

SEE PAGE 13 FOR ROAD CLOSURES THIS WEEKEND AND FOR THE BOSTON MARATHON

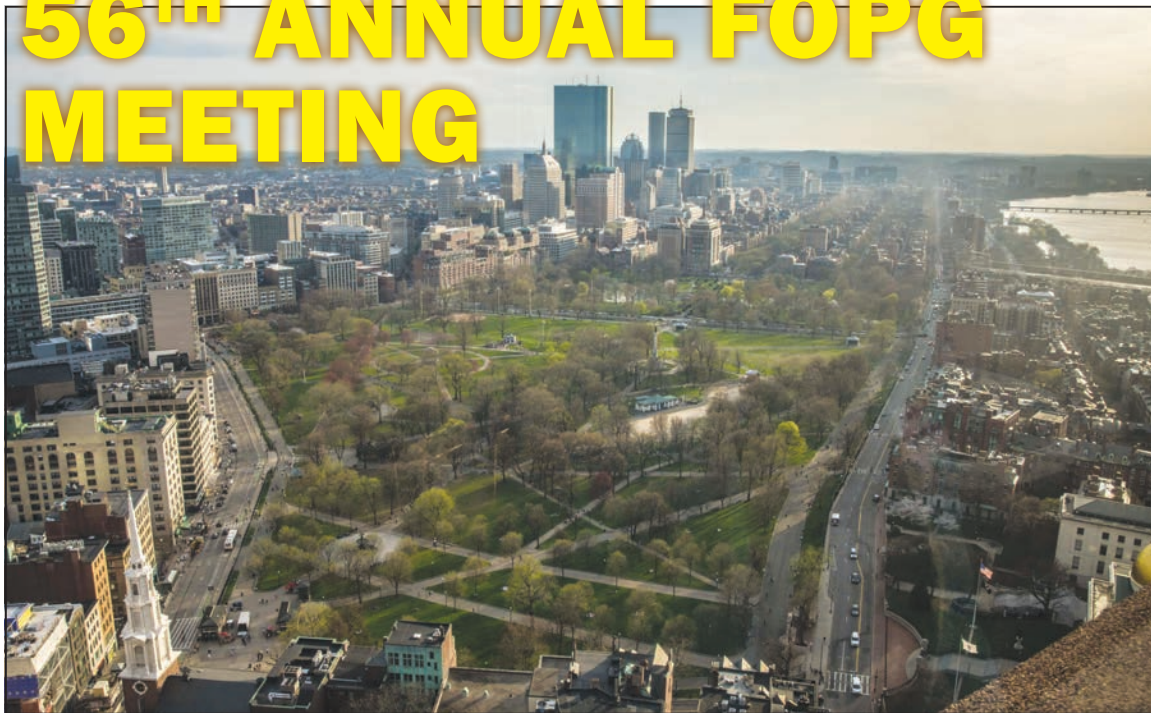
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

56TH ANNUAL FOPG MEETING



Boston Common and The Public Garden are seen from the remarkable view at the UMass Club where the Friends Of The Public Garden Annual Meeting was held. See more photos on Pages 4 and 5.



Friends Of The Public Garden Council member Cynthia Loesch-Johnson and Lisa Crist with Speak For The Trees.



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN
Friends Of The Public Garden Treasurer Jim Bordewick delivers the Treasurer's Report.

Sherley Smith recognized as Friends of the Public Garden's Parks Champion

By Dan Murphy

Back Bay resident Sherley Smith was recognized as the Friends of the Public 2026 Parks Champion during the group's 56th annual meeting on Tuesday, April 14, at the UMass Club of Boston. The Friends of the Public Garden is a nonprofit membership organization that partners with the Boston Parks Department to maintain and enhance the Public Garden, the Common, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Smith has been actively involved with the Friends for many years, serving as an ex-officio board member, a council member, a docent, and a dedicated volunteer.

"It has been my pleasure, and privilege, to be a part of the dedicated and talented teams that care for these three landmark parks," said Smith ahead of receiving this year's Park Cham-



STEPHANIE FLETCHER OF GARDEN CLUB OF THE BACK BAY

Sherley Smith, recipient of the Friends of the Public Garden's 2026 Parks Champion Award.

pion Award.

Regarding Smith and her

(SMITH, Pg. 4)

ZBA denies ads proposed within pedestrian skybridge

By Dan Murphy

At its April 7 virtual monthly hearing, the city's Zoning Board of Appeal ultimately denied a controversial proposal to install removable advertising decals within the pedestrian skybridge that connects Copley Place and the Prudential Mall.

The translucent, adhesive decals, spanning 60-feet wide by 8-feet high, would have adorned only six panes of glass in the center portion on both sides of the three-section bridge, while the upper skylight portions of the bridge would have remained free from decals, according to Jeff Drago, an attorney for the

applicant, The Simon Property Group.

Drago noted ads are already visible on one side inside the bridge, but they're only visible to people walking through the structure, and that the proposed decals would have adorned both sides in the same location.

(SKYBRIDGE ADS, Pg. 3)

COPLEY SOCIETY OF ART PRESENTS MEDITATIONS IN PAPER

The Copley Society of Art (ColSo) is proud to present artist member Sandra Samaha's upcoming exhibition, Meditations in Paper. Through her work Samaha explores how multiple images can represent past, present and future. She asks herself what is, what was, what could be. After studying art at both Skidmore College and the University of New Hampshire, where Samaha concentrated on

(ColSo, Pg. 8)

Life Circles. ▶



EDITORIAL

PROUD OF OUR LOCAL "LINK" TO THE ARTEMIS II SPACE MISSION

After watching the dramatic re-entry into our atmosphere of the Artemis II's Orion capsule Integrity, its subsequent splashdown, and the retrieval of the four astronauts in the Pacific Ocean last Friday evening, we were proud to learn that one of the four Navy dive medical personnel who swam to the Orion capsule and greeted the astronauts has a local connection to the Boston area.

Chief Hospital Corpsman Vlad Link grew up in Chelsea and is a 2007 graduate of Chelsea High School. "I have been exposed to the Navy since I was a young teenager, and I'm proud to represent both my family and hometown," said Link, who noted that his role with the Artemis II mission has been the highlight of his 18 years of experience in dive medicine. "Contributing our efforts to NASA and the Artemis II mission is something we take great pride in as part of that legacy."

Link and his fellow dive medical team members, who trained for years for their mission, performed the initial medical assessments of the Artemis II crew. They were prepared to provide triage care as necessary and assisted the astronauts in egress onto the inflatable raft set up outside by Navy divers. They then prepared the crew to be airlifted by helicopter back to the amphibious transport dock ship USS John P. Murtha.

According to the Navy Outreach department, Link is part of a specialized group, often working in expeditionary warfare communities, who are certified divers and who undergo specialized training to become experts in decompression illnesses and other undersea medical situations. Their mission is to care for and ensure dive-qualified service members are safe to conduct diving operations.

We know we join with all of our readers in offering a "Salute" to Chief Hospital Corpsman Link for a job well-done. He made all of us in the Greater Boston area feel a sense of pride in his accomplishment and we thank him for his service.

AG CAMPBELL MOVES FORWARD VS. THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

When Frances Haugen, a former data scientist with Facebook, disclosed thousands of internal documents to the Wall St. Journal in 2021 that revealed that Facebook's own research showed the negative impacts of its Instagram algorithms on teen mental health, Americans on all sides of the political spectrum were shocked to learn that Facebook was prioritizing engagement -- and profits -- over the safety of our children.

