

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

# THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## City grants liquor license upgrade to Trident bookstore

By Dan Murphy

Patrons of the Trident Booksellers & Cafe on Newbury Street in the Back Bay will soon be able to indulge in stronger libations, after the Boston Licensing Board approved a proposed upgrade of the longstanding, independent business's previous beer, wine, and cordials license to an all-alcohol license on Feb. 12.

The upgraded liquor license would allow Trident at 338 Newbury St. to offer specialty cocktails in its new private event space and during regularly scheduled public and private events, as well as to offer Bloody Marys during brunch, said Michael Lemanski, general manager, during the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Licensing and Building Use

Committee's monthly meeting held virtually on Jan. 5.

(Trident, which serves breakfast all day, already has a counter space, with a few beers on tap, but Lemanski said this space would remain devoted mainly to tea and espresso drinks.)

Trident intends to keep its current daily hours of 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., said Lemanski.

Of receiving the full liquor-license upgrade, Kimberly Flynn, director at Trident Booksellers & Cafe, wrote in an email: "This is a big step for us, and we really appreciate the opportunity the City of Boston is giving us with an upgrade to an all-alcohol license. It will help us keep the Trident vibrant, support our community events, and continue creating the kind of welcoming gathering space Boston really needs."

Added Flynn: "We'll have simple, well-made classic cocktails, featured brunch cocktails, plus some cheeky literary-inspired drinks that feel very Trident. We're excited because it opens the door to some really fun additions to our menu and will enhance the overall guest experience."

(LIQUOR LIC., Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF IMAGINE

A peek inside 'Discovering King Tut's Tomb' exhibition, which opens Feb. 21 at Saunders Castle at Park Plaza.

## King Tut exhibit opens Saturday at Saunders Castle at Park Plaza

Special to Sun

'Discovering King Tut's Tomb' - a new exhibition recounting the 1922 discovery of the Boy King's tomb through the eyes of famed Egyptologist Howard Carter that features handcrafted, museum-quality replicas created by Egyptian artisans, and animated storytelling - opens to the public on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Saunders Castle at Park Plaza, located at 130 Columbus Ave.

The exhibition will offer guests the opportunity to visit the replicated chambers of Tutankhamun's tomb, including the

(KING TUT EXHIBIT, Pg. 4)

## Councilor Flynn files four pieces of legislation that aim to improve pedestrian safety

By Dan Murphy

District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn filed four pieces of legislation last week that intend to improve pedestrian safety in Boston.

Councilor Flynn's filings included an amended ordinance to effectively ban mopeds and e-bikes from third-party food delivery services, as well as a new ordinance regulating all e-bikes in the city. He also re-filed a hearing order to advocate for traffic-calming infrastructure on main streets and in areas of high foot traffic. Additionally, he joined Councilor Enrique Pepen on a hearing order regarding school zones in Boston.

In April 2024, the City Council

passed the Mayor's Michelle Wu's ordinance to require third-party delivery giants (e.g. Uber Eats, Grubhub, DoorDash) to obtain a permit. It remains unclear, however, if drivers will be able to obtain liability insurance. Additional concerns regarding enforcement also persist.

Last fall, an individual died weeks after a collision near Copley Square, so Councilor Flynn maintains it's now critical for the council to act to prevent more injuries or even fatalities.

Moreover, Councilor Flynn's ordinance to regulate all e-bikes in the city, "intends to provide clarity and consistency on the regulation of e-bikes, including Class 3 e-bikes, which are cur-

rently classified as mopeds in the City of Boston," according to a statement from his office.

"Since 2022, the City of Boston encouraged large third-party food delivery companies to have drivers use two-wheel vehicles, while the companies also incentivized workers to prioritize speed over safety to get more assignments and higher ratings. The result has been a significantly worsened pedestrian safety crisis, with mopeds and e-bikes going over 20 mph through red lights and stop signs nearly every day," Councilor Flynn stated. "No reasonable person believes the rules of the road can continue to be optional. It can no longer be the Wild West on the streets of Boston."



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Trident Booksellers & Café at 338 Newbury St.



# EDITORIAL

## SOCIAL MEDIA MUST BE OFF-LIMITS FOR CHILDREN

After about 20 years of social media platforms operating without any legal or moral constraints, the evidence is overwhelmingly clear that social media is toxic for our children.

Much like the tobacco companies 75 years ago (Big Tobacco was fully aware of the health dangers of their products, but concealed their findings for decades), today's tech conglomerates have hidden the truth of the addictive nature of their algorithms upon our children.

The recent release of internal emails and studies from these social media companies has revealed that they were well-aware of the danger that their algorithms pose to young people, whose developing brains are susceptible to the non-stop messaging that spews from their platforms.

However, as far as these rapacious social media companies are concerned, our children serve merely as profit centers for them. Their business model is simple and predatory: the longer a child remains tethered to the screen, the more data is harvested and the more revenue is generated.

It is clear that the social media companies lack any sense of morality and they never will self-regulate -- there's simply too much money at stake to ever prioritize child safety over shareholder returns.

The global community has finally begun to fight back. Australia recently enacted a law that prohibits children under 16 from holding social media accounts on major platforms. Other nations, including Spain, France, and Portugal, have followed suit with similar bans.

Even China has recognized the danger that social media platforms pose to children and has implemented a 40-minute daily limit for children under the age of 14.

The time has come for Congress to take similar action by modifying Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act. For too long, this law has protected online platforms, websites, and internet service providers from liability for content posted by third-party users.

While Section 230 was intended to foster internet growth, it was never meant to provide a legal shield to companies that knowingly design products to be addictive and harmful.

One generation of American children already has been scarred by the ill-effects of social media. We have seen the spikes in depression, anxiety, and self-harm that track perfectly with the rise of the smartphone. Congress needs to take action now -- not just to regulate content, but to mandate a minimum digital age of consent -- for the benefit of future generations.

Our children's mental health is not a commodity. It is time that our laws remove our children's fingers and eyeballs as profit centers for Big Tech.

## RAMADAN BEGINS THIS WEEK

Ramadan, which will begin this week following the sighting of the crescent moon, is the holiest month of the year for members of the Muslim faith. For 2026, Ramadan is projected to start as early as Tuesday, February 17, and extend through Thursday, March 19, or Friday, March 20, upon the sighting of the next crescent moon.

Muslims believe this is the month in which the Quran's first verses were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan is observed worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), daily prayer (salah), reflection, and community. Fasting from dawn to sunset each day is obligatory (fard) for all healthy adults and involves abstaining from all food and drink, including water.

This practice is intended to cultivate taqwa (God-consciousness), self-discipline, and empathy for the less fortunate. The day begins with a pre-dawn meal known as suhur, and the fast is broken at sunset with a meal called iftar, often shared with family and neighbors.

The conclusion of Ramadan is celebrated with Eid al-Fitr, the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," a three-day celebration of gratitude, community, and charity.

We wish all of our friends and neighbors of the Muslim community a happy and holy Ramadan.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### GO PASSENGERS

Dear Editor,

How can the MBTA afford to put GO PATRIOTS and GO PATS signs on its buses when it doesn't GO PASSENGERS? There I am waiting 20 minutes in the cold and snow, and, when the bus finally touches down, football is the very last thing on my mind. Hardly a send-off rally!

Since our recent snowstorm, bus service—to say nothing of access to bus stops that haven't

been sufficiently shoveled—has been terrible. When the bus does come—GO PATRIOTS—it's as packed as Gillette Stadium during the Super Bowl. This morning I managed to get on but there I was near the front door holding on to poles while the rest of my team, running backs, packed the aisle ready to fall or fly. Talk about tight ends! I'd hardly call it a championship game.

Our head coach, the driver, then sped past upcoming stops, leaving large groups of peo-

ple late for appointments and frozen. Not exactly a winning streak!

I never thought I'd be a sports writer but somebody's got to deflate the game.

So (two meanings for GO) GO PASSENGERS, GO BUS RIDERS. We've lost!

Alison Barnet

*Alison Barnet is a longtime South End resident and author of five books, including four volumes on the history of her neighborhood.*

## Neiman Marcus to close Copley Place location

By Sun Staff

Neiman Marcus will vacate its longstanding location at Copley Place (also the retailer's sole Massachusetts outpost), making way for an incoming Italian marketplace, a Greek restaurant, and assortment of high-end shops, according to boston.com.

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, Saks Global – the parent company of Neiman Marcus – announced it would close the flagship Back Bay store, amid reorganizing in bankruptcy court. Neiman Marcus was among the first retailers to move into Copley Place, soon after the mall was built in 1983. Saks Global will continue to have a presence in the Back Bay, however, at both Saks Fifth Avenue men's store in Copley Place and its women's store at the Prudential Center.

The multi-story retail space at Copley Space will reportedly become home to Miami-based Italian marketplace, Casa Tua Cucina; Estiatorio Milos, a Greek seafood restaurant; and a number of high-end retailers, including Dolce & Gabbana.

Construction is expected to get underway later this year, and the project will be rolled out in several phases.



D. MURPHY

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## SEND YOUR NEWS

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

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## Sen. Collins supports Senate Passage of fair housing and key consumer protection bills

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Senate recently advanced a trio of bills focused on protecting consumers and expanding opportunity across the Commonwealth, headlined by major legislation strengthening fair housing protections. Together, the measures address discrimination in the housing market, bolster safeguards for car buyers, and modernize standards for the certified public accountant workforce.

