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COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF CRITE PARK

A view of Crite Park from West Canton Street.

Revitalized Crite Park marks major milestone

By Dan Murphy

Crite Park marked a major milestone on Thursday, July 16, with the installation of permanent interior and exterior fencing for the revitalized South End park.

The park, located at the intersection of Columbus Avenue and West Canton and Appleton streets, honors Allan Rohan Crite (1910–2007), a renowned South End artist whose work famously depicted the diversity of Boston.

(Crite Park, Pg. 5)

Cheryl Dickinson, founding president of the Friends of Crite Park, and Monique Hall, the project architect.

Wu, USACE announce draft plan to protect Boston against sea-level rise, extreme weather

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the release of the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) draft Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, a once-in-a-generation study to protect Boston against coastal flooding and sea level rise. This study, projected to be completed by 2028, will allow the City of Boston to access up to 65% federal cost-sharing to construct coastal resilience projects to prevent an estimated $41 billion in damages from coastal flooding. The proposed projects outlined in the draft report are open to public comment from July 24 through September 18. Residents and stakeholders can submit their feedback and learn about upcoming community meetings and webinars at boston.gov/flood-prevention.

"Boston leads with bold action to protect our communities and our future," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The future of our city depends on the steps we take now to build resilient communities. With more frequent flooding in vulnerable areas during extreme weather events, the Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study is critical to understanding how to protect inland neighborhoods most at risk and unlocking resources to take action. I'm grateful for all our partners working to ensure Boston is resilient, prepared, and beautiful."

"Today marks a major milestone in our shared mission of community resilience," said Lieutenant Colonel David MacPhail, Deputy Commander of the New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The reality is that doing nothing is not a viable option. Without action, the costs to public safety and economic vitality from coastal flooding will only be compounded."

Flood Risk in Boston

Roughly one sixth of Boston is built on filled tidelands and is in danger of flooding due to sea-level rise and extreme weather. Since 1991, Boston has experienced 24 severe storm events that triggered federal or state disaster declarations,14 of which caused major flooding. Flooding already affects many coastal neighborhoods even on blue sky days, and flood paths on Boston's low-lying land will carry coastal storm flooding deep into

Climate Change, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

WHERE IS TEDDY ROOSEVELT WHEN WE NEED HIM?

The constant cacophony of bumbling babbling from our leaders in Washington these days with regard to the ongoing conflict with Iran brings to mind the wisdom of former President Theodore Roosevelt. On September 1, 1901 -- just two weeks before he became President upon the assassination of President William McKinley -- Roosevelt offered timeless foreign policy advice in a speech he delivered at the Minnesota State Fair:

"Speak softly and carry a big stick -- you will go far. If a man continually blusters, if he lacks civility, a big stick will not save him from trouble; and neither will speaking softly avail, if back of the softness there does not lie strength, power. In private life there are few things more obnoxious than the man who is always loudly boasting; and if the boaster is not prepared to back up his words his position becomes absolutely contemptible. So it is with the nation. It is both foolish and undignified to indulge in undue self-glorification, and above all, in loose-tongued denunciation of other peoples."

Today, the United States finds itself mired in a costly conflict with Iran. Even Israel, which has the most direct interest in subduing Iran, is sitting this one out, content to let the U.S. carry the ball.

Yet our leaders are pursuing a policy that is the antithesis of Roosevelt's counsel. We boast loudly, but our diplomatic and military strategy lacks a true "stick" against an enemy comprised of zealots and fanatics who know they can outlast a traditional military campaign.

This approach fails to serve our national interests, threatens the stability of the global economy, and risks severe domestic financial fallout. Most importantly, the brave members of the military are putting their lives on the line for a vague and ill-defined policy that has no clear military objective.

Now, as both Washington and Tehran dig in their heels following a collapsed truce, we must reject empty bluster. Our leaders must return to a strategy where measured diplomacy replaces pointless and endless bombing.

THE MIRACLE OF A BAIRN

No, we are not Scottish. But we are big fans of the hit TV show Outlander, and "bairn," the Scottish word for a newborn or a young child, has permanently entered our vocabulary.

Two weeks ago our family welcomed a bairn of our very own. Georgia, our first grandchild, is a beautiful baby girl named in honor of her maternal great-grandmother. Her arrival has cast our world in an entirely different light.

As adults, we take for granted the complex intricacies of our own bodies. By contrast, every feature of a newborn -- from the tiny fingers and toes to the little nose -- feels like a distinct, mesmerizing wonder.

Cradling Georgia in our arms brings an unparalleled sense of calm -- a biological serenity that feels deeply imprinted into our ancient human DNA.

We are not particularly religious (despite 12 years of Catholic school). But if there is anything that might persuade us that a higher power exists in the universe, it is the miracle that is a baby.

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 Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group.

NEWS IN BRIEF

LONGTIME COMM AVE MALL NEWSPAPER VENDOR JIMMY TAYLOR BIDS FAREWELL ON MORNING OF SUNDAY, JULY 26

Ahead of relocating to Florida, Jimmy Taylor, who has vended newspapers on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall at Exeter Street nearly every Sunday over the past three decades, invites his customers and friends to join him for "refreshments and good company" on his last day of work, Sunday, July 26, at 10 a.m., at his usual location.

ONE BACK BAY BUSINESS AND A SOUTH END BUSINESS AMONG RECIPIENTS OF CITY'S 2026 LEGACY BUSINESS AWARDS

Club Café in the Back Bay and Salon 23 in the South End were

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 4)

GLASGOW TRAFFIC CONE WELCOMED AS A TOKEN OF HOSPITALITY AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND MASS.