Since then, the attorneys general in more than 30 states have filed lawsuits against Facebook, including in Massachusetts, where our Attorney General, Andrea Campbell, brought a suit based on c. 93A, the consumer protection law.

Facebook challenged the legality of Campbell's lawsuit, citing the protection afforded social media platforms by a federal law, known as Section 230, which provides that companies such as Facebook cannot be held liable for the posts of third parties on their web sites, even if those posts are defamatory. (The only recourse for the person who is defamed is to sue the person who made the post.)

However, Campbell's lawsuit is based not on what the users of social media have posted, but rather on the very design of the platforms themselves which, her lawsuit asserts, violates our state's consumer protection laws.

Friday's decision by the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court allowing Campbell's lawsuit to proceed (Meta was appealing the denial by a lower court of its motion to dismiss based on Section 230) marks yet another legal setback for these social media platforms.

A few weeks ago, a New Mexico jury found Meta (the parent of Facebook/Instagram) liable for failing to protect children from sexual exploitation and predators on its platforms, ordering Meta to pay \$375 million in civil penalties. (Social media giants Tik-Tok and Snapchat previously had settled their lawsuits with the New Mexico AG.)

With Attorney General Campbell's lawsuit, among the many others, now set to proceed, it would appear that a reckoning for the social media companies finally is at hand -- and that the safety of our children will prevail over profits.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TRASH COLLECTION COMES EARLY MARATHON MONDAY

Dear Neighbors,

I would like to inform you of an important update regarding trash and recycling collection for Marathon Monday, April 20.

Due to the upcoming marathon and related activity in Back Bay and Beacon Hill, trash and recycling pickup will begin earlier than usual. All materials must be placed curbside by 6:00 AM.

While 6:00 AM is the standard set-out time citywide, please note that additional collection trucks will be deployed in these neighborhoods that morning to complete routes as early as possible. As a result, any materials placed curbside after 6:00 AM may not be collected

and will need to remain out until the next scheduled trash day, as crews will not be able to return to the area.

Please also note that this is not a scheduled Yard Waste collection week. We appreciate your cooperation in helping ensure a smooth and efficient collection process during this busy time.

Included with this notification is a full schedule of events for the 2026 Boston Marathon Week-end including the Boston 5K to be held on Saturday, April 18. You can also find all information on our website here.

Sincerely,

Samantha Courage
Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway/Kenmore and Mission Hill
Neighborhood Liaison
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

NABB to host Geothermal Forum on Earth Day

Special to the Sun

The Green Committee of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) invites the public to a forum titled "Geothermal Networks: A Path to Fossil Fuel Freedom" on Wednesday evening, April 22. The event coincides with Earth Day and will be held at the Boston Public Library Main Branch in Rabb Hall.

The program, running from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., aims to explore geothermal networks as an economical and efficient solution for providing heating and cooling to high-density areas, including residences, businesses, and schools.

Event Schedule and Speakers

The formal program will be moderated by Hessann Farooqi, Executive Director of the Boston Climate Action Network. Scheduled presentations include:

- Thermal Energy Network Basics: Presented by Ania Camargo Cortes, President of the Board of Directors of HEET.
- Boston's Potential for Geothermal Networks: Presented by Sarah Herbert, Deputy Director of Energy Transformation for the City of Boston.
- Financing Options: Presented by Audrey Schulman, Executive Director of Black Swan Lab.
- Global Potential and Scale: Presented by Zeyneb Magavi, Executive Director of HEET.

Following a dedicated audience Q&A session, attendees are invited to visit information tables hosted by leading clean energy organizations from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m..

Registration for the forum is free and open to the public via the Boston Public Library website at bpl.libcal.com/event/16320952.

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 or deb@thebostonsun.com

THE BOSTON SUN

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NEWS IN BRIEF

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD'S APRIL EVENTS CONTINUE

SoWa Sundays will be held April 19 and 26 starting at 11 a.m.

SoWa Artists Guild events, which are free and open to the public, are held at 450 Harrison Ave.

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM TO OFFER APRIL 23 WALKING TOUR

The Nichols House Museum, located at 55 Mt. Vernon St., offers its Brahmins and Bohemi-

ans: Landscape Architects Beacon Hill walking tour on Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m.

Rose Standish Nichols was one of the first women to work professionally as a landscape architect, designing over 70 gardens around the United States. She was not the only landscape architect in the neighborhood—in the early 20th century, Beacon Hill was home to a number of notable designers who created well-known landscapes in New England and beyond. Enjoy a walk around Beacon Hill to meet some of Rose's contemporaries, with a particular focus on women working in the field.

For more information and tickets, visit nicholshousemuseum.org.

SWAN BOATS OPENING DAY SET FOR APRIL 18

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Paget family will host the first ride of the season on the Boston Swan Boats as they open at the Boston Public Garden Lagoon on Saturday, April 18, at 10 a.m.

For more information, visit boston.gov/swan-boats.

AUTHOR LINDA STASI ON HAND APRIL 22 AT UNION CHURCH

The South End Library Author Series welcomes Linda Stasi, author of 'The Descendant,' for a hybrid event on Wednesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Union Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Connection Room (access from Newton Street), followed by refreshments and book-signings at 7:30 p.m.

Book sales will be offered by Parkside Booksellers. This event is free for all; come in person or attend virtually. For virtual link, email info@friendsofsouthendlibrary.org. FOSEL subscribers

will receive the ZOOM link in the group's Mailchimp newsletter just before the event.

AUTHOR ALISON BARNET TO LEAD TALK ON CITY'S NEW YORK STREET ON APRIL 23 AT SE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alison Barnet, a longtime South End resident and author of five books, including four volumes on the history of her neighborhood, will lead a discussion on the city's New York Streets neighborhood on Thursday, (NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 6)

SKYBRIDGE ADS (from Page 1)

The translucent decals would have required no additional mechanicals, lighting, or illumination, said Drago, and therefore were expected to have no visual impact on drivers at night per a glare study.

"The idea is to continue to bring foot traffic to within the business community in this area," said Drago, noting that the Back Bay was one of the Boston neighborhoods hardest hit economically by pandemic.

The applicant, added Drago, offered as part of mitigation pro bono use of two electronic kiosks within the mall for two weeks a month to nonprofit organizations within the area.

Conrad Armstrong, vice chair of the Neighborhood Associ-

ation of the Back Bay Licensing, as well as chair of NABB's Building Use Committee, told this reporter in a phone call following the hearing that the offer of pro bono advertising (which came after the applicant's initial proposal) wasn't enough to dissuade NABB from opposing the proposal.

"We feel this is a very complicated intersection, add these large ads could be a detriment to the public safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists," added Armstrong.

Three other pedestrian skywalks are located throughout the non-historic Back Bay, said Armstrong, and if this proposal had been granted, he believes the landlords of those other pedestri-

an bridges in the neighborhood would have undoubtedly wanted to follow suit.

"And they all will be plastered with advertising," added Armstrong.

Armstrong also noted the applicant had presented images at the hearing of a similar concept comprising large advertising panels in an area of New York City that looked much like Times Square.

"Nobody wants the Back Bay to look like Times Square," said Armstrong.

Likewise, District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn told this reporter in a statement following the hearing: "Although the City of Boston has not weighed in on behalf of residents at City

boards over the last several years, including at the ZBA and Licensing Board, I have always taken the community process and feedback of my neighbors and local civic groups seriously. While the City of Boston injected more chaos on our streets and sidewalks by encouraging third-party moped food delivery, Back Bay residents and the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay were clear that the last thing we need is the potential for more distracted driving and additional pedestrian safety issues."