“We are hitting the ground running this session and getting important work done to protect consumers across the Commonwealth,” said Senator Collins. “Ensuring fair access to housing is fundamental, but we’re also strengthening protections for car buyers and modernizing our professional workforce so Massachusetts families are treated fairly in every part of the mar-

ketplace.”

At the center of the package is S.2947, An Act regarding fair housing practices in the Commonwealth, legislation aimed at preventing discrimination in housing.

Complementing these housing protections, the Senate also passed S.2945, An Act modernizing protections for consumers in automobile transactions, to expand rights for car buyers and lessees.

In addition, the Senate unanimously approved S.2946, An Act relative to modernizing the pathway to becoming a certified public accountant. The measure updates certification requirements and allows qualified out-of-state CPAs to practice in Massachusetts.

All three bills now move to the House of Representatives for further review.

## BLO does BPL

### Daughter of the Regiment is coming to Copley library branch Saturday

Join Boston Lyric Opera for Opera on Tour: Daughter of the Regiment – a one-act English-language adaptation of Donizetti’s beloved comic opera about a girl who grows up in a military regiment. Three performers and a pianist will engage audiences through singing, staging, and narration in this interactive introduction to opera.

Opera on Tour: Daughter of the Regiment runs for approximately 45 minutes. Performances are friendly for all ages, but best for children aged 5-12. Experience how an opera comes

to life through music, acting, and movement!

The tour schedule, which began on Wednesday will wrap up today and tomorrow at:

#### February 20

- Boston Public Library North End Branch — 10:30am
- Boston Public Library East Boston Branch — 3:30pm

#### February 21

- Boston Public Library Central Branch — 3:30pm

For more information, visit: <https://blo.org/operaontour/>

## AUTHOR TALK WITH VIRGINIA PYE ON MARRIAGE AND OTHER MONUMENTS

Tuesday, February 24, 7-8pm, First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough St, Boston

A story of race, politics, and marriage. Come hear author Virginia Pye discuss her latest book, “Marriage and Other Monuments.” Learn more and reserve a spot on Eventbrite. <https://tinyurl.com/FCBVirginiaPye>. Copies of the book will be for sale by Trident Booksellers.

## SOUTH END LIBRARY AUTHOR SERIES CONTINUES WITH BRUCE COFFIN ON FEB. 25 AT UNION CHURCH

The South End Library Author Series will feature Bruce Coffin, a retired Portland detective sergeant and FBI consultant, discussing his latest book, ‘Bitter Fall’ on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Connection Room at Union Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (access from Newton Street), followed by

## NEWS IN BRIEF

refreshments and book signings at 7:30 p.m.

Book sales will be offered by Parkside Booksellers at this free event; come in person or attend virtually.

For virtual link email [info@friendsofsouthendlibrary.org](mailto:info@friendsofsouthendlibrary.org) to receive the Zoom info. Friends of the South End Library subscribers will receive the Zoom link in the group’s Mailchimp newsletter just before the event.

## ‘RECLAIMING HISTORY’ EXHIBIT OPENS FEB. 25 AT JOSIAH QUINCY UPPER SCHOOL

Join Mass Cultural Council for the launch of ‘Reclaiming History’ – an exhibit celebrating Boston’s Chinatown, Little Syria, and New York Streets neighborhoods – on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. (door open at 5:30 p.m.) at Josiah Quincy Upper School at 900 Washington St.

This event, which is free and open to the public, is supported by the Neighborhood and Downtown Activation Grant from the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, the City of Boston, the Mass

Cultural Council, and Culture & Community Power Fund.

## EVERYONE250 MARKER UNVEILING SET FOR FEB. 27 AT USES

United South End Settlements (USES) will be recognized as a historic location by Everyone250 – a coalition of over 100 local artists, educators, organizations, and advocates who are celebrating and amplifying unique pieces of Boston in honor of America’s 250th anniversary – on Friday, Feb. 27, from 10-11 a.m. at the USES Courtyard, located at 36 Rutland St.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments and coffee will be provided. Space is limited; R.S.V.P. online at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6FPAPNP-W4uV8Bot8E\\_-GotVc6evaL7n-W0zzB6oK6jqh33Ew/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6FPAPNP-W4uV8Bot8E_-GotVc6evaL7n-W0zzB6oK6jqh33Ew/viewform)

## BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS 2026 CAUCUS

Join fellow Democrats from Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End in electing delegates

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 6)

## LIQUOR LIC. (from Page 1)

In another matter, Life Time Club & Fitness Center, a private gym at the Prudential Center, also received an approval from the Boston Licensing Board on Feb. 12 to upgrade its beer, wine, and cordials license to a full liquor license.

The Back Bay outpost of Minnesota-based Life Time opened last October and spans nearly 60,000 square feet across the retail spaces formerly occupied by Boston Sports Club and Barnes & Noble. The gym now has a beer, wine, and cordials license for its private second-floor café and lounge, which is open only to members and their guests, as well as for pop-up events, held either in studios or in other parts of the facility.

At NABB’s Licensing and Building Use Committee’s virtually meeting on Jan. 5, Helen Loc, café leader for Life Time at the Prudential Center, cited a “strong demand” for a liquor license at the café since it first opened.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Life Time Club & Fitness Center at the Prudential Center.

Moreover, Jon Aieta, an attorney for the applicant, said other area Life Time locations, such as in nearby Chestnut Hill, Newton, Burlington, and Peabody, already offer full liquor licenses in their respective private cafés.

The café’s closing hours of 8 p.m. on weekdays and 5 p.m. on weekends would remain the same, although Aieta said the business intends to keep its

allowable midnight closing time for events.

Both applicants, along with several other applicants from other neighborhoods, must now receive approval from the state’s ABCC (Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission), before the proposed upgrades to their respective liquor licenses can take effect.





# Sen. Nick Collins presents Urban College of Boston with \$100,000 in state budget funding to strengthen student services

Special to the Sun

Urban College of Boston welcomed Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins to campus to celebrate \$100,000 in state budget funding dedicated to strengthening the college's student support services. The FY26 earmark will enhance academic and financial assistance for the college's largely nontraditional student population, helping remove barriers that often stand between adult learners and degree completion.

The college will enhance key student support services, including academic advising and student financial services. These areas provide essential guidance such as academic planning, financial aid navigation, tutoring, and technology support. For students who are balancing coursework with employment and caregiving, services are often critical to staying enrolled and progressing toward graduation.

"Urban College is doing the essential work of creating real

pathways for students balancing work, family, and countless responsibilities," said Senator Collins. "Having worked in communities from South Boston to Chinatown, I've seen how access to education can change the trajectory of someone's life. Even in a challenging budget

year, securing this funding is critical to ensuring Urban College can continue to help students climb the economic ladder across our city."

During his visit, Senator Collins joined a panel discussion with current students and alumni who described how Urban Col-

lege's multilingual environment, flexible course options, and technology support make it possible for them to pursue degrees while working and raising families. Students highlighted the value of tutoring and culturally responsive instruction and shared how faculty and staff help them nav-

igate academic expectations and language learning.

After the panel, Senator Collins met with faculty and staff to discuss the needs of adult learners and the college's role in Boston's workforce pipeline. Faculty emphasized Urban College's strengths in serving English language learners and first-generation students, its focus on digital literacy, and its commitment to wraparound services that keep students connected to their studies.

"Senator Collins has demonstrated remarkable leadership in securing this vital funding and recognizing the profound impact it will have on our students," said Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández, president of Urban College. "This investment strengthens the academic and financial resources our learners rely on as they work toward their degrees while balancing complex responsibilities. We are thankful to Senator Collins and the Commonwealth for recognizing the importance

(URBAN COLLEGE, Pg. 5)



Left to right: Daniel Borges, Urban College of Boston student and registration coordinator; Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández, president of Urban College of Boston; State Sen. Nick Collins; Miliecent Rodríguez, Urban College of Boston student; and Tara Johnston, Urban College of Boston alumna.

## KING TUT EXHIBIT (from Page 1)

shrines, sarcophagus, and nested coffins that safeguarded the young pharaoh's mummy.

A state-of-the-art, Oculus virtual reality experience will also allow guests to relive the moment

when Howard Carter first entered the tomb from an interactive, first-person perspective.

Additionally, the exhibition will educate guests on Delve into the rich tapestry of ancient

Egyptian culture, including the significance of the Nile River; the pantheon of gods; the intricate process of mummification; and the life and legacy of the boy king, Tutankhamun.

The exhibit runs on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the last entry at 5 p.m.; and on Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., with the last entry

at 6 p.m. All ages are welcome, and children 3 and under are admitted for free. The venue is ADA compliant

Visit [tutboston.com](http://tutboston.com) for tickets and more information.



COURTESY OF IMAGINE

A peek inside 'Discovering King Tut's Tomb' exhibition, which opens Feb. 21 at Saunders Castle at Park Plaza.





Left to right: Erline Tanice, chief financial officer at Urban College of Boston; Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández, president of Urban College of Boston; and State Sen. Nick Collins.

URBAN COLLEGE (from Page 4)

and potential of Urban College students, whose determination and resilience enrich our city and state every day.”

To learn more about the Urban College of Boston visit: [urbancollege.edu](http://urbancollege.edu).