COURTESY PHOTO

Danny Campbell, Mayor Michelle Wu, Massport CEO Richard Davey, Governor Maura Healey, and Andrew Dobbie pose for a picture with the Glasgow traffic cone at Boston Logan Airport. The cone's arrival celebrates the transatlantic friendship and joy shared between local residents and the Scottish "Tartan Army" fans during the 2026 FIFA World Cup. State and city officials formally signed the iconic cone to commemorate Mayor Wu's declaration of July 14 as "Boston Cone Day." Equipped with tap-to-donate technology for mental health charities, the cone is currently touring various city landmarks as Boston and Glasgow prepare to formally become sister cities in 2027.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: **STEPHEN QUIGLEY**
(STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)
MARKETING DIRECTOR: **DEBRA DIGREGORIO**
(DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)
REPORTER/EDITOR: **DAN MURPHY**
(DMRPH4@GMAIL.COM)
ART DIRECTOR: **KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT**

Climate Change *(from Page 1)*

neighborhoods in the decades to come.

Boston is at greater risk of coastal flooding due to expected increasing storm intensity and sea-level rise. According to USACE, over 40 percent of Boston residents (an estimated 284,000 total) live in areas that are at risk of coastal flooding, and approximately 20,000 buildings are at risk of severe flooding.

Building coastal infrastructure is critical to protect inland parts of Dorchester, Roxbury, the South End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, East Boston, Charlestown, and even Allston, as well as access to hospitals, the MBTA, I-93, the Mass Pike, Logan Airport, and more. Without any action, some neighborhoods over a mile away from the ocean could experience severe flooding in the next 25 years.

USACE Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

The draft Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study outlines a multi-decade scope of work consisting of over 20 infrastructure projects along 16 miles of Boston's 47-mile coastline, largely in alignment with Boston's Climate Ready Boston neighborhood plans. These projects would permanently close 20 long-term coastal flood pathways (inland areas that could flood during extreme weather events). These sites have been identified by the federal government as key areas of risk that could compromise the safety and economic future of both Boston and the country at large.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) estimates $54 billion in projected losses by the end of the century if Boston takes no action to improve its coastal resilience. However, USACE estimates that every $1 invested in Boston's resilience through these projects will save residents, businesses, and the public sector at least $4 in future avoided disaster losses. According to USACE's draft report, it will cost approximately $10 billion for the baseline infrastructure to close all of Boston's coastal flood pathways. This draft report does not include additional cost estimates for project upgrades to improve public access to Boston Harbor. As these projects are further designed in the years to come, the City expects to invest billions of additional dollars through federal, state, and private funding streams to enhance USACE's baseline coastal resilience infrastructure and improve residents' access to green space and recreational opportunities along Boston Harbor.

By partnering with USACE, the City of Boston can access up to a 65% federal cost-share for construction of the baseline infrastructure to protect Boston from flooding. Boston will work closely alongside the Commonwealth and private-sector partners to secure the remaining funding needed to finance these critical projects as they are further designed and delivered over the coming several decades. On June 1, the Boston Green Ribbon Commission announced the launch of a one-year study to identify how Boston and its government and private sector partners can fund and finance the 35% non-federal cost share to deliver on these critical coastal resilience projects. This study will analyze the total cost of inaction, the benefit and Return on Investment (ROI) of resilience investments, the funding gap to fill, funding and financing options from public and private sources, and a recommended financial strategy.

The USACE draft Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study report contains:

- Locations for projects to protect Boston against coastal flooding
- Different types of infrastructure projects proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers, such as floodwalls, berms, and floodgates
- Neighborhood characteristics, such as the environmental resources, cultural institutions, and local history, that will affect what types of projects are constructed.

Public Feedback

The locations for coastal resilience infrastructure proposed by USACE in this study are not final. As of today, the public can visit boston.gov/flood-prevention to see:

- A summary of the USACE draft study report,
- A storymap, an immersive multimedia presentation highlighting maps, proposed coastal infrastructure projects, and notable features of the draft study report,
- Proposed neighborhood plan summaries, including the possible locations and types of coastal infrastructure projects, and
- Upcoming community meetings and webinars, including a webinar on best practices for providing public comment on August 6 at 10 AM.

USACE will publish the full draft Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study on their website later this week. Residents and stakeholders can submit their feedback by September 18 at 5 PM.

Coastal Resilience Planning in Boston

This work to protect Boston would not be possible without the collaboration and perspective of our communities. Over the last decade, the City of Boston has engaged thousands of residents and stakeholders across coastal neighborhoods, making this one of the most extensive community-driven resilience planning processes in the country.

In 2016, the City of Boston published its Climate Ready Boston plan, which outlined the adaptation efforts to protect Boston from extreme heat, stormwater flooding, and coastal and river flooding. It also identified climate resilience initiatives to enable Boston to address these risks and continue to thrive in the face of climate change.

COURTESY PHOTO

Major flooding on Atlantic Avenue in January 2018.

From 2017-2022, the City of Boston created local Coastal Resilience Solution Plans to identify the location of flood risks and opportunities for flood prevention infrastructure across each neighborhood. As a result, the City developed coastal resilience solutions and an implementation roadmap that outlines the timing by which strategies need to be constructed and next steps for advancing each proposed project in each neighborhood. USACE will be a critical partner in implementing these projects.

Following the completion of the neighborhood coastal resilience plans, the City has taken action to implement priority projects across the city's waterfront to reduce near-term coastal flood risk for Boston's communities. The City projects underway in each coastal neighborhood include 11 projects currently in design, two projects actively in construction, and three projects that have been constructed and are open to the public. Progress on project implementation are available through the City's Coastal Resilience Project Tracker.

"All of Massachusetts benefits from the protection of Boston's coastline," said Brian Swett, Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston. "Failure to protect our city jeopardizes the entire region's economic prosperity and access to critical infrastructure, including hospitals, higher education, rail networks, highways, and job opportunities. The more we invest in Boston's resilience now, the more we will all prosper in the future."

"If we do not act, many people in Boston and across the region could have their home, work, school, commute, or medical care affected by coastal storms and sea-level rise," said Chris Osgood, Director of the Office of Climate Resilience. "Investing in resilience will not only save lives. It will protect our regional economy and critical services, as well as enhance recreational, and natural spaces along Boston Harbor."