Conor Newman, of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, went on record during public testimony at the April 7 virtual hearing to express oppo-

sition to the proposal as well.

In contrast, the Back Bay Association, which represents the interests of neighborhood businesses, supported the proposal.

BBA President Meg Mainzer-Cohen noted how advertising already proliferates MBTA buses and stations during her public testimony at the April 7 virtual hearing.

Mainzer-Cohen added that she believes allowing the proposed advertising in the skywalk would have come as a benefit to not only the advertising businesses themselves but also for pedestrians by apprising them of these businesses, including any participating Copley Place tenants.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The pedestrian skybridge that connects Copley Place and the Prudential Mall.

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FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN HOLD ANNUAL MEETING AT UMASS CLUB



Friends Of The Public Garden Treasurer Jim Bordewick delivers the Treasurer's Report.



Friends Of The Public Garden exec board members Catherine Bordon, Liza Meyer, and Leslie Singleton Adam with recipients of the Henry Lee Fund: Orion Kriegman with Boston Food Forest Coalition, Katherine Fogarty St Mark's Pollinators Group, David Meshoulan with Speak For The Trees, Michael Hamlon with Coconut Grove Memorial Committee, Nikki Stewart with Old North Illuminated, Friends Of Titus Sparrow Park Shayna Keshian, and Katherine Wilmore with Friends Of Hayes Park.

SMITH (from Page 1)

commitment to the city's parks, Liza Meyer, President of the Friends said: "Sherley embodies what it means to be a true guardian of our parks. Her dedication is heartfelt and deeply rooted in community — from shaping our docent program to tending the landscapes that make the Public Garden so beloved. Through her volunteerism, leadership, and tireless care for these spaces, she has left a lasting mark on these parks and all who enjoy them, for neighbors and visitors alike.

We are proud to recognize her as this year's Parks Champion." The Parks Champion Award is an annual recognition presented each spring by the Friends of the Public Garden. It honors volunteers, outstanding supporters, or organizations that inspire others through their leadership and commitment. These individuals and groups demonstrate how to drive positive change and leave a lasting impact on the three parks, exemplifying the mission of the Friends.



Friends Of The Public Garden President Liza Meyer delivers the President's Report.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Friends Of The Public Garden held its annual meeting at the UMass Club at One Beacon Street. Board members were elected, the work from

last year was reviewed, and this year's projects and goals were announced. Friends Of The Public Garden help maintain The Public Garden, Boston Common, and Commonwealth Mall.



Friends Of The Public Garden Board Chair Leslie Singleton Adam opens the Annual Meeting.



Friends Of The Public Garden Governance Committee Chair Jeff Mullan conducted the vote to bring candidates into the Board for a 3 year term.



Shirley Smith (2nd from right) is presented with the Parks Champion Award by City Of Boston interim Commissioner of Parks Cathy Baker-Eclipse with Friends Of The Public Garden Board Chair Leslie Singleton Adam and President Liza Meyer.



Chair of the Henry Lee Fund and Secretary of Friends Of The Public Garden Catherine Bordon talks about the grant recipients and their projects. Henry Lee was a beloved civic leader who championed public spaces for all. The Henry Lee Fund allocated \$47,000 to 10 projects throughout the city to help augment and maintain these public parks.



City Of Boston interim Commissioner of Parks Cathy Baker-Eclipse introduces the recipient of the Parks Champion Award.

.....
PLEASE RECYCLE

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN HOLD ANNUAL MEETING AT UMASS CLUB



The son of Henry Lee, Henry Lee Jr (center), with City Of Boston interim Commissioner of Parks Cathy Baker-Eclipse (2nd from left) and Friends Of The Public Garden officials Cynthia Loesch-Johnson, Leslie Singleton Adam, Liza Meyer, and Catherine Bordon



NABB members Anne Mostue and Anne Swanson



Audrey Bolinger and Perry Skaggs



Attendees socialized after the official business of the Annual Meeting was concluded.



Laura Guadagno with Cathy and Tom Griffin represented We Tree Boston.



Brittany Stopa and Trisha Gallagher Boisvert



Emma Haselhubn and Janet Garvey



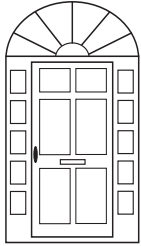
Susan and Frank Bomba



Orion Kriegman, Shana Santow, and Sandra Gilpatrick

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Rentals

Registration still open for 27th annual Charles River Earth Day Cleanup

Special to Sun

Volunteer registration is still open for the 27th annual Charles River Earth Day Cleanup on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25.

This much-loved event brings together over 3,500 community volunteers each year to rejuvenate the parks, forests, playgrounds, paths, and shoreline that surround the Charles River and its tributaries, ensuring the

areas remain clean, safe, and beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

Since its inception in 1999, the Charles River Cleanup has mobilized thousands of volunteers annually to remove thousands of pounds of litter and invasive plants and assist with park maintenance along the Charles River's 80-mile stretch and within the 1,100 acres of Emerald Necklace parkland surrounding the Muddy River, a vital tributary of the Charles.

The Charles River Cleanup is coordinated by the Charles River Conservancy, the Charles River Watershed Association, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Esplanade Association, and the Waltham Land Trust, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Visit CharlesRiverCleanup.org to get involved, learn more and register for the Earth Day Charles River Cleanup.



PAM STEEL PHOTO

Volunteers participate in a past Earth Day Cleanup on the Muddy River.

Sen. Collins files legislation to invest in Southwest Corridor Park and strengthen climate protections

Special to the Sun

Ahead of this week's debate on the Mass Ready Act, Senator Nick Collins has filed a series of amendments aimed at strengthening climate resilience in the South End and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Mass Ready Act is a \$3.64 billion environmental bond bill focused on protecting infrastructure from climate change and severe weather, safeguarding drinking water, and advancing environmental protection.

"In meetings with constituents along our coastline, we hear the same message: people want real action," said Senator Collins.

"This bill and these amendments are about meeting that moment with urgency and not getting slowed down by red tape."

Senator Collins' amendments build on that framework with a focus on local communities and neighborhood infrastructure.

One amendment directs funding toward infrastructure improvements and maintenance work in the Southwest Corridor Park, including resurfacing along Claremont and Carleton Streets, improved signage, and enhancements to spaces such as the Mary Longley Garden.

Franco Campanello, President of the Southwest Corridor Park Conservancy, said the park is

"more than just a green space... a vital connector between neighborhoods and a place where residents come together for recreation, relaxation, and community." He added that continued support will help keep the park welcoming and well maintained while strengthening the conservancy's work with neighbors, local businesses, and civic organizations.

A central component of the proposal establishes a commission on resilient urban coasts to identify barriers that delay climate resilience projects and streamline permitting so com-

(CLIMATE RESILIENCE, Pg. 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 3

April 23, at 6 p.m. at the South End Historical Society.

R.S.V.P. to admin@southend-historicalsociety.org

GEOTHERMAL NETWORKS FORUM COMING APRIL 22 TO COPLEY BPL

Neighborhood Association of Back Bay (NABB), along with other environmental organizations, will sponsor a Geothermal Networks Forum on Wednesday April 22, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library's Rabb Hall.