Founded in 1993 by leading anti-poverty agency Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), Urban College of Boston is a private, nonprofit two-year college. Based in Boston, Massachusetts and accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), Urban College offers

its community of diverse learners associate degree and certificate programs with an emphasis on early childhood education, human services, and general education. Offering courses in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole, Urban College is a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). The institution opens pathways to opportunity through affordable, flexible, and multilingual education that empowers students to pursue career advancement and transform their lives. Learn more at [urbancollege.edu](http://urbancollege.edu).

# Wu and OYEA announce 2026 Mayor’s Youth Summit

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston’s Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement (OYEA) have announced free tickets are now available for the 2026 Mayor’s Youth Summit (MYS), an annual citywide celebration of the contributions of young people to Boston’s culture. The 2026 Summit will be held on Saturday, February 21 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Artists For Humanity EpiCenter, a vibrant arts center for youth, located in South Boston. This event is hosted with the support of City departments, Boston Children’s Hospital, and other local, youth-serving partner organizations.

“Boston’s youth shape the culture and energy of our city, and the Mayor’s Youth Summit is an opportunity to celebrate all they contribute,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This year’s summit will offer opportunities for our young people to showcase talents, connect with City leaders and have fun with peers. Join us in celebrating young Bostonians and the partnerships that make this summit such a special

citywide event!”

The City is anticipating 600 attendees at this year’s Summit with free tickets available for both youth and youth-serving community partners. In planning the 2026 Summit, the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement hosted a series of feedback sessions with youth programs across Boston. OYEA gathered youth input on event timing, designs, performances, and food to ensure the Summit continues its legacy of centering youth voices and reflecting the interests of Boston’s teens.

“The Mayor’s Youth Summit is a powerful celebration of the creativity, leadership, and voice of young people across Boston,” said Pedro Cruz, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement. “This event gives young people a stage to perform and share their art while building meaningful connections with peers from every neighborhood. We are proud to create a space where youth are seen, heard, and empowered to shape the cultural and civic life of our city.”

The 2025 Mayor’s Youth Summit marked the second time

this event has been held since being re-established as an annual occurrence in 2024 following a 20-year hiatus. Nearly 500 attendees gathered to celebrate young people in Boston with food, games, and music.

This year’s Summit will continue the tradition of live performances that showcase the talents of youth from Beat the Odds, Boston Music Project, Teen Empowerment, Community Music Center of Boston, and other local organizations. The newly-named Youth Poet Laureate will deliver spoken word. Mayor Wu will serve as keynote speaker, Amanda Shea will return as host, and music will be brought by DJ WhySham.

“Young people contribute so much to the culture and civic life of our City,” said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. “I am grateful to be part of a team that creates this space to celebrate the incredible talent, skills and brilliance of Boston’s youth and look forward to another fun, exciting Youth Summit.”

The City will also present the two awards, the Youth Leader Award and Youth Organization

(YOUTH SUMMIT, Pg. 6)

## ColSo’s Patron’s Choice Exhibition 2026 on display through March 7

Special to the Sun

After a long hiatus, The Copley Society of Art is excited to reintroduce the Patron’s Choice Exhibition. This show puts jurying in the hands of our Patron Members, a dedicated group within the ColSo community, comprised of art enthusiasts and collectors. This is more than just a group show; it is a celebration of the connection between artists and advocates. Directed by the collaborative passion of those who support the arts, the exhibition ensures that the works selected

have an immediate and engaged audience.

The Copley Society of Art, the oldest non-profit arts organization in the United States, is dedicated to cultivating a dynamic and inclusive artistic community by promoting visual artists of all backgrounds and championing diverse creative voices. Through exhibitions, educational initiatives, and mentorship, we provide artists with opportunities to grow, connect, and thrive while engaging the public in meaningful creative experiences.



DINE OUT  
BOSTON  
SINCE 2001

Save room  
for Boston.

February 22 - March 7, 2026





## CITY PAWS

## At Home Dental Care

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Would you like to save thousands of dollars in veterinary expenses over your pet's lifetime? One easy way is to provide effective at-home dental care. Daily tooth brushing can reduce the number of professional dental cleanings your dog or cat will need to undergo.

In a 2025 article, the website Chewy.com estimated the cost of a veterinary dental cleaning for a dog to be between \$200 and \$800. We all know the cost in this area is high and may exceed that estimate.

That's just the cost of the cleaning. Because general anesthesia is used, preoperative examinations, blood work, and urinalysis may be needed. If dental radiographs, periodontal treatment, or extractions are required, the costs can reach into the thousands.

Even with the best of care, as

we have learned with our Westie Poppy, breeding and other health issues may still find you facing dental procedures.

## Brushing Teeth

Your vet can show you how to brush your dog's teeth. There are also many videos online that offer tips and tricks.

We knew the benefit of daily brushing. Our second Westie, Maggie Mae, had her teeth brushed twice a day for 15 years. She was cooperative and thought her poultry-flavored toothpaste was a treat. She had one dental cleaning in her life, at age seven.

We use regular soft-bristle toothbrushes with dog-specific toothpaste. Canine toothpaste comes in flavors dogs like. It can also be swallowed, so you don't have to teach your pup to spit and rinse.

The first step is to help your pet get used to having you examine their mouth. Gently open the



Even if your dog or a new rescue has visible tartar, it's never too late to start dental care.

mouth with one hand and look around. Once that works, apply a small amount of toothpaste to your finger and rub it on the teeth. Step by step, your dog or cat will learn to accept a toothbrush.

## Other Ways to Clean Teeth

Besides brushing, there are other ways you can help your dog have cleaner, healthier teeth. And, if you have an older dog or one that just won't let you into their mouth, these may be the best you can do.

Your vet can tell you about wipes, sprays, treats, and chew toys that help clean the teeth. Holistic approaches may include dietary changes and adding supplements to food or water to help kill bacteria and reduce plaque on teeth.

There are special chew toys that help clean teeth. These work best for young dogs and dogs who love to chew. Brushing is always better because the process becomes easier as the dog ages, and it allows you to perform a daily review of the mouth and teeth.

## Symptoms of Dental Disease

Bad breath, visible plaque on teeth, and red, swollen gums are

reasons to make a vet appointment. More subtle changes in your pet may provide early warning and should be reported to your veterinarian. These would include: not chewing food well, chewing on one side of the mouth, less interest in chew toys, an increase in salivation, and pawing at or rubbing the face.

## Healthy Teeth, Healthy Pet

Dental problems don't end in the mouth. Bacteria from dental infections can enter the bloodstream and affect organs such as the heart and kidneys. Daily brushing will not only save money on dental bills but may also help you avoid treatment for chronic illness that can come about from untreated dental problems.

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

## YOUTH SUMMIT (from Page 5)

Award, at the 2026 Summit. The Youth Leader Award will honor two Boston residents between the ages of 14 and 19 years old who demonstrate high levels of leadership among their peers and/or a commitment to civic engagement. The Youth Organization Award will be given to an organization that demonstrates exceptional dedication to empowering and supporting Boston's youth.

"Boston Children's Hospital is proud to collaborate with the City and invest in our young

people," said Shari Nethersole, MD, Vice President for Community Health and Engagement at Boston Children's Hospital. "We support the Mayor's Youth Summit because it puts youth at the center of its platform, which encourages civic engagement and creates opportunities for youth to thrive in Boston."

This year's attendees will receive branded tote bags, stickers, and sweatshirts, and have the opportunity to win backpacks from Sprayground and tickets to see the Boston Red Sox. At the summit, youth will be able to

receive airbrush tattoos, contribute to a collaborative mural, and submit ideas for this year's Youth Lead the Change participatory budgeting program.

To learn more about and reserve free tickets for the 2026 Mayor's Youth Summit, please visit [boston.gov/youth-summit](http://boston.gov/youth-summit). To stay informed about all initiatives from the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement, visit [boston.gov/oyea](http://boston.gov/oyea), and follow our social channels @oyeaboston on Facebook and Instagram, and @oyea.boston.gov on Bluesky.

BCGS

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF THE BRILLIANT FRENCH GUITARIST  
GAËLLE SOLAL TO THE BOSTON CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY STAGE

# Gaëlle Solal

Saturday, February 28, 2026 – 7:30pm  
First Lutheran Church,  
299 Berkeley St., Boston, MA

"The worldwide promise of the guitar." *Diario Vasco*  
"An extraordinary musical sensitivity." *Gazzetta di Parma*  
"The new guitar star in France." *Chitarre*

TICKETS   
<https://bostonguitar.org/event/gaëlle-solal/>

YouTube   
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8JHgLPjXnE>

\$15 Student Ticket at the Door with College ID

NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 3

to the 2026 Mass Dems convention! The caucus will take place on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 11 a.m. at Union Church (485 Columbus Ave.).

The 2026 State Convention is a nominating convention, where delegates will gather to vote on Democratic candidates for statewide office- and determine which candidates qualify for the September 2026 primary ballot. All are welcome to attend, but you must be a registered Democrat in Ward 4 (or register as such) in

order to run as a delegate or vote for delegates. Questions? Email [ward4dems@gmail.com](mailto:ward4dems@gmail.com).

## FENWAY FORWARD'S ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 16 AT SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

Fenway Forward will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, April 16, from 5:45 to 8 p.m. at Simmons University, Linda K. Paresky Conference Center, 300 The Fenway.

# Mayor Wu and the Office Of Black Male Advancement award \$500,000 in grants to 39 community organizations supporting black men and boys across Boston neighborhoods

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Black Male Advancement have announced the 2026 Community Empowerment Grant awardees, investing \$500,000 in 39 community-based organizations across Boston.