"The Army Corps partnership is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unlock significant federal funding to protect Boston's major job centers and our state's economic competitiveness," said Lindsey Butler, Executive Director of the Green Ribbon Commission. "With this plan as our foundation, now is the moment for pragmatic collaboration to protect not just the coastline but the economic vitality of our city for generations to come."

Sign up for project updates on the US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study.

A conversation with Mayor Michelle Wu:

‘Boston should be a home for everyone’

By Mia Hart

“Boston should be a home for everyone,” Michelle Wu said, gazing forward with measured confidence as she reflected on the city’s future.

For Wu, that idea has shaped both her leadership and her vision for Boston since first taking office as mayor in 2021. But Wu’s leadership is shaped by more than policy alone. As Boston’s first woman and first Asian American elected mayor, her path to City Hall has carried both historic significance and personal responsibility.

Before becoming Mayor, Wu served on the Boston City Council, where she witnessed firsthand the challenges of navigating leadership in spaces where women were often underrepresented. She recalled that when she was first elected in 2013, she was one of only two women on the council alongside her colleague, Ayanna Pressley, the first woman of color to be elected to the body. Wu noted that for a period of time, the two were simply referred to as “the women councilors.”

Considering this, one question I raised centered on these milestones and whether the labels attached to them have ever created a unique sense of pressure in her leadership.

Wu spoke consistently of the idea of representation not simply as symbolism, but as a responsibility to ensure every resident feels seen; to make sure every room and space she is in bridges different communities into her decision-making. She emphasized that she is inspired everyday by the leaders throughout Boston’s neighborhoods who are the “firsts” in many areas, culturally, educationally, nationally, and more. And she notes that having a community where these experiences are shared amongst so many people keeps the doors open for a second, and then a third, until it becomes normal for people to see that leadership everywhere.

Mayor of Boston Michelle Wu, pictured in her office at City Hall with reporter Mia Hart.

I also asked Wu to reflect on whether the reality of serving as mayor over the past five years has matched the expectations she held while first campaigning for the office.

Wu acknowledged that she was not new to City Hall when she first ran for mayor, having already served eight years on the City Council, including a two-year term as president. Yet even with that experience, she admitted no one could have predicted the vastly different political and social climate that would define today. From the rapid rise of artificial intelligence to the escalating realities of climate change, the challenges facing city leadership have evolved in ways few

(Conversation, Pg. 6)

News in Brief

Continued from Page 2

among 30 businesses across 18 Boston neighborhoods to receive the city’s 2026 Legacy Business Awards.

On Monday, June 1, this year’s award winners were honored by the city at a private ceremony.

Legacy Businesses have all been located within the City of Boston for at least 10 years, according to the city, and “contribute to the cultural, historical, and societal fabric of their community or neighborhood.”

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD’S JULY EVENTS CONCLUDE

SoWa Sundays will be held on July 26, beginning at 11 a.m. at 450 Harrison Ave. SoWa Artists Guild events are free and open to the public.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO OFFER AUGUST EVENTS

SoWa First Friday will be held on Aug. 7 beginning at 5 p.m., and SoWa Sundays will be held Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 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 OFFERING SUMMER PROGRAMMING

The Nichols House Museum at 55 Mt. Vernon St. will offer a Brahmins & Bohemians Beacon Hill walking tour on Aug.13 at 6 p.m.

Summer evenings are perfect for exploring the neighborhood. Join the Nichols House Museum for a relaxed ramble around the Hill. Enjoy the charming details of our beautiful neighborhood as we chat about some of the artists and writers who lived on the Hill when the Nichols family was in residence at 55 Mount Vernon St.

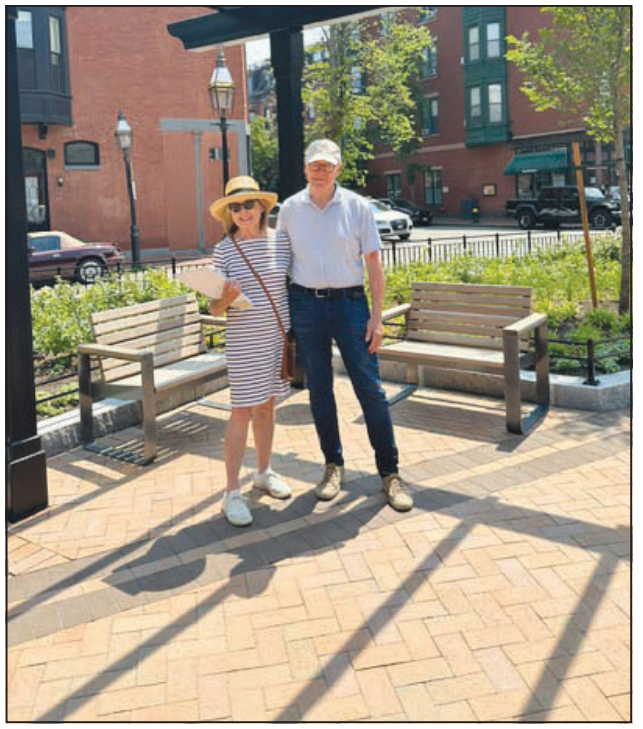
Also, the Nichols House is open for guided tours Tuesday through Sunday, with expanded hours on the weekends. The museum is fully air conditioned.

For more information and tickets, visit: nicholshousemuseum.org

FOSEL TO OFFER JAZZ & BLUES CONCERTS IN LIBRARY PARK

Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) is again sponsoring free Jazz & Blues concerts with Pat Loomis & Friends every other Tuesday through Aug. 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. in Library Park.

Concerts will include “Saxophone Colossus: A Salute To Sonny Rollins,” with Brett Walberg (tenor sax), Adonis Martin (piano), Daniel Day (bass), Zeke Martin (drums) on Aug. 4; and A Funky Dance Party, with Ivory Jones and White Chocolate, featuring Joey Mazzarella (keyboards), Daniel Day (bass), and Zeke Martin (drums) on Aug. 18.