This event is free and open to public, with speakers and interactive fun tables to explore. Register online at: <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/69b47a258089f23c6761f1f5>

'RECLAIMING HISTORY' EVENT COMING APRIL 27 TO JOSIAH QUINCY UPPER SCHOOL

'Reclaiming History' – an exhibit celebrating the stories and resilience of the city's Chinatown, Little Syria, and New York Streets neighborhoods with performance, food and stories – will launch with a special event on Monday, April 27, at the Josiah Quincy Upper School at 900 Washington St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program starting at 6 p.m.

This exhibit is free and open to the public. R.S.V.P. at <https://bit.ly/rh-launch>

PRESCOTT HOUSE TO OFFER AN AFTERNOON TEA AND TALK ON APRIL 25

The William Hickling Prescott House, located at 55 Beacon St., will offer an Afternoon Tea and Talk on Saturday, April 25, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Join Etiquetteer, Robert B. Dimmick, for an afternoon of tea manners, history, and anecdotes, with an elegant tea catered by Vintage Tea & Cake Co. at Prescott House, the Beacon Hill headquarters of the Colonial Dames (NSCDA-MA). A selection of Prescott House's collection of tea gowns and millinery will also be on display.

Admission costs \$55 per person and includes an elegant tea menu. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/tea-and-talk-at-prescott-house-tickets-1985071531387?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true to register, or nscdama.org for more information on the event.

www.eventbrite.com/e/tea-and-talk-at-prescott-house-tickets-1985071531387?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true to register, or nscdama.org for more information on the event.

FENWAY CIVIC ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 12 AT MASS. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fenway Civic Association will hold its 65th annual meeting on Tuesday, May 12, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Massachusetts Historical Society, located at 1154 Boylston St.

Refreshments and social time will be followed by a brief business meeting, after which guests will be treated to a special open house experience, allowing self-guided tours of the '1776: Declaring Independence' exhibit that includes manuscripts, artifacts, and rarely seen treasures capturing a monumental moment in American history.

This meeting is free and open to all – come and bring a friend!

BOSTON WARD 5 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SET FOR MAY 30 IN WORCESTER

On Saturday, March 14, beginning at 9 a.m., the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee will host the 2026 Boston Ward 5 Democratic Party Caucus ("Caucus") to elect delegates and alternates for the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention—which will be held on Saturday, May 30, at the DCU Center in Worcester.

The Caucus will take place at the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St. in Copley Square. Persons wishing to attend the Caucus may arrive beginning at 9 a.m. This event is open to the public. However, only those persons who reside in Ward 5 and have previously registered to vote as Democrats, or are 16 years of age by Feb. 19, and have pre-registered to vote as Democrats, will be eligible to sign in to the Caucus and be permitted to vote and/or be elected as delegates, or alternates, during the Caucus.

Ward 5 includes Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Bay Village, Fenway and parts of Chinatown and the South End. You can check your voter registration status (and whether you live in Ward 5) at: www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx.

Emergency Medical Services celebrate new EMTs and recent promotions

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) celebrated the graduation of 26 new EMTs and the recent promotion of eight EMS members in a ceremony held at Boston's historic Faneuil Hall. The graduates, all state-certified EMTs, successfully completed the Boston EMS Recruit Academy, an intensive training program that prepares recruits to deliver high-quality emergency care across the city. With this new class joining the ranks, Boston EMS continues to strengthen its 9-1-1 ambulance and dispatch services in response to growing demand.

"Congratulations to the newest class of EMT graduates," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Today marks the beginning of your commitment to a profession rooted in service, compassion, and skill. As a critical link between our first responders and healthcare providers, EMS plays an essential role in delivering care across our city. Boston is deeply grateful for your dedication to keeping every neighborhood in Boston safe and healthy."

"Today, we welcome a new class of EMTs who have already shown impressive dedication and heart," said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley. "Your training has prepared you for exactly what lies ahead—real emergencies, fast-changing situations, and the responsibility of caring for people when they need it most. And we need you now more than ever. You are stepping into this role at an extraordinary moment. With FIFA World Cup events, Sail Boston, the Marathon, and 250th commemorations ahead, we are preparing for one of the busiest springs and summers our city has seen in years. Your commitment ensures we can meet these challenges



Ceremony honors 26 graduating recruits and 8 promotions to enhance emergency medical services in the City of Boston.

head-on. We're honored to have you join our ranks."

The Boston EMS Recruit Academy is a full-time, paid program that combines classroom instruction with field training to prepare EMTs for a broad range of life-threatening emergencies—including mass casualty incidents, active shooter situations, hazardous materials exposure, and human trafficking response. During their training, the graduates collectively responded to more than 3,000 9-1-1 calls, treating patients experiencing everything from cardiac arrest and childbirth to serious trauma and behavioral health crises.

"Congratulations to all who are graduating today and to all who are advancing in their EMS careers," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "Boston EMS is critical to health and wellness in our city, and your decision to serve ensures that life-saving care reaches residents and visitors in every neighborhood. As first responders, you deliver skilled care at the moments when people need it most, and you do so with compassion and purpose. Your work is essential to building a healthier, more equi-

CLIMATE RESILIENCE *(from Page 6)*

munities can act more quickly.

In addition to the commission, the amendments include targeted investments across Boston, including funding for nature-based coastal projects and real-time monitoring, resilience upgrades along the Fort Point Channel and at the Boston Children's Museum, and planning and engineering work in Dorchester.

The proposal also includes a

major investment in the Boston Harbor Islands to support critical improvements and protect a key regional resource.

Together, these amendments are designed to strengthen flood protection, improve coordination, and help communities better prepare for sea level rise and coastal flooding.

The Mass Ready Act is expected to be taken up by the Senate later this week.

table Boston, and I am deeply grateful for your service."

During the ceremony, the department also celebrated the recent promotion of six Emergency Medical Technicians to the rank of Paramedic, following their successful completion of an intensive paramedic program, departmental promotional exams, and a demanding three-month field internship.

Promoted to Paramedics

- Kevin Pywell
- Kwang Koo

- Matthew Derby
- David Ramos
- Sebastian Morales
- Sam Cedrone

The department also honored two members promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, who together bring nearly 25 years of combined experience to the supervisory ranks.

Promoted to Lieutenants

- Brian Bailey
- Randy Brinson, Jr.

"These promotions mark a significant milestone in your

careers," said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley. "Each of you has demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and readiness to lead. The confidence your peers and this department place in you is well earned. As you step into these roles, you will set the tone and standard for those around you—and your impact will be felt far beyond the walls of EMS, throughout every neighborhood we serve."

Boston EMS is one of the busiest municipal EMS providers in New England, responding to more than 141,000 emergency medical incidents per year.

Boston EMS is the primary provider of emergency medical services for the City of Boston and is a nationally recognized leader in the field of pre-hospital emergency medicine. The department leverages the latest advances in both medicine and technology to bring high-quality, compassionate care to the people of Boston. As a bureau of BPHC, Boston EMS also plays a key role in the City's emergency preparedness efforts and provides community programming designed to educate the public about important health and safety topics.

**FROM BACK BAY TO THE SOUTH END,
THE BOSTON SUN IS THE PULSE
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RESIDENTS ENJOY THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRINGTIME IN BOSTON



Daffodils bloom as a visitor walks on a footbridge.



Visitors on the dock by the Charles River.



The Arthur Fiedler Statue looks on as visitors enjoy the Esplanade.



Visitors enjoy the Esplanade.



Visitors enjoy the tranquility of The Public Garden.