These grants support organizations that are leading transformative work to improve outcomes across education, economic opportunity, health, and community safety. The 2026 awardees reflect the depth and strength of grassroots leadership throughout Boston's neighborhoods.

This investment will support organizations in scaling their programs, expanding their reach, and deepening their impact in the communities they serve. The Community Empowerment Grant program is sustained through the Office of Black Male Advancement's operating budget and remains a core strategy in the City's work to advance equity and the Office of Black Male Advancement's mission.

"Black Male Advancement's Community Empowerment grants ensure that we as a City are investing in local community organizations and empowering Black men and boys across Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These grants connect residents to opportunity and deepen critical work across neighborhoods. I'm grateful to the Office of Black Male Advancement for their critical work to ensure Boston is a city for everyone."

"This investment is about strengthening the ecosystems that surround Black men and boys with opportunity, care, and connection," said Chief of Equity and Inclusion Mariangely Solis Cervera. "The 39 organizations

receiving Community Empowerment Grants are deeply rooted in Boston's neighborhoods and are doing the everyday, transformational work that helps Black men and boys thrive across education, economic mobility, health, and wellbeing."

The BMA Community Empowerment Grants prioritized organizations that expand one of the following seven focus areas:

- **Mentoring and Out-of-School Time:** providing quality mentoring, literacy and out-of-school time programs when and where they are needed, offering developmentally-appropriate learning environments that support social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

- **Youth and Young Adult Pathways:** providing educational and career pathways for youth and young adults navigating their own course to economic prosperity.

- **Housing Mobility:** providing a continuum of housing opportunities, resources, and supports that effectively result in pathways to affordable housing and homeownership.

- **Economic Inclusion and Wealth Building:** supporting individuals to achieve financial empowerment and economic mobility.

- **Workforce Training and Development:** helping unemployed and underemployed individuals attain livable wage jobs and helping businesses with training for employees to support a pipeline of skilled workers.

- **Fatherhood Engagement:** supporting fatherhood education, case management, and peer-to-peer support to strengthen positive father-child interaction, improve social and economic outcomes for fathers and their

families and improve healthy relationships.

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** helping support and improve the mental health and well-being of men.

*"The Office of Black Male Advancement is intentional about investing in pathways to advancement and holistic support systems that help Black males not only succeed, but thrive." — Frank Farrow, Executive Director of the Office of Black Male Advancement*

"The Community Empowerment Grant is about providing resources where they matter most, directly to community based organizations that are creating opportunities for Black men and boys throughout Boston," said Frank Farrow, Executive Director of the Office of Black Male Advancement. "The Office of Black Male Advancement is intentional about investing in pathways to advancement and holistic support systems that help Black males not only succeed, but thrive. By strengthening community-rooted solutions, we are building sustained impact and long-term economic mobility for our residents."

"Investing in community-based organizations is investing in Boston—our people, our neighborhoods, and our future," said City Councilor Brian Worell. "These grants empower local changemakers, amplifying the impact of grassroots organizations across our city. This moment calls on us to pursue

equity as a collective effort, and these grants show how we can support that effort together."

**Youth & Young Adult Pathways**

- Beat The Odds (Downtown Boston)

- Bikes Not Bombs, Inc. (Jamaica Plain)

- A Different Path Foundation, Inc. (Roxbury)

- MissionSAFE: A New Beginning, Inc. (Roxbury)

- The Bottom Line, Inc. (Downtown Boston)

- YouthBuild Boston, Inc. (Roxbury)

- Digital Ready, Inc. (Dorchester)

- The Loop Lab (Roxbury)

- The Pathway Initiative, Inc. (Roxbury)

**Mentoring and Out-of-School Time**

- 617Peak (Dorchester)

- Boston Debate League, Inc. (Downtown Boston)

- Boston Project Ministries, Inc. (Dorchester)

- Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts, Inc. (Roxbury)

- Follow Suit (Roxbury)

- Friends of St. Stephen's Youth Programs, Inc. (Southend)

- The Clubhouse Network, Inc. (Wharf District)

- WriteBoston (Downtown Boston)

- Youth Guidance Boston (Downtown Boston)

- Boston Partners in Education, Inc. (Downtown Boston)

- Boston's Higher Ground (Downtown Boston)

- Limitless Athletics Corp (Dorchester)

**Workforce Training & Development**

- Community Mentoring Team (Dorchester)

- New England Center for Arts and Technology, Inc. (South

End)

- Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (Dorchester)

- A Healthier Democracy (Boston)

**Fatherhood Engagement**

- Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts, Inc. (Dorchester)

- Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (Dorchester)

**Economic Inclusion & Wealth Building**

- Dunk the Vote (Circle of Nations Inc.) (Dorchester)

- The Fountain Fund (Boston)

- The Life After Prison (Boston)

- Kings Amongst Kings, Inc. (Mattapan)

**Mental Health & Wellness**

- Youth Connect (Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Inc.) (Roxbury)

- YardTime Inc. (Boston)

- Young Man with a Plan, Inc. (Mattapan)

- Lives Are Meant to Be Changed (Dorchester)

- New England Medical Association (Boston)

**Housing Mobility**

- Family Movement, Inc. (Boston)

- Breaktime United, Inc. (Boston)

- Justice For Housing, Inc. (Jamaica Plain)

"The Community Empowerment Grant allows Bikes Not Bombs to deepen our commitment to the economic mobility and leadership of Black and brown youth across Boston. By strengthening our organizational capacity, we are better equipped to dismantle systemic barriers

(BLACK MALE ADVANCEMENT, Pg. 10)

## Back Bay suspect found not competent to stand trial in connection with hit-and-run death of man and his dog on Comm Ave Mall

By Dan Murphy

A Back Bay man who is accused of causing a deliberate hit-and-run collision in January on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall that left a venerable art collector from the same neighborhood and his dog dead was found not competent to stand

trial at the suspect's arraignment on Feb. 13 in BMC Central.

The suspect, William Haney, 42, was then charged with two additional charges of reckless operation of a vehicle and leaving the scene of personal injury and death. These new charges will be combined with the previous charges of murder and cru-

elty to an animal, which Haney was arraigned on Jan. 5.

Haney is accused of intentionally hitting John Axelrod, 79, also of the Back Bay, with his car near Commonwealth Avenue and Hereford Street on Jan. 3 while Axelrod was walking his dog. Axelrod's dog also died as a result of the collision.

Judge James Stanton ordered Haney be held without bail for an additional 60 days for the additional charges and remanded him to Bridgewater State Hospital for hospitalization and examination for competency to stand trial in the future.

Haney will return to court on April 13 for a status hearing,

according to the office of Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden.

The Commonwealth is represented by Assistant District Attorney Ursula Knight. Haney is represented by attorney Keith Halpern.



# Drought conditions worsen in Southeast Region

Special to the Sun

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared the Southeast Region has worsened to a Level-2 Significant Drought, and the Millers River Basin has improved. All other regions remain unchanged.

Drought is a look back at conditions over a period of time. The Drought Management Task Force (DMTF) collected and analyzed data from August 2024 through January 2026.

During January, Massachusetts received a significant amount of snow and a total of 2 to 3.5 inches of precipitation. In spite of this, precipitation deficits since 2024 remain. Additionally, record cold temperatures and frozen ground have prevented snowmelt from occurring and soaking into the soil, limiting

groundwater recharge and discharge to streams.

The current drought, which began in 2024, has continued to have significant impacts on the natural environment, including low streamflow, decreasing water levels in lakes and ponds, and declining groundwater in nearly all regions. Although local water supplies are currently stable, as the drought continues to persist and with reduced recharge at this time of the year, it is prudent for all to be very conservative and save water whenever possible.

As outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, continued detailed monitoring of drought conditions must continue. The drought levels also require ongoing coordination among state and federal agencies to implement drought response actions such as water-

use restrictions. Additionally, engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health (BOH), is essential. This includes providing technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities. Residents are asked to report to their local BOH if wells drying up; BOHs are asked to report here on the condition of local private wells.

Residents can report dry environmental conditions and submit photos to help monitor the situation on the Massachusetts Water Impact Reporter (here). Additionally, a FAQ is now available for questions regarding the current drought status and water conservation; and private well owners can go here for information on how the drought may impact them.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to assist communities in managing their water systems. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not experiencing drought conditions.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 1-Mild Drought, Level 2-Significant Drought, and Level 3-Critical Drought including those utilizing a private well. Residents and businesses are strongly urged to check with their local water system in case more stringent water restrictions are in place. Many systems may have other, more severe local

conditions and constraints on water supply.

## For Regions in Level 3 – Critical Drought

Residents and Businesses:  
Minimize overall water use

Follow state water conservation actions and any local water use restrictions

Monitor total household water use shown on your water bill for sudden increases, which often indicate leaks. Use the MA Home Water Use Calculator tool to evaluate household water use.

Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately. Check for leaks in homes and businesses regularly by:

Checking water meters for constant dial movement

Using dye tabs to check for toilet leaks

Conducting regular inspections of all pipes and fixtures, including those located in utility rooms, crawlspaces, and other hidden areas

Use dishwashers rather than handwashing dishes. Run the dishwasher only on a full load

Aggressively reduce indoor water use by:

Taking showers and avoiding baths

Reducing shower length and consider using a shower timer

Running washing machines only on a full load

Not letting water run while brushing and shaving

Replacing old fixtures and appliances with water-efficient

ones. Make sure toilets, faucets, and showerheads are WaterSense labeled

Stop all non-essential water use

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

Provide timely information on the drought and on water conservation tips to local residents and businesses taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials

Enforce water use restrictions with increasingly stringent penalties

Strongly discourage or prohibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing

Establish or enhance water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials

Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates

Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections for water supply

Develop or refine your local drought management plan using

(DROUGHT, Pg. 11)

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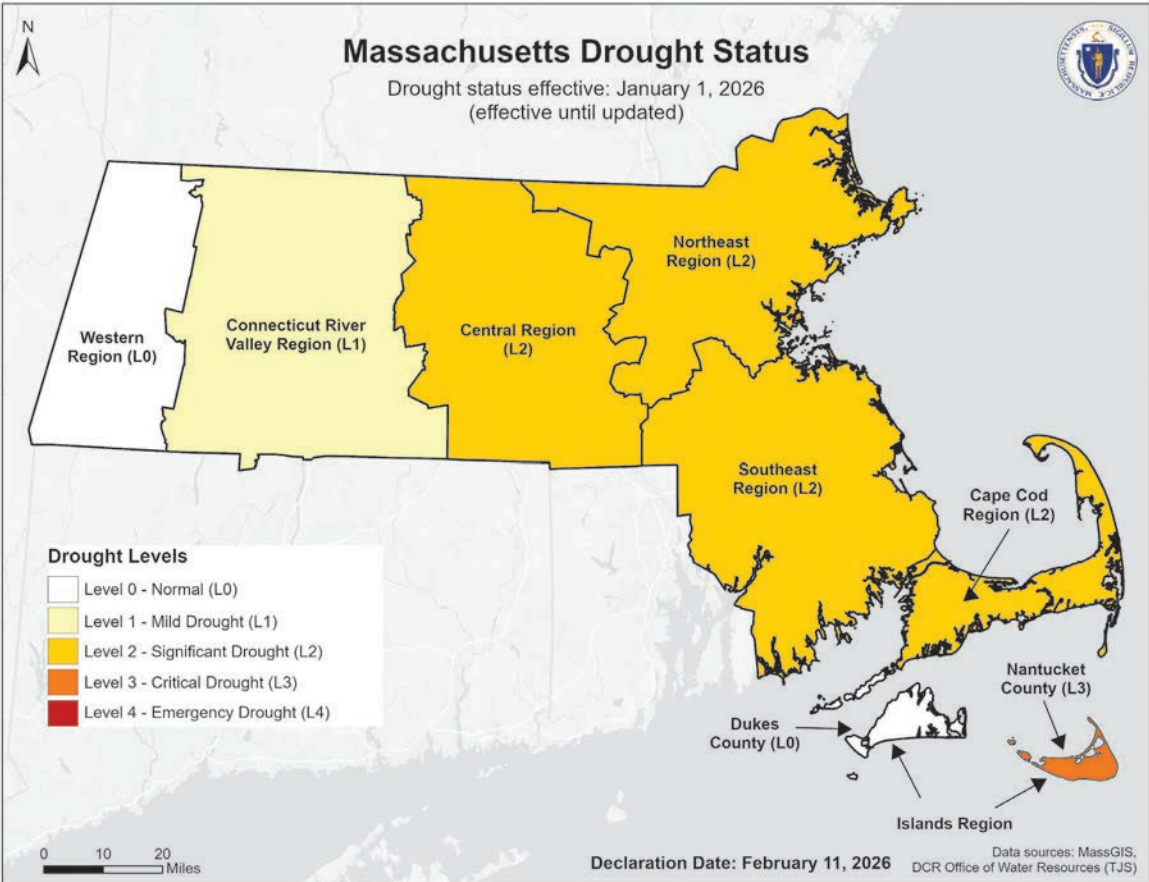
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# For 60 years, Hill House remains a hub of Beacon Hill

By Ryan Owens

Little footsteps patter across the hardwood floor, while instructors and volunteers attempt to get everyone in line. Toddlers yell with excitement, interrupted by the occasional anxious cry-turned-laughter.

This is the regular symphony at Hill House, a nonprofit Beacon Hill community center that serves families throughout the downtown Boston area. Founded in 1966, Hill House – whose slogan is “Your backyard in the city” – has been providing families, particularly their children, with physical and intellectual enrichment through a variety of activities and weekly programs.

“We were founded 60 years ago by the Beacon Hill Civic Association,” said the center’s chief executive officer, Katherine Snider.

The association was a group of families concerned about their neighbors moving to the suburbs and abandoning downtown.

“This group of parents said,

‘How are we going to make Boston more livable for families? What do we need to do?’” Snider explained.

Hill House began at 74 Joy St., but the demand and needs from families continued to grow. The organization later expanded to 127 Mount Vernon St, a former firehouse near the Boston Public Garden where the main operations currently take place.

Former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino sold the building to Hill House for a single dollar, and a group of families came together to have the former firehouse undertake the necessary renovations to make it safe for children.

Jamie Kelly, programs director, said Hill House provides an opportunity for her to pursue a lifelong passion.

“I have always enjoyed working with children, and I thought I would be a teacher at one point,” Kelly said. “Then I was looking to relocate to Boston, and Hill House is just an outstanding organization that really drew me in.”

“I realized that there’s so much that I can learn and so much that I can give, and it’s been that way ever since,” Kelly said.

Diana Fabbrucci, a South End parent of two and recent board member, said Hill House gives her ease of mind that her children will be in good hands.

“I’m a very overprotective parent,” Fabbrucci said. “[Hill House] is a safe place. There are no other adults in the building. That ...makes me feel really comfortable.”

From ninja warrior training to painting and from Dungeons and Dragons games to cooking, Hill House offers an array of programs and activities six days a week.

Most of Hill House’s programs are designed for younger participants, particularly those anywhere between age 3 and 12. However, there are also programs targeting seniors and other groups, such as expecting and new mothers.

Hill House has thrived through multiple generations. People who start as children become volunteers and then parents who bring their children to Hill House to engage in the same community that they once did. It’s “my community,” Fabbrucci explained.

“I feel like I am part of the organization because I’m so invested and my kids are doing so many of their programs,” Fabbrucci said.

People who use the center grow up familiar with Hill House’s mantra – give back to the community.

“It’s a partnership,” Kelly said. “It’s families turning to us for something...and then they’re on our soccer field next week.”

“A lot of families that will be part of those programs have lots of means,” Fabbrucci said. “They will be part of the programs, but they also will contribute to Hill House so that they can make programming accessible for everyone.”

Hill House offers a scholarship fund for individual families and people from underserved communities, the officials said. It also promotes volunteer opportunities on its website.

Snider said the center’s next focus will be on locating space to facilitate new programs and finding capital supporters to fund the project and maintain



RYAN OWENS / THE BOSTON SUN PHOTOS

Hill House, at 127 Mount Vernon St. in Beacon Hill, is a converted firehouse.



Adults work with children to practice early cooking skills to shape for adulthood.

the buildings.

On a recent day this month, several parents and children took refuge from the cold to test their swings in indoor tennis.

In another area of the building, other children could be seen huddling with an instructor as they tapped into their artistic abilities, such as sketching, painting and crafting.

Fabbrucci said that being at

the Hill House is a “wonderful feeling.”

“I’d hope it lasts for another 60 years,” Fabbrucci said of the center.

Ryan Owens is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between The Boston Sun and the Boston University Journalism program.



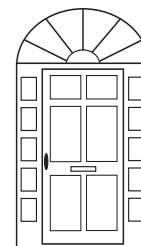
Children at Hill House are encouraged to engage their artistic abilities, working on sketching, painting, and crafting.



Several families engage their children in athletic programs, such as indoor tennis, during the winter.

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# Massachusetts RMV announces special MA250 Low Number Plate Lottery

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is celebrating President's Day by announcing a special low number lottery featuring the state's new 250th Anniversary Plate. Residents can apply starting today, February 16, at 9:00 a.m. and have until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026. Further information is available at [Mass.Gov/MA250Plate](https://Mass.Gov/MA250Plate).

The "Massachusetts 250 Years of Independence" plate is emblematic red, white, and blue and is now the most popular specialty plate in the Commonwealth with more than 57,000 issued in just over seven months.

The plate features a blue background, with the year "1776" surrounded by 13 stars and the phrase "250 Years of Independence" at the bottom. There are 1000 plates available through the lottery, numbered from 1-999 and including the symbolic 1776.

"Massachusetts is a state of many firsts, and it is only appropriate that we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary honoring our shared history with the opportunity to celebrate civic pride with a commemorative low number license plate through a lottery. This is a fun but meaningful and visible tribute to the historic occasion, allowing residents to participate in this once

in a lifetime event," said Interim MassDOT Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng.

"Since last May, the RMV has offered the patriotic-themed higher number plates (online) as part of the Massachusetts 250 festivities. We are so excited to continue this celebration of American and state history by enabling all qualified Massachusetts residents a chance to win a coveted low number on the popular commemorative plate. The RMV is thrilled to partner with the Massachusetts State Lottery and benefit from their lottery expertise. And thank you to the RMV team for their incredible efforts in planning this event," shared Registry of Motor Vehicles Registrar Colleen Ogilvie.

"This event represents a unique opportunity to combine historical recognition with public engagement in a way that aligns with the Lottery's mission. A commemorative low lottery plate is likely to generate strong interest from residents across the state while honoring an extraordinary milestone in our state's history," said Massachusetts State Lottery Executive Director Mark William Bracken.