Cheryl and Roger Dickinson in Crite Park.

Two venerable South End figures, Byron Rushing and Frieda Garcia, are seen in Crite Park.

The previous conditions of Crite Park.

Crite Park *(from Page 1)*

After the park fell into a state of grave disrepair, a grassroots park-revalidation project was spearheaded by Friends of Crite Park (FoCP) – a nonprofit that includes Cheryl Dickinson, the group's founding president; Maryellen Hassell, vice president; Roger Dickinson, treasurer; and board members Emeka Iheme and Dan Irvin.

"The park project was driven by our mission to build a sense of community and raise awareness of the history and stories that Allan Crite captured through his art," Cheryl Dikinson wrote in an email. "Much of Mr. Crite's paintings revealed soulful images of his African American neighbors as they went about their day to day activities at work and in play during the 1930s.

"The original park site was meant to acknowledge Allan Crite's contributions but over time, the space fell into disrepair and became laden with trash and dead trees. Thus, the FoCP formed to lead the revitalization of the site and thereby duly honor Mr. Crite and raise awareness of the significance of his work.

"As soon as the park opened people began strolling through the park while others came to work or chat with friends. Through future events and the unique park design, which includes seating alcoves, game tables, and lush plantings, therein lies the possibility for new acquaintances that nurture the sense of community that Allan Crite honored and revered," she wrote.

Roger Dickinson added: "The park is nice and, every day, neighbors are enjoying the living room like atmosphere our architect, Monique Hall, inspired."

Meanwhile, the installation of the pergola shade covers, which are currently expected to arrive in late September or early October, will be the final planned enhancement to the park.

Pictured, left to right, are Roger Dickinson; District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn, who offered an official proclamation from the city; Cheryl Dikinson; and Rep. John Moran.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC)
980 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02119

WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE

Boston Water and Sewer Commission will commence Water Main Flushing in the Beacon Hill/Kenmore area starting:

July 29th, 2026, through August 31st, 2026

The boundaries for the areas being flushed are Storrow Drive to the north, Huntington Avenue to the south, Tremont Street/Boston Common to the east and Riverway to the west.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses.

Water Main flushing will take place between the hours of
10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. The discoloration of the water will be temporary and is not harmful. If the condition persists, please contact BWSC's 24 Hour Service at (617) 989-7000.

BWSC appreciates your patience as we work to improve the quality of drinking water that we provide to the residents and businesses of Boston.

If you have any questions, contact BWSC's Night Operations Manager at (617) 989-7000 or visit our website @ www.bwsc.org.

Back Bay Pan-Mass Rider Features: 'Quin House Impact Fund Team

Special to the Sun

The 'Quin House Impact Fund serves as a resource for local philanthropic organizations that are making positive contributions to the Greater Boston community – and this includes the iconic annual Pan-Mass Challenge. The Fund was launched in 2020, a year prior to the opening of The 'Quin House in the Back Bay, and is now the basis of the club's philanthropy. It has now awarded over $4.9M in grants to over 170 Greater Boston nonprofits since 2020.

This is the fifth year the Fund has formed a PMC team of 'Quin House members and staff. The 12-person 'Quin team is part of Team Patriots Platelets Pedalers – which is the largest PMC team. Here are some team member highlights. We are also happy to coordinate interviews.

Ed Morata

Ed Morata of Lexington, Mass., moved to the U.S. 15 years ago from Brazil, and he has participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge ever since, training throughout the year and raising over $100,000 to date for his 15 rides. Cancer has touched his life in many ways – from his father-in-law who passed away before his children ever got to meet him, to other relatives and friends who have faced the battle – so the cause is deeply personal. Morata also grew up biking and has always found it to be one of his greatest pleasures, so the PMC is a "perfect combination of something I love and a commitment to a truly important cause."

Now riding for The 'Quin House Impact Fund Team, he says that new friendships have grown directly out of the team's formation, and his sense of connection to the 'Quin community has deepened as a result. Morata says, "every ride feels like a powerful injection of hope – a renewed belief that a cure for cancer is within reach." And he said that's why he comes back year after year for the "life-changing experience."

Fundraising page and photo here; additional photos available upon request.

Charlene Selle

Charlene Selle of the Back Bay is ready for her fourth Pan-Mass Challenge with a goal of $6,000 in fundraising. She started road cycling in 2022 after becoming seriously ill during COVID and looking for a way to rebuild her health and reconnect with the outdoors. Her husband also helped inspire her since he has been riding the PMC for more than 27 years. Selle has since logged more than 5,000 miles, even recently qualifying for the Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Nice, France. She says that while she enjoys the challenge of crossing finish lines, "no accomplishment feels more meaningful than riding to support groundbreaking cancer research and patient care." Selle's regimen of swimming, cycling, running and staying active throughout the year keeps her trained for PMC.

Selle says that over the years, more and more loved ones have been affected by cancer, and she has even seen some close friends lose their lives. She says that motivates her to ride PMC and "the friendships, the mission, and the opportunity to contribute to something bigger than myself" is what brings her back each year. Selle has also found the community of The 'Quin House team to be something special. She moved to the U.S. from Germany to build a life here and she says being welcomed into the 'Quin PMC community has made a tremendous difference. "What started as a cycling event has grown into meaningful friendships, cultural exchanges, and a genuine sense of belonging." She also volunteers for the Pedal Partner Program to see firsthand the impact the PMC community has on patients and families.

Fundraising page and photo here; additional photos available upon request.

Piotr Bielecki

Piotrek "Piotr" Bielecki of Newton, Mass., is newer to the Pan-Mass Challenge, riding for the first time in 2025 and deciding to return this year. He joined The 'Quin to meet new people and "be a part of a community that values service, connection, and impact." He said riding with The 'Quin House Impact Fund Team felt like a natural way to combine those interests with cycling, fundraising, and supporting cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Bielecki is an immunologist working in drug discovery across biotech and pharmaceuticals, so he understands on a professional level the importance of the funding generated by the PMC. On a personal level, his family has benefitted directly from the amazing care at Dana-Farber.