The Make Way For Ducklings ducks are adorned with costumes celebrating Spring.

ColSO (from Page 1)

printmaking, she began selling her serigraphs and etchings through the New Hampshire Art Association and local galleries. Samaha was greatly inspired by her love of quilts and Oriental

carpets, which led her to collage. Samaha's collage work empowered her to better understand herself and her faith. For twenty-five years Sandra taught art and art history at the high

school level. She would often tell her art history students: "art is a reflection of the time period in which it was produced". As Samaha wrote in her artist statement, "My collages, like the truth we seek, require careful observation, investigation and contemplation to discern." Through her work, she brings a passion for creativity and expression of her perspective. We hope you'll join us for the opening reception held at the gallery Thursday, April 23 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Stop by to meet the artist!

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 pro-

vide artists with opportunities to grow, connect, and thrive while

engaging the public in meaningful creative experiences.



The Blues.



Sandra Samaha Baptism

“NO STOPPING” PARKING RESTRICTIONS

APRIL 13 – APRIL 23

- Blagden Street (north side), Dartmouth St to BPL Driveway
- Hereford Street (both sides, FIREHOUSE ONLY), Boylston St to Public Alleys #443 & #444

APRIL 15 – APRIL 21

- Exeter Street (west side), Alley 441 to Boylston St
- St. James Ave to Stuart Street (B.A.A. VEHICLES ONLY)

THURSDAY TO MONDAY

- Clarendon Street (both sides), Newbury St to Stuart St

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, & MONDAY

- Beacon Street (south side/ Boston Common side), Charles St to Joy St
- Boylston Street (both sides), Dalton St to Dartmouth St
- Dartmouth Street (both sides), Boylston St to Commonwealth Ave
- Exeter Street (both sides), Newbury St to Huntington Ave

SATURDAY TO MONDAY

- Beacon Street (both sides), Bay State Rd to Brookline Town Line
- Berkeley Street (both sides), Stuart St to Newbury St
- Boylston Street (both sides), Dartmouth St to Charles St
- Cambridge Street (both sides), Court St to Sudbury St
- Charles Street (both sides), Boylston St to Beacon St
- Hereford Street (both sides), Public Alleys #443 & #444 to Newbury St
- Saint James Avenue (both sides), Arlington St to Dartmouth St
- Stuart Street (both sides), Huntington Ave to Arlington St
- Saturday (12:01 AM through 3:00 PM)
- Bay State Road (both sides), Beacon St to Silber Way
- Clarendon Street (both sides), Newbury St to Boylston St
- Newbury Street (both sides), Dartmouth St to Exeter St
- Silber Way (both sides), Bay State Rd to Commonwealth Ave

SUNDAY & MONDAY

- Clarendon Street (both sides), Public Alley 436 to Newbury St
- Newbury Street (both sides), #29 Newbury St crossing over Berkeley St to #69 Newbury St

2026 BOSTON MARATHON AND PATRIOTS DAY WEEKEND ROADWAY CLOSURES AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS

In preparation for the 2026 Boston Marathon, the B.A.A. 5K, the B.A.A. Invitational Mile, and the Patriots' Day Parade, the City of Boston has issued a comprehensive traffic advisory.

Visitors and participants are strongly urged to leave personal vehicles at home and utilize public transportation (MBTA) or Bluebikes. To facilitate a smoother return, the MBTA advises purchasing round-trip tickets. Please be aware of the following roadway closures and strictly enforced parking restrictions. Always check posted signage and variable message boards, as changes may be made by the Boston Police and Transportation Departments.

2026 B.A.A. 5K — SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 (STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.)

Parking restrictions will be in effect for formation and the race route on:

- Boylston Street (between Hadassah Way and Arlington St; Hereford St to Dartmouth St)
- Arlington Street (Boylston St to Commonwealth Ave)
- Commonwealth Avenue Outbound (Arlington St to Charlesgate East)
- Charlesgate East (Commonwealth Ave Outbound to Beacon St)
- Beacon Street (Charlesgate East to Bay State Rd)
- Bay State Road (Beacon St to Silber Way)
- Silber Way (Bay State Rd to Commonwealth Ave Inbound)
- Commonwealth Avenue Inbound (Silber Way to Hereford St)

2026 B.A.A. INVITATIONAL MILE — SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 (STARTS AT 11:00 A.M.)

Parking restrictions will be in effect on:

- Boylston Street (near Exeter St; from Exeter St to Dartmouth St)
- Dartmouth Street (Boylston St to Newbury St)
- Newbury Street (Dartmouth St to Exeter St)
- Exeter Street (Newbury to Boylston St)

CITY OF BOSTON PATRIOTS' DAY PARADE — MON., APRIL 20, 2026 (STARTS AT 9:15 A.M.)

The parade steps off at City Hall Plaza and will proceed through Court St, Cambridge St, Tremont St, Bromfield St, and Washington St.

MARATHON MONDAY (APRIL 20)

Extensive "No Stopping" restrictions will be enforced on both sides of the following streets (unless otherwise posted):

- Arlington St (Beacon to Isabella)
- Beacon St (Brighton side to Brookline line; Back Bay side from Charles to Arlington)
- Berkeley St (Columbus to Commonwealth)
- Belvidere St, Boylston St (Mass Ave to Dalton)
- Cambria St, Charles St South, Chestnut Hill Ave, Clarendon St
- Cleveland Circle (parking areas adjacent to Cassidy Playground & Sutherland Rd - 24 hours)
- Columbus Ave, Commonwealth Ave (various inbound/outbound segments from Lake St to Kenmore, and Charlesgate West to Deerfield)
- Dartmouth St, Deerfield St, East Dedham St, Exeter St, Fairfield St, Gloucester St, Hereford St
- Hanover St (for Parade)
- Kenmore St, Nassau St & Washington St (for Tufts Medical access)
- Newbury St (Arlington to Brookline Ave)
- Plympton St, Raleigh St, Stanhope St, Scotia St, St. Cecilia St
- Blagden St, Bromfield St, Congress St, Dalton St, Huntington Ave, New Chardon St, Providence St, State St, Tremont St (Note: Vehicles parked in violation of posted signs are subject to being ticketed and towed. For a complete list of up-to-the-minute updates and to check your specific street, please monitor local postings or visit Boston.gov.)

Wu, Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, and Rep. John Moran announce \$4m in funding included in Ways & Means Proposed Budget

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu has joined House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz and State Representative John Moran to announce \$4 million in new funding that will be included in the House Ways & Means proposed budget in support of ongoing initiatives to end outdoor substance use in neighborhoods of Boston and connect individuals with treatment and recovery programs. Mayor Wu also highlighted progress made across various city departments and agencies, including the Coordinated Response Team (CRT), which leads cross-departmental efforts to address safety, health, and quality of life for residents with a goal to end outdoor

substance use in neighborhoods of Boston and the criminal activity that supports it, and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), which leads a public health approach to supporting residents with substance use disorder. Today's announcement builds on the City's significant progress and highlights continued coordination between the City, state partners and community leaders to advance comprehensive, long-term solutions and ensure public health in the Mass & Cass area and citywide.

"Boston has made meaningful progress toward the goal of ending outdoor drug use in our neighborhoods through a sustained and coordinated effort grounded in public health, safety, and accountability," said

Mayor Michelle Wu. "We're seeing fewer crowds, fewer calls for service, and more people connected to treatment, thanks to the ongoing collaborations with neighborhood working groups, service providers, and our City and State agencies. I'm grateful to Chairman Aaron Michlewitz and Representative John Moran for their leadership in including significant funding in the House budget that would support even more of this critical work."