Applications for the special 250th Anniversary Plate low number lottery will be avail-

able at myRMV Online Service Center (located under the Plates button) beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026. To be eligible for the low number lottery applicants must apply by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026. Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Plates will be awarded using an electronic random number generator system.

Applicants should note that there is no fee to apply for the lottery. All specialty plates have a biennial \$40.00 special plate



fee, along with a registration fee of \$60.00. The initial registration fee may vary depending upon the applicant's current plate expiration date and the expiration date of the winning plate number.

Customers are encouraged to visit the RMV's website or follow @MassRMV on X (formerly Twitter) for additional details about the lottery. In addition, lottery plate applicants will be sent a notification from the RMV to the email address they provided with lottery event details. The lottery winners will be announced on May 7, and residents will be able to watch the event online via the RMV website. Following the event, results will be available on the RMV website.

## RMV Low Plate Lottery Rules and Eligibility Requirements

- A person (known as "applicant") who applies for the Massachusetts 250 Low Number License Plate Lottery must be a Massachusetts resident with a current active, Massachusetts registered, and insured passenger motor vehicle.

- As a condition of the application process, applicants consent to their name, zip code, and any other information that is required be released in accordance with the Massachusetts Public Records law.

- Only one entry per applicant will be accepted, regardless of the number of active passenger motor vehicle registrations the applicant has on file with the RMV.

- The following are ineligible to participate:

- Companies and corporations

- Commercial vehicles and motorcycles

- Any employee of MassDOT, including but not limited to executive level employees, RMV, Highway, MBTA, Rail and Transit, Aeronautics, all shared services within MassDOT, and contract employees

- Any employee of Mass Lottery, including but not limited to executive level employees and contract employees

- Immediate family members of any MassDOT employees (as described above) and Mass Lottery. This includes parents, spouses, children, and siblings.

- An applicant whose Mas-

sachusetts registration is not in an active status (i.e., in a non-renewal, suspended, or revoked status) at the time of entry, at the time of the lottery, or at the time of the plate swap.

- An applicant with outstanding violations or obligations reported to the RMV

## Misc. Info

- Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Plates will be awarded using an electronic random number generator system.

- Submission deadline: Online entries will be accepted beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026, and must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026.

- Lottery results, such as winner's name, place of residence, and winning plate number, will be available on the RMV website ([Mass.Gov/RMV](https://Mass.Gov/RMV)) within 5 business days of the lottery event, which will occur in May.

- All winners will be notified by mail with instructions on how to transfer their current registration to their new lottery plate. Winners will have until Friday, August 28, 2026, to pay for and swap their plates.

- Unclaimed plates by the deadline are considered forfeited by the initial winners, and those plates will be awarded to the pre-selected alternate winners after Friday, August 28, 2026.

- Plates will be registered only to the winning applicant specifically named on the application and cannot be transferred to anyone else.

- All plates remain the property of the RMV, including after registration.

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**The Artists' Group of Charlestown  
Spring 2026 Exhibition**

Exhibition Dates: April 17 - May 3, 2026

**Submissions: Open through March 31, 2026**

To Submit: [ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com](https://ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com)

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Detail of "What Shall We Say  
About Hope" © Sioux Gerow

## BLACK MALE ADVANCEMENT *(from Page 7)*

and provide the social and technical capital young people need to excel in high-growth career pathways," said Elijan Evans, CEO of Bikes not Bombs. "This investment directly fuels our ability to build youth power and connect neighborhoods through sustainable, equitable transportation. Together with the Office of Black Male Advancement, we are ensuring that Boston's young leaders have the tools and agency to drive lasting change within their own communities."

"We are deeply grateful to the City of Boston Office of Black Male Advancement for investing in the Community Mentor-

ing Team fulfilling our commitment to mentoring the men living in Boston," said Bill Moran, Founder and CEO, Community Mentoring Team. "This support allows us to expand long-term mentorship, educational access, and clear pathways into union trade apprenticeships and sustainable careers for Black men across Greater Boston's underserved communities. Together, we're building opportunity, stability, and generational success."

Building on ongoing efforts to strengthen community based organizations, the Office of Black Male Advancement is partnering with Resilia to expand the

Office's Capacity Building and Impact Institute. The Institute will provide year round support and technical assistance to over 150+ community based organizations to drive impact efforts and assist with long-term capacity needs. The Institute will also support a cohort of Community Empowerment grantees to deepen their impact and scale their work.

For more information on the Office of Black Male Advancement's Community Empowerment Small Grants program, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/black-male-advancement/black-male-advancement-small-grant-fund>





TOMMY COLBERT PHOTOGRAPHY

*Boston Harbor Distillery, 12R Ericsson Street, Boston*

## The Rose Kennedy Greenway welcomes Boston Harbor Distillery as new beverage garden partner

Special to the Sun

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy have announced a new partnership with Boston Harbor Distillery to operate a beverage garden located across from the Boston Harbor Hotel and International Place at the corner of High Street and Atlantic Avenue. Beginning this spring, the waterfront-inspired distillery will bring its signature craft spirits and local roots to the heart of Downtown Boston.

### Boston Harbor Distillery's Beginnings

Founded on Boston Harbor

with a commitment to small-batch craft and coastal character, Boston Harbor Distillery has built a loyal following for spirits that reflect New England's maritime heritage. From whiskey, rum and liqueurs, and ready-to-drink cocktails, the distillery's lineup highlights locally inspired flavors and hands-on production, making it a natural fit for The Greenway's mission to celebrate local makers and bring authentic Boston experiences to public spaces.

"We're thrilled to partner with Boston Harbor Distillery to bring new offerings and local flavor to The Greenway's beverage

garden," said Eileen Ong, Director of Programs and Outreach at the Greenway Conservancy. "This partnership not only strengthens the Conservancy's commitment to supporting small local businesses, but also creates a welcoming, family-friendly gathering place with something for everyone, including cocktails, mocktails, beer, wine, and locally-produced snacks. Our goal is to provide a space where people of all ages can connect, enjoy seasonal programming, and experience The Greenway as a vibrant community hub."

"Our goal has always been to create spirits that tell a story

of Boston and its harbor," said Rhonda Kallman, Founder of Boston Harbor Distillery. "We're delighted to bring Boston Harbor Distillery to The Greenway, a place that embodies the heart of the city. This partnership gives us the opportunity to share our craft with both Downtown neighbors and visitors from around the world, creating memorable experiences in a space that celebrates community, connection, and the vibrancy of Boston."

"We're excited to join The Greenway community and contribute to its lively public spaces," said Este Sylvestsky, owner and president of Boston Harbor Distillery. "Being part of The Greenway allows us to serve not just our local friends and neighbors, but also the many international visitors who come to experience Boston. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the beverage garden, sharing our spirits, and helping make The Greenway an even more engaging and inclusive destination year-round."

### Signature Offerings Available on The Greenway

Boston Harbor Distillery at The Greenway will offer visitors a welcoming place to gather along the park — whether stopping by after work, meeting friends before a night out, or enjoying a weekend stroll through the park.

Signature offerings include Putnam Barrel-Aged Maple Old Fashioned, BOS-hattan and Tea Party craft whiskey cocktails, Greenway Colada, and the Boston Harbor Refresher to name a few. Bottles of Putnam Whiskey varieties; Lawley's Nautical line of fresh botanical Gins, 100% Molasses Rum and Vodka; Demon Seed Whiskey and Bos-

ton Harbor Maple Cream; Coffee Liqueur and Espresso Martini will be available for purchase.

### Thank you, Trillium Brewing

The new partner was selected through a competitive Request for Proposals process at the conclusion of the 2025 lease period in accordance with non-profit best practices. The lease was formerly held by Trillium Brewing, which operated the space for nearly a decade, and together with the Conservancy made history as the first public beer garden in the City of Boston.

"We're very grateful for the role Trillium Brewing played in helping to establish our beverage gardens and in welcoming so many visitors to the park," said Eileen Ong. "Their creativity and partnership shaped a program that has become a beloved seasonal destination and helped spark the growth and popularity of beer gardens across the city. We're thankful to have had the opportunity to share their offerings with our visitors for so long and are proud to have seen their company grow throughout their time on The Greenway."

### Stay Connected

All programming and on-site vendor activity is subject to weather conditions, execution of a signed agreement, and final City and State permitting. Please stay tuned for further updates as we finalize plans and prepare to announce the official opening date of our new beverage garden. The Conservancy's calendar is updated regularly with the latest information. Follow the Greenway Conservancy on Facebook and Instagram (@rosekennedygreenway) and sign up for the weekly e-newsletter to stay informed.

## DROUGHT (from Page 8)

guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan

### For Regions in Level 2 – Significant Drought

Residents and Businesses: Minimize overall water use; Follow local water use restrictions;

Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use; and,

For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

Limit or prohibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; and,

Establish water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials;

Provide timely information to local residents and businesses;

Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates;

Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,

Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan.

### For Regions in Level 1 – Mild Drought

Residents and Businesses: Minimize overall water use;

For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities;

Communities/Municipalities: Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials;

Provide timely drought and water conservation information to residents and businesses;

Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,

Develop a local drought management plan (learn more here).

State agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess conditions across the state, coordinate any needed dissemination of information to the public, and help federal, state, and local agencies prepare additional responses that may be needed in the future. The DMTF will meet again on Friday, March 6, at 10:00 AM. For further information on water conservation and what residents can do, visit the EEA's drought and water conservation pages.



