's continued work visit [thetriennial.org](http://thetriennial.org).



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