To drive forward crucial efforts to address quality of life in the Mass and Cass for residents and families, Chairman Aaron Michlewitz announced that the House Ways & Means Committee will include \$4 million in their proposed budget supporting various initiatives bet-

ter connecting individuals with treatment options and recovery programs. Funding is aimed at bolstering supportive recovery housing options for individuals and additional clinical support services.

"By providing these additional financial resources, we will be able to better connect individuals with acceptable treatment options and effective recovery programs. With this partnership between the Commonwealth and the City, we will be able to not only improve the lives of the residents of Boston but also help people on the road to recovery," said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). "I want to thank Mayor Wu and her administration for their tireless commitment to this issue, as well as Representative John Moran, and the other members of the working group for finding a reasonable and effective solution to this issue."

"Sincere thanks to Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for his steadfast support of the South End/Roxbury/Newmarket Working Group on Addiction and Recovery and his commitment to advancing meaningful solutions for Mass and Cass. Together with city and state partners, we remain focused on balanced, humane, and effective solutions that strengthen public health, improve safety, and restore confidence in our neighborhoods," said State Representative John Moran (9th Suffolk District).

Last year, the City brought together the Coordinated Response Team (CRT), the Boston Police Department and their Neighborhood Engagement Safety Team (NEST), the Boston Public Health Commission, partner organizations and elected officials to advance coordinated efforts for the Mass and Cass area and improve conditions in various neighborhoods. This led to a series of recommendations being brought forward by the South End/Roxbury/Newmarket Working Group on Addiction and Recovery. These recommendations have informed the City's ongoing strategy to end outdoor substance use in the area and across Boston neighborhoods.

"I want to thank Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for his unwavering commitment, Rep-

resentative John Moran for his steadfast advocacy at the state level, and to Mayor Michelle Wu for recognizing the urgency and complexity of these challenges — working to improve quality of life for residents and business owners, while ensuring that those who are struggling receive the care, dignity, and support they deserve on their path to recovery," said District 3 City Councilor John Fitzgerald.

"What we see at Mass and Cass and nearby neighborhoods is a mix of enormously complex societal challenges," said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden. "It isn't just one issue; it's many all at once across public health, public safety, homelessness and quality of life. I thank everyone here for helping put forward solutions and look forward to continuing our efforts in partnership."

"I want to thank Mayor Wu, Chairman Michlewitz, and my committed recovery working group co-chairs for their thoughtful recommendations and steadfast support of the Mayor's Coordinated Response Team (CRT) co-response diversion program in partnership with the Boston Police Department Neighborhood Engagement Safety Team (NEST)," said Kellie Young, Director of Coordinated Response Team. "Together, we are working to end outdoor substance use and improve quality of life for our residents, business owners, and individuals living with substance use disorder. Through our partnership with the Gavin Foundation, we are ensuring that individuals are rapidly connected to structured pathways to recovery that promote stability and long term support. We are already seeing clear, measurable improvements across our city streets, with consistent reductions in outdoor substance use and meaningful progress in restoring public spaces. We remain focused on building on that progress every day. This work reflects what's possible when coordination, accountability, and compassion come together—and strengthens our commitment to advancing both public safety and public health across Boston."

"As Boston Public Health Commission prioritizes health


CELEBRATE RECLAIMING HISTORY

Join us for the launch of an exhibit celebrating the stories and resilience of Boston's Chinatown, Little Syria, and New York Streets neighborhoods. Enjoy performances, food, and stories that uplift these neighborhoods!

 Date: Monday 4/27/26

 Time: Doors open 5:30p.

Program starts 6:00p.

 Location: Josiah Quincy Upper School
900 Washington Street Boston, MA 02111

Free and open to the public

RSVP at

<https://bit.ly/rh-launch>



This program is supported by the Neighborhood and Downtown Activation Grant from the Boston Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and the City of Boston, the Mass Cultural Council, and Culture & Community Power Fund.



City of Boston
Arts and Culture



Councilors Durkan and Santana introduce citywide zoning reform eliminating costly parking mandates for new residential development

Special to the Sun

Boston City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Henry Santana introduced a zoning text amendment at a recent Boston City Council meeting to eliminate minimum off-street parking requirements for residential development citywide—a reform aimed at lowering housing costs and accelerating housing production.

Boston's current zoning code requires new housing to include a fixed number of parking spaces regardless of neighborhood context or actual parking demand. These outdated requirements increase construction costs, constrain housing supply, restrict viable parcels, and ultimately drive up housing costs.

The proposal would allow developers to determine how much parking to include based

on market demand, site constraints, and proximity to transit, rather than fixed zoning mandates. "Eliminating parking minimums doesn't mean developers will stop building parking," said Councilor Durkan. "It allows projects to respond to real demand instead of arbitrary mandates."

"At a time when housing production remains near historic lows and costs continue to rise, Boston must use every available tool to increase affordability and expand the housing pipeline," said Councilor Durkan.

Boston's zoning code, at nearly 4,000 pages and with 429 distinct zoning districts, is one of the most complex in the country. "We took a comprehensive approach, starting with the base code and working through each neighborhood article to ensure this reform applies citywide,"

said Councilor Durkan.

Parking reform is increasingly recognized as an effective strategy to lower development costs and unlock new housing. Boston has already eliminated parking minimums for income-restricted affordable housing, helping to reduce costs and support new development, and similar policies have been adopted in cities across the country and across the Commonwealth.

Parking minimums disproportionately burden low-income households and residents without cars, effectively requiring them to subsidize parking they do not use through higher rents.

The amendment builds on a City Council hearing convened by Councilor Durkan in December 2025, where City Councilors heard from zoning and housing experts about the effectiveness of this reform in lowering costs and

increasing housing production, alongside strong public support.

With housing production slowing and costs continuing to rise, Boston faces mounting pressure to remove regulatory barriers and accelerate new development. This proposal seeks to remove a key constraint on housing supply and improve affordability.

"I am excited to build on the momentum we had in December and look forward to continuing the conversation with my colleagues to move this zoning amendment forward," said Councilor Durkan.

"To truly address housing affordability, we need to use every tool available to us and move away from policies that make it more expensive to build and live in our city," said Councilor Santana. "This zoning amendment is a step in the right

direction. Our residents deserve affordable housing and more walkable, connected neighborhoods. I'm proud to partner with Councilor Durkan and my colleagues to help make that vision a reality."

The zoning text amendment requires approval by a majority of the City Council to petition the Zoning Commission for final consideration.

The zoning text amendment can be found online by scanning the QR code. The Boston City Council Live Stream can be found online at boston.gov/departments/city-council/watch-boston-city-council-tv.



BUDGET (from Page 10)

and provides a wide continuum of prevention, care, and treatment services, more work is needed, and we're thankful to the Mayor, our city and state partners, and our provider partners who do this challenging work with us on a daily basis," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "Our city is a national leader in our response to the substance use crisis, and I'm proud of our legacy of crafting innovative, collaborative, evidence-based, and compassionate policy to ensure people living with substance use disorder have access to the full continuum of treatment services."

Boston Public Health Commission works to promote the health and wellness of residents across Boston, including people with substance use disorder. Their data show a 38% decrease in overdose deaths in Boston, the lowest number of overdose deaths in nine years. BPHC's Recovery Services Bureau focuses on preventing overdose, expanding treatment access, and supporting recovery through harm reduction services, outreach programs, and community partnerships. In 2025, BPHC had more than 45,000 client interactions through outreach services and programs, and they placed about

2,500 people on treatment pathways. BPHC's Mattapan Recovery campus provides residential treatment beds with 24-hour care and alone had 850 enrollments in 2025.