## ENTERTAINMENT AROUND THE CITY

## Aquarium screening new documentary exploring penguin love and conservation

Special to the Sun

Penguins may be some of nature's most devoted partners. Many species form lifelong bonds, while others find their mate for a season. Penguins: A Love Story, a new documentary recounting remarkable stories of penguin courtship, connection, and resiliency from South Africa to Australia, debuted at the New England Aquarium on the Simons Theatre's giant screen Friday, Feb. 13.

The film introduces audiences to critically endangered African penguins from South Africa and fairy penguins, the smallest penguin in the world, from New Zealand and Australia. Shot in Cape Town, South Africa, the story follows Lenny, an African penguin searching for his life-long mate. On the other side of the beach, Fluffball, an orphaned penguin chick, is lovingly cared for by humans at a penguin hospital. His surrogate mom feeds him sardines and teaches him to swim, nurturing Fluffball until he is fully grown.

The film then takes audiences to coastal Australia where a group of fairy penguins, terrorized by foxes, finds respite and care from an unexpected source. As part of an innovative conservation strategy, a patrol of Maremma dogs serve as protectors of the fairy penguins' nests and eggs, keeping danger at bay and providing hope for the species.

The New England Aquarium is home to 51 penguins, including African penguins and southern rockhopper penguins. African penguins are an endangered species that inhabit the coasts of South Africa and Namibia and are threatened by the depletion of food from overfishing, climate change, and pollution. The Aquarium is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) SAFE African Penguin program, an international effort to protect and restore wild African penguin populations. As a member of the program, the Aquarium participates in educational and conservation initiatives for African penguins,



including field conservation work with the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB).

Penguins: A Love Story will be shown at the Aquarium's Simons Theatre starting Feb. 13 as part of its global release.

Tickets and show times are available by calling 617-973-5206 or by visiting [neaq.org](http://neaq.org).

The New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and

help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We

inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.

## Get Ready for the Ride Bat Out Of Hell - The Musical rocks the Boch Center for one night only

Special to the Sun

Get ready for an electrifying rock 'n' roll experience that will ignite the stage and your senses. The global phenomenon Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical is coming to Boston's Boch Center Wang Theatre for an exclusive, one-night-only performance on April 25, 2026, at 7:30 PM. This thrilling spectacle—where the timeless, operatic rock of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf reigns supreme—is a reimagined, award-winning production that has wowed audiences from London to New York.

Tickets are on sale now at [bochcenter.org](http://bochcenter.org). Featuring a world-class cast of singers and dancers backed by a powerhouse eight-piece rock band, this show brings the legendary Bat Out of Hell albums to life with a modern, high-energy twist.

Bat Out of Hell – The Musical won the UK'S Radio 2 Audience Award for Best Musical at the Evening Standard Awards and was nominated for 8 LONDON WhatsOnStage Awards, including Best New Musical.

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical wowed critics and public alike when it played limited seasons at Manchester Opera House, London Coliseum, London's Dominion Theatre, Toronto's CAA Ed Mirvish Theatre and New York

City Center.

It garnered 5 stars from the UK's The Independent, Daily Mirror, Daily Express, Manchester Evening News, Metro.

The New York Times raved that Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical is 'extravagant, absurd, compulsively hummable' and Theatermania said 'See it while you can'.

The musical also had successful runs in Canada, Germany, a residency in Las Vegas and the international tour took the show to the UK, Ireland, Germany, Australia and New Zealand.

Bat Out Of Hell became one of the best-selling albums in history, selling over 68 million copies worldwide. 16 years after the release of the original album, Steinman scored again with Bat Out of Hell II: Back into Hell, which contained the massive hit I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That). For the stage musical, the legendary and award-winning Jim Steinman incorporated iconic songs from the Bat Out of Hell albums, including You Took the Words Right Out of My Mouth, Bat Out of Hell, I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That), It's All Coming Back to Me, and Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad, as well as the previ-

(BAT OUT OF HELL, Pg. 13)

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Vandusen, Faith	Stone, Ben S	333 Commonwealth Ave #19	\$3,450,000
Lai, Leefin	Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC	430 Stuart St #1607	\$1,100,000
BEACON HILL			
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Doiron, William	W U Ft	2 Hawthorne Pl #1	\$48,000
Kulathila, Rithika	230 Washington Street LL	230 Washington St #10	\$890,000
Shimizu, Richard J	230 Washington Street LL	230 Washington St #9	\$999,000
Bracken, Judith N	Bracken Thomas B Est	32 W Cedar St	\$4,800,000
Thorn, Kristin	Ryan, Patrick	41-43 Phillips St #4	\$2,550,000
Gadoury, William J	Am Beacon LLC	80 Beacon St #51	\$1,155,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Park, Alexis K	Chan, Kristie S	100 Shawmut Ave #708	\$635,000
Xu, Lingjie	Majors, Michael D	127 Pembroke St #4	\$855,000
Ijr Rt	Rothman Ft	14 Milford St #1	\$3,500,000
Richter, Wolfgang O	Lavender Properties LLC	15 Concord Sq #1A	\$506,000
Bolla, Maria	Oconnor, Melissa M	21 Worcester Sq #2	\$960,000
Barach, Camrom	Yan, Mei H	32 Traveler St #301	\$299,386
J Fuller Const 320 Shawmu	Wood Farm Nt	320 Shawmut Ave #1	\$1,100,000
Ung, Nicole N	Richards, Michael L	40 Traveler St #810	\$2,400,000
Dailey, Whitney	Evangelisti, Giorgia	41 Worcester Sq #4	\$405,000
Pedersen-Thomas, Emily J	Blacher, Steven B	10 Plainfield St #2	\$545,000
Wildflower, Isahel	Michael F Collins T	231 W Newton St #3	\$585,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
The Brock Group LLC	Moses, James A	1 Avery St #12A	\$1,003,000
David And Ming Liu Jlt	Harbor 10a LLC	85 E India Row #10A	\$710,000

BAT OUT OF HELL (from Page 12)

ously unreleased song What Part of My Body Hurts the Most.

As the Lost boys and girls flee into the tunnels below the city from its ruler Falco, his teenage daughter Raven locks eyes with fearless leader of the Lost, the immortal Strat, and the immensity of their love-at-first-sight-obsessions threaten to destroy both of their families. Experience the thrill of the electrifying songs of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf's epic collaboration: "Bat Out of Hell."

Bat Out Of Hell - The Musical has book, music and lyrics by Jim Steinman, direction by Jay Scheib, with musical supervision and additional arrangements by Michael Reed, additional choreography by Xena Gusthart, set and costume design by Jon Bausor, original wig designs by Linda McKnight,

video design by Finn Ross, lighting design by Patrick Woodroffe, sound design by Gareth Owen, orchestrations by Steve Sidwell, original casting by David Grindrod CDG, North American Tour Casting by Kinlore Casting – Kate Lumpkin, CSA, and General Management by Evan Bernardin Productions – Jenna Lazar.

The Canadian and US dates of Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical, are produced by Emmy and Tony Award winner Michael Cohl, CEO of S2BN Entertainment and the former Chairman of Live Nation, Tony Smith & David Sonenberg with executive producers Glenn Orsher and Julian Stoneman.

The Boch Center is one of the nation's leading nonprofits performing arts institutions and

a guardian of the historic Wang and Shubert Theatres. As New England's largest cultural venue, the Boch Center is home to theater, classical and popular music, dance, comedy, opera, Broadway musicals, family entertainment, and more. Located in Boston's historic Theater District, the Boch Center also offers a diverse mix of educational, cultural and community outreach initiatives, including the City Spotlights Teen Leadership Program and the Folk Americana Roots Hall of Fame; collaborates with artists and local nonprofit arts organizations; preserves historic venues; and acts as a champion for Greater Boston's arts and cultural community. Learn more at [bochcenter.org](http://bochcenter.org).

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The window pattern in the last clue is on 333 Massachusetts Avenue. Today's answer is from a historic photo of a clock that was once on the sidewalk in front of this address. It advertised Mai Fong's Real Chinese Food, which was located at number 337 from the 1940s to the 1970s.

You'll find the next clue in the Back Bay

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





# City of Boston and Wentworth Institute of Technology announce new five-year pilot agreement

Special to the Sun

The City of Boston and Wentworth Institute of Technology have announced major agreements on Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) and an amendment to their Institutional Master Plan (IMP). The new PILOT agreement includes a commitment of more than \$5.6 million in cash and community benefits over the next five years. The agreement is the first written PILOT agreement between the City and Wentworth in more than 20 years, creating a predictable and reliable schedule of valuable partnership benefits for the City. The IMP amendment, which passed the BPDA Board today, will deliver more student housing sooner than initially planned, increase public open space, and continue investments in college and career pathways for Boston Public Schools students.

"Boston thrives when our anchor institutions bring their many resources together to invest in our communities. Through these agreements, Wentworth Institute of Technology will deliver a reimagined, larger on-campus residence hall able to house their entire first year class, two new public courtyards, enhanced community benefits and continued investments into college and career pathways for our Boston Public Schools students. This five-year PILOT agreement builds on our new approach to work with institutions to establish a predictable schedule boosting annual cash payments and community benefits at a time

when our Boston taxpayers need relief. Even with threats to higher education and research under this federal administration, our anchor institutions continue to engage and partner with us to support our communities and move Boston forward," said Mayor Michelle Wu.