Bielecki has taken the role of organizing training rides and social gatherings for the 'Quin team to help them connect and encourage one another. He said during his first ride, people kept telling him that once you start PMC, you can't stop. Bielecki says now he understands why. "The most rewarding part is seeing and meeting spectators… There are cancer survivors, family, friends and supporters thanking riders as they pass, and it is incredibly moving. It reminds you that the PMC is not just an athletic challenge. The money supports real patients, real families, and the research and care that can change their lives."

Fundraising page and photo here; additional photos available upon request.

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PILOT Agreement *(from Page 4)*

could have anticipated.

Still, Wu emphasized that while the government cannot control everything, it remains the place people turn to in times of uncertainty and need. "This is what drives me every day," she said, explaining that public service matters because it is where meaningful action can directly improve people's lives.

Finally, as a college student myself, I wanted to raise an issue that feels deeply personal to many students and young professionals in Boston: whether living in the city will remain financially attainable. I asked Wu what progress she hopes to make on housing affordability by the end of her term.

Wu responded with cautious optimism, pointing to ongoing efforts to expand housing supply while acknowledging the scale of the challenge. She highlighted the city's Office-to-Residential Conversion Program, which seeks to transform empty and underused office buildings into new housing opportunities, as one example of Boston's efforts to increase available housing stock. Wu also discussed the Co-Purchasing Housing Pilot Program, designed to help families and households pool resources to purchase homes together and improve pathways to homeownership. In addition, she noted Boston's broader efforts to rezone key areas and streamline the permitting process in order to accelerate housing development.

As the conversation drew to a close, one idea remained constant throughout Wu's reflections: the belief that leadership is measured not only by policy, but by people. She stressed that every single day she gets to experience the greatest sense of inspiration from throughout the city. That it is a wonderful gift that the people of Boston trust their city government to share their biggest dreams, challenges, and fears.

Whether discussing representation, public service, or housing, Wu accentuated her vision, one rooted in belonging and the hope that Boston can build the future that she knows is possible. In that sense, the words that opened the conversation felt just as fitting as its end. Boston, in Wu's eyes, should remain a home for everyone for the many years to come.

Mia Hart is a student at Boston College.

City, BU announce new landmark five-year PILOT agreement

Special to the Sun

The City of Boston and Boston University have announced a major Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) agreement. The new PILOT agreement includes a commitment of more than $104.3 million in voluntary cash contributions and community benefits over the next five years. The agreement is the first written PILOT agreement between the City and Boston University in more than 25 years and the largest in Boston's history, creating a predictable and reliable schedule of valuable partnership benefits for the City.

"Boston's success has always depended on strong partnerships between the City and our anchor institutions, rooted in the shared understanding that thriving institutions and a strong, well-resourced city go hand in hand," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This agreement reflects Boston University's continued investment not only in innovation and education, but in the communities we call home. We thank President Gilliam and Boston University for this commitment to invest in our city, learn from one another, and collectively strengthen the foundation that allows our residents, neighborhoods, and institutions to thrive."

"Boston University is committed to Boston, its communities, and the PILOT program. This new five-year agreement reflects the priority we place on service and partnership with Boston," said Boston University President Melissa Gilliam. "We are grateful for Mayor Wu's leadership and look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen Boston and engage the people and communities that make our city exceptional."

Boston University has been a longstanding partner with the City of Boston and the lead higher-education contributor to 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 that 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, Boston University will increase its annual PILOT cash payments to the City from $6.3 million in FY25 to $8.3 million in FY30. This represents a 32% increase over BU's current PILOT contribution baseline, which has not changed since FY19.

"As one of the largest universities in Boston, BU and its students are an integral part of our city. This new agreement is an important step in strengthening our partnership and reaffirming the shared role our institutions have in supporting our communities," said City Councilor Sharon Durkan. "As the Chair of the Boston City Council's PILOT Agreements Committee, I frequently hear from residents asking our non-profit partners to step up, and I believe Boston University is doing exactly that with this renewed commitment. BU has consistently been one of the city's strongest contributors to the PILOT program, and as the City Councilor for its Charles River Campus, it has been a privilege to work closely with the University and witness its leadership and dedication to the City of Boston."

Additionally, Boston University commits to contributing annual PILOT community benefits valued at a total of $66.8 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. The new agreement reflects Boston University'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 and directly benefit City of Boston residents.