In an effort to improve quality of life and address unlawful behavior, the Boston Police Department continues to implement various strategies. In the area around Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, quality of life calls for service have decreased by 20% and total violent crime has decreased by 33% year to date 2026 compared to 2025. Total violent crime in the Mass and Cass area decreased 7%, property crime decreased 6%, and arrests increased by 54% for 2025 compared to 2024.

To enhance real-time responsiveness and shift to more proactive, preventative engagement, the CRT worked closely with NEST to use a new, field-based diversion model which is effectively engaging more residents in high impact areas. This new effort has led to the CRT and NEST proactively engaging more than 890 people since September through their coordinated outreach efforts. This engagement has led to more than 600 people accessing inpatient substance use treatment. On March

30, City teams launched our Warm Weather Initiative, bringing additional BPD resources for NEST with support from state partners and the MBTA Transit Police. In the two weeks since launching efforts across agencies, the Coordinated Response Team has engaged more than 160 individuals and helped 90 people onto recovery pathways.

With warmer weather approaching, the City of Boston will continue to advance and expand our efforts to end outdoor substance abuse, connect individuals to treatment and recovery programs, and build on our progress. Next week, the City will send the annual 2026 Warm Weather Plan and Coordinated Response Team Report to the Boston City Council.

This announcement also builds on the City's new partnership with the Gavin Foundation, supported by a grant from the Cummings Foundation, has expanded access to recovery and treatment services in the area. Although significant challenges remain, over the past four years, the City has succeeded in building clear pathways to recovery and stable housing, coordinating public safety and public health responses, and ending permanent encampments in Boston. To address persistent outdoor

substantial use and quality of life challenges, the Boston Police Department has committed to increased presence and enforcement in impacted areas, focused on diverting individuals in treat-

ment and recovery programs.

For additional information on the City's ongoing efforts, please visit the Coordinated Response Team's webpage and this dashboard.

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CITY PAWS

Assisting rescue groups

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Whether you are a dog person or a cat person, a parrot or a Guinea pig lover, there is an animal shelter or rescue group that could use your assistance. If you've always wished you could help place the thousands of animals who need new homes, rest assured, there is a place for you that suits the time and skills you offer.

We worked with Westie and Cairn rescue groups for many years and found the time we devoted to helping to be rewarding in many ways.

Supporting Rescue

As you plan your charitable giving, consider donating to a rescue group that has come to your attention. When we lost our second Westie, Maggie Mae, friends asked where they could send memorial gifts.

We suggested the MSPCA and the Animal Rescue League of Boston locally, but we also included WestieMed.com on our list for our rescue friends across the country. This nonprofit cov-

ers the medical expenses of Westies in the care of rescue groups. Maggie would have been proud to have helped all three groups.

Home Visits

Home visits fit into our current lifestyle. With each request, we can choose to take on the task or not. Home visit volunteers are the eyes and ears of the people who process the applications and make the decisions about placing animals in what they call "forever" homes.

We also answer questions about the breed and warn of possible dangers around the house that someone who has not lived with a tenacious terrier might miss.

Fifteen years ago, we conducted a home visit for a couple in Jamaica Plain. Once the adoption was complete, they contacted us to take a walk with them and their new Westie Swiffer. One walk led to another, and this couple remains two of our most cherished friends to this day. When we say that time spent helping rescues can reward you in many ways, new friends

are a perfect example.

Transporting

Many rescue groups move dogs long distances with volunteer drivers. We've driven some of these runs and helped coordinate a Westie transport group for many years. A route is planned from the foster home that has the dog to where the pup can be handed over to the adoptive family.

There are also opportunities to transport by air if you're traveling between cities and would be willing to take a small dog in the cabin with you. We've been the local connection for volunteers flying into Logan.

Fostering

If you've ever wondered whether there is room in your life for another dog or cat, you might try fostering an animal. This is simply providing shelter, training, comfort, and affection to a dog or cat in your home for a few weeks. Your assessment of the animal is used to match them with a permanent home that will suit their personality, activity



The couple who adopted Swiffer 15 years ago have been two of our best friends ever since.

level, and behavior.

Leaders & Worker Bees

Naturally, every rescue group needs leadership and worker bees. People make phone calls to shelters, pick up surrendered dogs, take them to veterinary visits, nurse them after surgery, or care for them as they recover

from neglect, injury, or illness.

As you can see, from writing a check to devoting your life, there is a place for you if you'd like to do a bit to help homeless animals. Pick a group, pick a task, and give it a try. Each success along the way will fill your heart with joy.

NeighborHealth recognized as a 2026 USA TODAY Top Workplace

Special to the Sun

NeighborHealth, the largest federally qualified community health system in Massachusetts, has been named a recipient of the 2026 USA TODAY Top Workplaces award, a national honor recognizing the organization's strong, employee-driven culture and commitment to excellence.

For NeighborHealth, this recognition reflects the organization's deep commitment to building a workplace culture rooted in community, connection, and shared purpose. As a community-based health system with 1700 team members, NeighborHealth believes that delivering high-quality, patient-centered care starts with supporting and empowering the people who provide it.

"This recognition is especially meaningful because it comes directly from our team," said Jamie Hazard, President and CEO of NeighborHealth. "Our team members are at the heart of everything we do, and their dedication is what allows us to deliver the high-quality, compassionate care that our patients

depend on every day. Building a supportive and inclusive workplace is core to our mission and what makes our impact possible, helping us expand access, improve outcomes, and better serve our community."

This people-first approach is central to NeighborHealth's mission of creating a compassionate, culturally aligned care environment where patients, families, and providers are deeply connected. NeighborHealth's innovative care model addresses social drivers of health, helping bridge health equity gaps in low-income and immigrant communities with comprehensive primary care services, as well as emergency medicine, behavioral health, dental, vision, radiology, pharmacy and a broad array of specialty care services.

NeighborHealth's designation was based on authentic employee feedback captured through a confidential survey conducted by Energage, the HR research and technology company behind the Top Workplaces program since 2006. The results are calculated based on employee responses

(NEIGHBORHEALTH, Pg. 13)

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Low, Katherine Emi	Bray, Collin	220 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$2,399,000
Whipple, Brian	Imj 2016 T	244 Marlborough St	\$8,000,000
395 Comm Avenue Rt	395-399 Comm Avenue LLC	395 Commonwealth Ave	\$7,900,000
Dole, Mark	Clecastle LLC	53 Clarendon St	\$1,650,000
Agree, Jonathan	Edelstein Warren Avenue	7 Warren Ave	\$2,625,000
Zhao, John	Messineo, James R	96 Broadway #110	\$1,010,000
Duong, Nghia T	Ptl Holdings Inc	165 Tremont St #1101	\$2,300,000

BEACON HILL

Blodgett, Ruth	Ridge, Betsy	145 Pinckney St #403	\$769,000
Hoenes, Elizabeth	Collins, Scott F	32 Temple St #3	\$1,635,000
Fields, Warren Q	Monument Square Ft	45 Province St	\$3,200,000
Cousins, Clara Carmichael	Lot Oz Rt	6 Whittier Pl #8F	\$415,000
Sw Boston One Rt	Nine Walnut St 2017 Rt	9 Walnut St	\$8,050,000
Van Wyngden, Kayla K	Tsurumi, Amy	39-41 Revere St #39-6	\$565,000
Roberts, Jordan	Brant, Michelle	37 Beacon St #24	\$895,000

DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT

Powell, Sarah	Leslie B Stearns Ft	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4602	\$1,775,000
Baltar, Cayo Dias Carvalho	Thompson, Carl	22 Alaska St	\$1,025,000
Blodgett, Dean S	As4r LLC	65 E India Row	\$1,000,000
Renno, Reem Z	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #3811	\$1,319,000
Wee, Justin Aidan Yap	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #3906	\$1,275,000
Rc43m LLC	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #4309	\$1,758,000
Bellavance, Kevin J	Habermann, Dale E	100 Lovejoy Wharf #4J	\$1,475,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Berc, Brent	Quinn, Bobby	1 Newcomb St	\$400,000
Putnam, Hannah Claire	E & Christine O'Neill T	1 Worcester Sq #4	\$815,000
Berc, Brent	Quinn, Bobby	11 E Lenox St	\$54,000
Huang, Alyssa	Shea, Brian	13 Upton St #6	\$1,300,000
Comb, Michael J	Smith 3rd, Daniel	154 W Newton St	\$2,500,000
Berc, Brent	Quinn, Bobby	1900 Washington St	\$95,000

NEIGHBORHEALTH (from Page 12)

to statements about Workplace Experience Themes that are proven indicators of high performance.

"Earning a USA TODAY Top Workplaces award is a testament to an organization's credibility and commitment to a people-first culture," said Eric Rubino, CEO of Enegage. "This award, driven by real employee feedback, is more than just a recognition – it's proof that your employees believe in the organization and its leadership. Job seekers and customers look for this trusted badge of credibility and excellence. It signals a company that

values its people, and that kind of culture resonates in today's competitive market."

The Top Workplaces award honors organizations with 150 or more employees that have created exceptional, people-first cultures. This year, more than 42,000 organizations were invited to participate.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving 120,000 people and recognized by the Health

Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston's South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on three adjacent buildings at 1, 2, and 3 Arlington Street. The website www.BackBayBuildings.org research confirms that these residences were designed by architects Gridley J. F. Bryant and Arthur Gilman and built circa 1861.

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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17,450+ Boston Stadium train tickets sold

First-day World Cup ticket sales have broken all previous 'special event train service' ticket sales records

Special to the Sun

The MBTA has announced that more than 17,450 Boston Stadium Train mTickets have been sold so far across the first five World Cup matches during the first day of sales being open. "The 2026 World Cup is no ordinary event, and we are privileged to have the opportunity to welcome all to experience Massachusetts. The tremendous demand during the first day of Boston Stadium Train ticket sales demonstrates that we needed to think outside the box to safely deliver unprecedented train service, carrying fans both near and far to the World Cup matches," said Interim Secretary of Transportation and MBTA General Manager and CEO Philip Eng. "Under the leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and our Legislative partners, we have been rebuilding the rest of our MBTA transit network, including subways, bus, ferry, paratransit, and our workforce. With that, all modes will be providing higher levels of service to enable visitors to see and experience even more during their time here — three years ago, we could not have delivered this level of service, and I'm proud of the MBTA team that has worked tirelessly to ensure we could offer this many transit seats. To all that want to purchase a Boston Stadium Train mTicket, we encourage you to use the mTicket app today! We're excited to welcome futbol fans from around the globe to Massachusetts this summer." Compared to driving, parking, and event-day traffic delays, the MBTA Commuter Rail provides one of the easiest, most predictable, most affordable ways to get to and

from Boston Stadium. Good for travel between South Station and Foxboro, Boston Stadium Train tickets are also good for unlimited travel across the entire Commuter Rail network on match days — throughout any Zone or Interzone where MBTA Commuter Rail trains travel. This expanded access to the Commuter Rail network allows soccer fans more flexibility and options in choosing where to stay to attend World Cup matches. First-day World Cup ticket sales have broken all previous "special event train service" ticket sales records:

- Nearly 11,000 roundtrip train tickets for Boston Stadium Train service to the World Cup matches were purchased in the first hour of being available (more than 5,000 in the first 10 minutes).
- This is the highest rate of MBTA special event tickets ever sold in one hour.
- For context, this is very close to the rate of ticket sales for the second release of tickets to the 2023 Taylor Swift concert, which sold out in about two minutes with just over 1,800 tickets sold.
- The first round of Taylor Swift special event ticket sales was about 3,600 tickets, which sold out between midnight and 8 AM.
- More than 6,200 tickets have already been sold for the Haiti vs. Scotland World Cup match at Boston Stadium on June 13, which beats the record of the most special event train tickets sold to any individual event at Gillette Stadium, including the Army-Navy Game and all Taylor Swift concerts combined (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday shows).

The MBTA plans to run an unprecedented amount of service for the World Cup, mobilizing up to 20,000 riders to and from each of the seven matches on 14 trains per match. This far exceeds the 3,000 riders for the Friendly Match and about

(WORLD CUP mTICKETS, Pg. 15)

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE: ADVENT SCHOOL'S COMEDY NIGHT RAISES MORE THAN \$15,000



Courtesy of The Advent School

The Advent School's Comedy Night, held April 6 at The Comedy Studio in Cambridge, featured a star-studded lineup of national and local talent, including Bethany Van Delft, Tony V, Tooky Kavanagh, Brian Longwell, Kelly MacFarland, Orlando Baxter, and Evan Valentine.

The event raised more than \$15,000 for The Advent Fund, supporting the school's progressive, Reggio-inspired curriculum and Enrichment program for students in pre-K through Grade 6.

Comedy Night Emcee Bethany Van Delft and Advent Interim Head of School Bill Wharton.



It was a full house Monday night at the Comedy Studio in support of The Advent School.



(Left to right: comics Brian Longwell, Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Tooky Kavanagh, Bethany Van Delft, Evan Valentine, and Orlando Baxter.



Advent faculty Miranda Shao-Davis and Chloe Adler.

WORLD CUP mTICKETS (from Page 14)

2,000 riders for a typical Patriots game. To meet this demand, the T took on a \$35 million project to upgrade Foxboro Station in advance of the World Cup, will deploy many additional Customer Service and Operations Staff, enhance security operations, operate later bus and subway service on match days, and provide other enhancements that best support Boston Stadium Train passengers. Customers are reminded that a same-day match ticket is needed to purchase a Boston Stadium Train ticket. Passengers must register the email address used to purchase their match ticket on mTicket to

complete their train ticket purchase. Those who attempted to purchase yesterday and were unable to are encouraged to return to mTicket to make another attempt. With the demand currently being seen, passengers are again encouraged to not delay their train ticket purchases as capacity is limited to 20,000 customers per match. Customer service is available at 617-222-3200 and at MBTA.com/customer-support for customers who still need assistance. In addition, customers should refer to MBTA.com/WorldCup and MBTA.com/BostonStadium-Trains for detailed train and pur-

chasing information. As a reminder, any prohibited items that do not comply with the stadium's Bag Policy will not be permitted on the trains. No personal items may be left on the train during the match. Clear bags are strongly encouraged. For more information, visit MBTA.com/WorldCup or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United

States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on while

supporting the region's economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, the Better Bus Program, and the Rail Modernization Plan, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders' daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, riders are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact mediarelations@mbta.com. For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit MBTA.com or follow @MBTA on social media.

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