## New PILOT Agreement

Wentworth has agreed to a new five-year PILOT agreement with the City, which includes cash and community benefits of more than \$5.6 million over this period.

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

Under the new five-year agreement, Wentworth will resume annual PILOT cash payments to the City from \$50,000 in FY26 to \$125,000 in FY30. Wentworth paused PILOT cash contributions to the City over the last several years due to financial challenges brought about by the pandemic. This agreement coincides with Wentworth's strengthening operating position and belief in the importance of the

PILOT program.

Additionally, Wentworth commits to contributing annual PILOT community benefits valued at a total of \$5.2 million over the term of the five-year agreement, benefits that will be reported annually to the City and subject to annual review to align with city and community needs. Wentworth's commitment to delivering community benefits in close partnership with community needs predates the PILOT program. The new agreement reflects Wentworth's continued work to sustain and grow its baseline community benefit commitments to support public education, 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 quantifiable, directly benefit City of Boston residents, and are not part of the core mission and services of the institution.

Wentworth and the City will focus on renewing a mutually agreeable voluntary PILOT agreement before expiration of the proposed five-year agreement on June 30, 2030.

## Accelerated and expanded investment in student housing

Compared to the original IMP approval advanced by Planning in 2024, this 2026 amendment will enable Wentworth to deliver 572 more beds than was originally envisioned for the Pike Residence Hall project, in a larger and reimagined dorm building, and much earlier than previously expected. The new 972 bed Pike Residence Hall will house its entire freshmen class. The construction of this new dorm will also allow other, existing dorms to be renovated or redeveloped. The reimagined Pike Residence Hall brings Wentworth closer to its ten-year goal of adding 1,814 net new student housing beds, ultimately housing more than 75 percent of students seeking on-campus housing. This sustained investment in campus housing will continue to reduce the number of students living off campus, easing pressure on the existing housing stock in Fenway and Mission Hill and supporting long-term residents, seniors, and families in those neighborhoods. Planning will continue to work with Wentworth to monitor off-campus student housing impacts through the University Accountability Ordinance

report.

"This amendment to the Wentworth IMP to move forward with the delivery of a larger, reimagined Pike Residence Hall is vital not only to the well-being of its students, but also to the Mission Hill community as a whole," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "I want to thank the University for their continued partnership with the City to ensure its student population is appropriately housed, and for their commitments to enhancing the public realm with new connections to the larger neighborhood and transportation network over the next ten years."

"The approval of the amendment to the Institutional Master Plan is a milestone that reflects far more than campus growth," said Mark Thompson, President of Wentworth Institute of Technology. "It reflects the deep, collaborative relationship we have built with Boston over many years. From dual-enrollment partnerships with Boston Public Schools students through Beacon Pathways, to STRIVE's 100% job placement rate for graduates with diverse learning needs, Wentworth has always believed that a stronger institution means a stronger city. This plan paves the way for meaningful investments in our campus and our community, and we are proud to move forward together."

"We welcome the new PILOT Agreement between Wentworth Institute of Technology and the City of Boston," said Enid Eckstein of the PILOT Action Group. "We believe Wentworth's written five year commitment to resume PILOT cash payments after a multi-year hiatus is an important step, good for the community and provides predictability for the City. The agreement also expands Wentworth's community benefit investment in alignment with the need for investment in Boston public schools and long term vocational programs."

"I applaud Mayor Wu and Wentworth for advancing this new dorm building," said Executive Director of Mission Hill NHS Patricia Flaherty. "This IMP Amendment represents an important step in the evolution of Wentworth, as well as a win for Mission Hill. By building sufficient student housing, it will lessen the burden on existing neighborhood housing, and allow more longtime residents,

seniors, and families to remain and maintain our vibrant and diverse community."

## Significant new public realm and transportation improvements

The IMP amendment also includes improvements to the overall public realm including two new courtyards and improvements to the current pedestrian path known as the People's Pike, improving pedestrian access to and through the Wentworth campus. The University will build a new connection to Ruggles Street as an extension of the People's Pike, which will strengthen access to public transportation, with a new north-south path alongside the new Pike Residence Hall. In addition, Wentworth will add new bikeshare stations on campus, and contribute \$133,650 to the Boston Transportation Department in support of the bikeshare system.

## Continuing community benefits

Wentworth has been a long-standing partner to the City of Boston and Mission Hill. The University's STRIVE program has supported nearly 6,000 Boston Public Schools students since its founding, serving approximately 100 students per year and achieving a 100 percent job placement rate for graduates with diverse learning needs. In collaboration with several surrounding BPS high schools, Wentworth has also provided dual enrollment opportunities for BPS high school seniors, enabling students to earn transferable college credits in STEM fields while completing their high school diplomas.

These programs, along with Wentworth's annual contributions to community organizations and neighborhood development, have been a feature of Wentworth's ongoing partnership with the City of Boston.

In addition, the University is contributing approximately \$40,000 annually towards community organizations and community development. Altogether, the IMP represents a total of six new development projects over the term of the next ten years, in addition to more than \$3 million in anticipated linkage towards affordable housing, and more than \$600,000 in anticipated linkage towards jobs training.



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# MBTA announces March service changes

Special to the Sun

The MBTA has announced service changes in March on the Orange, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Lowell, and Newburyport/Rockport lines. The MBTA is also reminding riders of rescheduled Red Line work taking place the weekend of February 21 – 22.

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

## On the Red Line:

As previously announced and as a reminder, the MBTA rescheduled signal upgrade and modernization work on the Red Line. By upgrading and modernizing its signals, the MBTA will significantly increase operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for riders.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place on February 21 – 22:

- Red Line service will be suspended between Broadway and Ashmont.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate to all stations between Broadway, JFK/UMass, and Ashmont.
- Regular train service will operate between JFK/UMass and Braintree.
- There will be free fares with the fare gates open at Broadway and JFK/UMass.

- Riders are encouraged to use the Fall River/New Bedford, Kingston, and Greenbush (Old Colony) Commuter Rail lines for fare-free service between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station. Commuter Rail schedules are available at [mbta.com/CR](http://mbta.com/CR).

- Accessible van service will be available between Broadway and Ashmont. Accessible vans can be requested by MBTA personnel or by a station call box.

- Riders using shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Downtown Crossing from Ashmont should budget at least an additional 40 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

## On the Orange Line:

As previously announced, the MBTA will continue signal upgrade and modernization work in March on the Orange Line. By upgrading and modernizing its signals, the MBTA will significantly increase operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for riders.

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

- Orange Line service will be suspended between Back Bay and Forest Hills for nine days, February 28 – March 8.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops between Back Bay and Forest Hills.
- Riders are also encouraged to consider the Commuter Rail for fare-free service between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. The trip between Forest Hills and Back Bay on the Commuter Rail is approximately 10 minutes.

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

## On the Fitchburg, Haverhill, Lowell, and Newburyport/Rockport lines:

The MBTA will perform work during select weekends in March as part of the North Station Terminal Area Signal System Improvement Project that affects all Northside Commuter Rail lines. This project is replacing the obsolete signal system that controls the movement of MBTA Commuter Rail and Amtrak trains in and out of North Station with a new, state-of-the-art microprocessor system that requires less maintenance and reduces failures and train delays. The area where work is taking place is a complex network of tracks and switches that connect the station tracks at North Station, five major Commuter Rail lines, and the Boston Engine Terminal where trains are stored and maintained.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspensions will take place during the weekends of February 21 – 22, February 28 – March 1, March 7 – 8, March 21 – 22, and March 28 – 29:

- Fitchburg Line service will be suspended between North Station and Porter.
- Passengers can instead utilize the Red Line subway service to and from Porter for alternate connections.
- Riders traveling to/from North Station should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Porter should budget at least 20 minutes of travel in addition to their regular trip time.
- Haverhill Line service will be suspended between North Station and Oak Grove.
- Passengers can instead utilize Orange Line subway service as an alternative between each station.
- Riders using the Orange Line should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Oak Grove should budget at least 10 minutes of travel in addition to their regular trip time.
- Lowell Line service will be

suspended between North Station and Anderson/Woburn.

- Free and accessible local shuttle buses will operate between each station.
- Free and accessible express shuttle buses will operate directly between North Station and Anderson/Woburn.
- Regular Commuter Rail fares should be purchased for service beyond Anderson/Woburn.
- Riders using the shuttle buses should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Anderson/Woburn should budget up to 15 minutes additional travel on the express shuttle and up to 40 minutes additional travel on the local shuttle.
- Newburyport/Rockport Line service will be suspended between North Station and Swampscott.
- Free and accessible local shuttle buses will operate between each station.
- Free and accessible express shuttle buses will operate directly between North Station and

Swampscott.

- Regular Commuter Rail fares should be purchased for service beyond Swampscott.

- Riders using shuttle buses should budget extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to North Station from Swampscott should budget up to 40 minutes additional travel on the express shuttle and up to 70 minutes additional travel on the local shuttle.

- Note: The last outbound trip of the night will also serve Salem and Beverly Depot. There will be no train connections at Beverly Depot.

- A dedicated diversion schedule is available on [MBTA.com/CR](http://MBTA.com/CR).

The MBTA previously announced service changes in February.

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

## OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper. Includes photo. No word Limit. Please send to [obits@reverejournal.com](mailto:obits@reverejournal.com) or call 781-485-0588

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

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*"Who Was Saint Patrick, and Should Brigid of Kildare Regain Her Saintly Status?"*

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