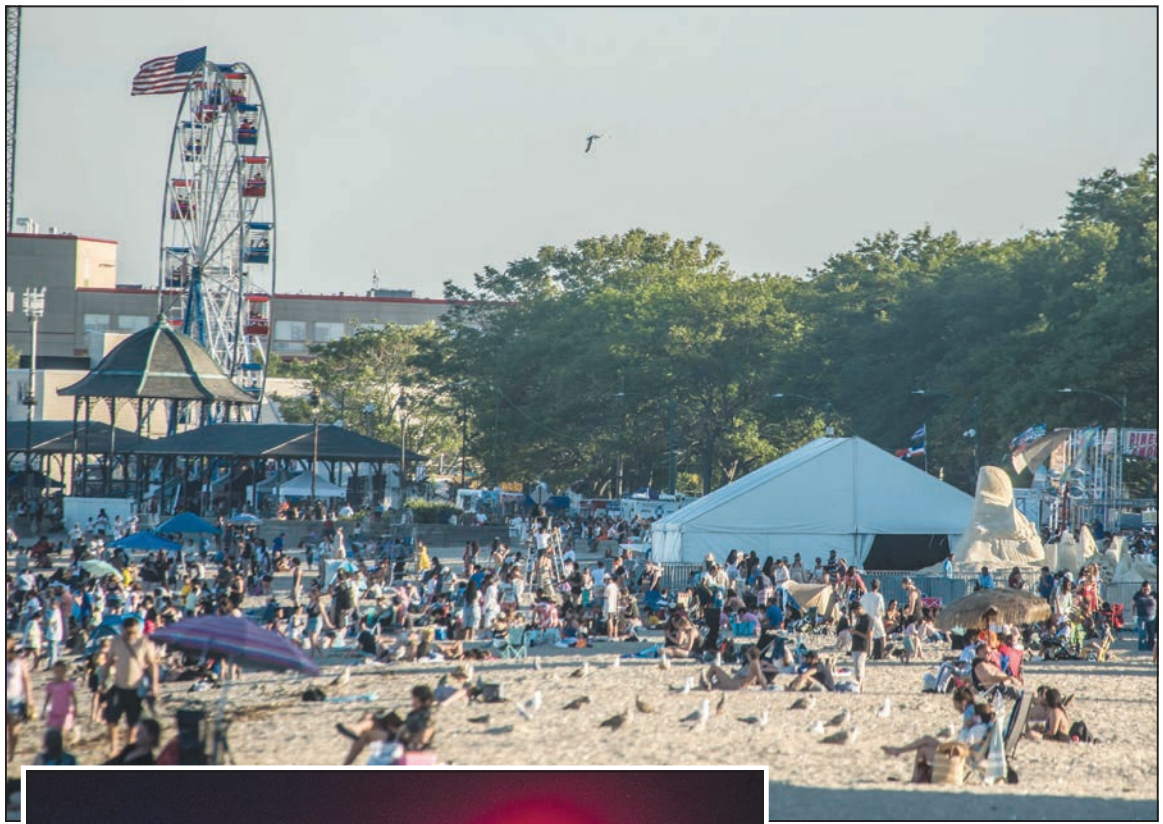
"As chair of the Boston University Community Task Force representing the community, I am grateful to BU for its long-standing investment in our city. Through these agreements and its collaborative approach, BU has consistently followed through on its commitments and become a trusted partner in our neighborhoods," said Pam Beale, Chair of BU Community Task Force. "I appreciate all that the University has done and continues to do to strengthen the communities surrounding its campus and support the residents and businesses that call those neighborhoods home."

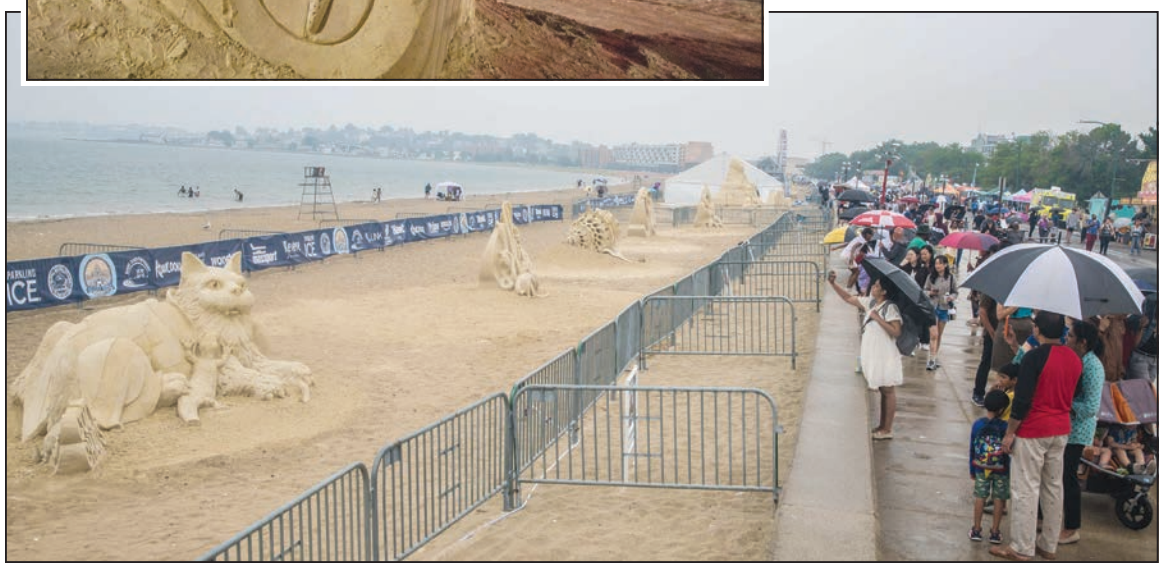
Boston University's commitment to delivering benefits in close partnership with community members to support the City's communities and address local needs predates the PILOT program, including but not limited to the University's Thomas M. Menino Scholarship and Community Leaders Scholarship. Recipients of the merit-based Menino Scholarship have their full four-year tuition covered by the award. Since its inception in 1973, the scholarship program - the oldest and largest one for BPS graduates - has awarded over $220 million to over 2,000 students. The need-based Community Leaders Scholarship meets recipients' full calculated financial need without loans. Each recipient is paired with a faculty or staff mentor to support their transition to Boston University. The award is available to BPS graduates entering BU as first-year students and to eligible transfer students.

Boston University and the City will focus on renewing a mutually agreeable voluntary PILOT agreement before the five-year agreement expires on June 30, 2030.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

SCENES FROM THE REVERE BEACH INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL





DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

This past weekend the city held its annual International Revere Beach Sand Sculpture Festival. Shown above, Sunday presented better weather for people to come out and enjoy the sand sculptures on Revere Beach.

Shown left, the fireworks display by the Revere Welcomes You sculpture.

Shown below, rain on Saturday did not prevent people from filling the Boulevard to get a look at this year's sculptures.

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

This year's Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival celebrated our city with the theme "Boston Welcomes The World," recognizing the recent excitement of the World Cup and Sail Boston events here in the metro area. While rainy weather delayed Saturday evening's festivities, Sunday brought cooperative skies for a spectacular fireworks display just a short trip from downtown.

The Spider Wheel brings visitors back to the time when Revere Beach was home to an amusement park.

Spectators enjoy the fireworks show at Revere Beach.

SCENES FROM THE REVERE BEACH INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

"Don't Look Inside" by artist Joon Park from California.

"Told You So..."by artist Sèveline Beauregard from Canada.

Spectators enjoy the fireworks show.

"Digital Hideout (in real life)" by artist Hanneke Supply from The Netherlands took Third Place.

"It's The Final Countdown!" By artist Ndricim "Jimmy" Bejko from Boston.

"Birds View Of Your City" by artist Bouke Atema from The Netherlands.

"Shape Shifting" by artist Morgan Rudluff from California.

The centerpiece sculpture, featuring some of the many sponsors of the Festival, was made by the community of sculptors.

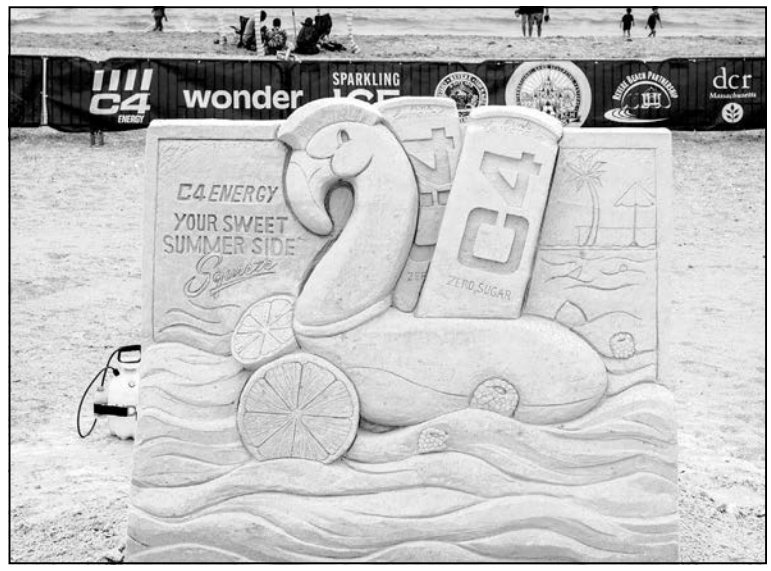
"Odyssey" by artist Jobi Bouchard from Canada took First Place, as well as People's Choice and Sculptor's Choice.

SCENES FROM THE REVERE BEACH INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

"Overprotection" by artist Marie-Line Gagné from Canada took Second Place.

"Sweet Dream" by artist Slavian Borecki from Poland.

The view of Revere Beach Blvd from the Spider Wheel.



The C4 Energy Drink sculpture that was made by the community of sculptors. They were a prominent sponsor of the festival.

Visitors try their luck at ring Ross at the Sweet Baby Ray's booth.

North End Historical Museum officially opens to the public

Special to Regional Review

The North End Historical Museum officially opened to the public on Tuesday, July 21, at 3 Prince St. Hours are Tuesday to Sunday: 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The interactive museum, which was conceived and created by the nonprofit North End Historical Society, covers 400 years of North End history.

Throughout its history, the North End has served as a crucial steppingstone for Boston's earliest settlers. Beginning with the original 1630 settlers of Boston, the North End remained at the heart of the city's development throughout the revolutionary era, and over time, the neighborhood became home to waves of Irish, Jewish, Portuguese, and Italian immigrants.

Visit northendboston.org for more information, or to donate to the new museum.

Adults: $10

Seniors, Military, Student (with ID): $8

Youth, ages 13 to 18: $5

Children 12 & under: Free

NEHS Members: Free

Wu, Boston's Age Strong Comm., Biogen Foundation, ULEM, and Lyft announce expansion of Healthy Rides Program

Special to the Sun

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston's Age Strong Commission, the Biogen Foundation, the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts (ULEM), and Lyft announced the expansion of Healthy Rides, a free transportation initiative for Boston's older residents. Supported by a collaborative investment of $150,000, the expanded program builds on the success of the pilot to tackle social isolation, expand medical access, and improve the quality of life for older adults. Following the pilot's success, the Biogen Foundation joined as a funding partner, contributing $50,000 toward program expansion. The City of Boston and Lyft each matched Biogen's contribution, bringing the total investment to $150,000.

"Every elder in Boston should be able to easily visit friends and family, attend social gatherings, and get to medical appointments. The success of our initial pilot program shows how important it is to continue providing these services, removing barriers so older residents can live healthy, independent lives," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am grateful to all of our partners for their leadership and support in ensuring that Boston remains a home for everyone."

Healthy Rides was initially launched in November 2024

(HEALTHY RIDES, Pg. 12)

CAVA OFFICIALLY OPENS AT LOGAN'S TERMINAL B

MarketPlace Logan, which manages the concessions program at Boston Logan, and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) celebrated the official arrival of CAVA to the concessions program at Boston Logan International Airport's Terminal B.

CAVA has officially landed at Boston Logan, bringing its signature Mediterranean-inspired cuisine to passengers traveling through Terminal B. Known for its fresh, customizable bowls, pitas, and salads, CAVA's menu is rooted in bold Mediterranean flavors and a commitment to serving food that's both wholesome and craveable—making it the perfect option for travelers looking for a healthy, flavorful meal before takeoff.

PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL BLANCHARD PHOTOGRAPHY

Shown (left to right) Michael DiCosola, President, MarketPlace Development; John Jamison, President, Paradies Lagardère; Rich Davey, CEO, Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport); and Wade Sterns, Senior Vice President, Operations, CAVA.

Healey takes action to cut concert, sports ticket resale and fees

Special to the Sun

Gov. Maura Healey has announced that she will file An Act Relative to Closing the Great Divide between Ticket Prices and Affordability, or The Great Divide Act, to lower sports and concert ticket resale prices and ensure that fans have a fair opportunity to enjoy the events they love without paying exorbitant prices on the secondary market. The legislation would establish some of the nation's strongest consumer protections for the secondary ticket marketplace, building on reforms recently adopted in states such as Vermont and Maine.

The Governor's proposal, which will be included in her upcoming closeout supplemental budget, caps the resale price of concert tickets at 110 percent of the price of the face value of the original ticket. It also limits the service fees and charges that can be imposed by ticket resellers like StubHub and SeatGeek to no more than 10 percent of the total price of the ticket for resale. It prohibits the sale of speculative tickets, which are tickets that are not in the possession of the seller when they are listed for sale. Finally, it implements additional consumer protections measures, including prohibiting the use of deceptive websites by ticket resellers and misleading consumers about the availability of tickets.

The name of the proposal is a nod to singer and songwriter Noah Kahan, who recently made history as the first artist ever to headline four consecutive sold-out shows at Fenway Park. Kahan has been a vocal opponent against predatory resale practices and successfully advocated for a similar bill in Vermont.

"Far too many Massachusetts residents have experienced the pain of being excited to buy tickets to see their favorite singer or sports team, only to realize that resale prices and fees have driven up the cost to outrageous levels," said Governor Healey. "Or how about when you do purchase tickets from a reseller, only to get to the venue to realize the seller never actually transfers them to you? Enough is enough. We are taking action to lower ticket resale prices so Massachusetts fans can better afford to see their favorite performer or team."

During the press conference announcing the legislation, Governor Healey was joined virtually by Noah Kahan, who threw his support behind the measure: "I heard about what you're announcing today and I just wanted to let you know how excited I am about it. The artist community and fans will greatly benefit from limiting ticket scalping and the sales of speculative tickets. I love my fans and want to protect them however I can. Artists alone could not tackle the market manipulation of secondary resellers. So, thank you so much for making this a priority in Massachusetts."

Under the proposal, concert tickets cannot be resold for more than 110 percent of their original face value, unless an artist or venue explicitly authorizes a higher resale cap through a written agreement. For example, if a ticket originally cost $100, it could be resold for no more than $110.

The bill limits the service fees charged by ticket resale marketplaces to no more than 10 percent of the listed resale price for sporting events and non-sporting events like concerts. For example, if a ticket is listed for resale on a resale platform for $300, the service fee charged by the resale platform cannot exceed $30. Today, many resale platforms charge service fees of roughly 20 percent or more, adding hundreds of dollars to the cost of tickets. This proposal is expected to cut resale service fees typically paid by consumers today in half.

The legislation also prohibits the sale of speculative tickets, meaning tickets that a seller does not actually have when they list them for sale. Too often, consumers pay for these tickets only to find out they are never delivered. During this summer's World Cup matches at Gillette Stadium, some fans who purchased tickets through online resale platforms were turned away after discovering the tickets they bought never existed.

The bill includes additional consumer protections to prohibit deceptive resale websites that falsely suggest they are affiliated with artists or venues and to prevent resellers from misleading consumers about ticket availability or scarcity.

Healthy Rides *(from Page 11)*

through a partnership between the City of Boston, ULEM, and Lyft. Over its four-month pilot period, the program provided over 1700 rides to more than 600 older adults, demonstrating strong demand and meaningful impact. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), social isolation and loneliness can severely impact an older adult's health and well-being and are associated with an increased risk of heart disease, depression, and cognitive decline. Research shows that isolated older adults face longer hospital stays, have higher readmission rates, and have lower life expectancy than those with meaningful and supportive social connections. By expanding transit options for Boston's older adults, the Healthy Rides initiative aims to reduce these exact risks and promote healthier aging.

Boston residents, age 60+ are eligible for up to 4 free rides per month (while funds are available) to health and wellness activities and destinations within Boston. Eligible trips include medical appointments, pharmacies, fitness/wellness classes, senior centers, social programs, and support groups.

"We're thrilled to help expand the Healthy Rides program," said Emily K. Shea, Age Strong Commissioner. "Our Age Strong Shuttle team is fully ready to assist residents schedule rides, ensuring this service is accessible to everyone, including those who may not be comfortable booking through the Lyft app. This initiative is a welcome addition to our existing transportation programs (Age Strong Shuttle, and Taxi Coupon programs). Reliable transportation gives older residents the freedom to stay active, which we know is vital to living longer, healthier lives."

"This breakthrough initiative has proven its ability to address a significant unmet need among older adults in our community," said Teresa Cachero, Ph.D., Biogen Vice President of Asset Development and Portfolio Management and the Chair of the Biogen Foundation's Board of Directors. "Aligned with the Biogen Foundation's mission to promote better health in our communities, we are proud to support the expansion of the Healthy Rides program, improving access to care and enabling stronger connections to essential health and wellness services."

"The Healthy Rides program mirrors the Urban League's mission: helping adults to overcome racial and social barriers and economic inequities," said Urban League of Eastern MA President/CEO Rashaan Hall. "This unique partnership allows needed transportation for our older residents to access necessary health and wellness services, fostering self reliance and independence."

"At Lyft, our purpose is to serve and connect, and we believe transportation shouldn't be a barrier to staying healthy or independent", said Brendan Joyce, Senior Public Policy Manager at Lyft. "The Healthy Rides program has shown what's possible when a city truly invests in its residents, and we're proud to expand this program alongside Mayor Wu, the Urban League, and the Biogen Foundation."

Healthy Rides may be booked by calling the Age Strong Shuttle at 617-635-3000. Shuttle staff can schedule the ride on behalf of residents or provide a ride code for those who prefer to book independently using the Lyft app. For more information, visit www.boston.gov/heathy-rides or call 617-635-3000.

ADVERTISE
IN THE
BOSTON SUN
CALL
781-485-0588

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Hutter Ft	Van Dijk, Alexander	124 W Newton St #2	$3,875,000
Norbert A Bennett Grandchi	Dudgeon, Timothy I	130 W Newton St #3	$1,275,000
Comm 183-5 Hldg LLC	Karen B Manulis 2012 T	183 Commonwealth Ave #5	$3,185,000
Audrey K Fitzgerald Ret	Move The Chains LLC	205 Commonwealth Ave #6	$5,450,000
Armstrong, Zaire	Hetzel, Carrie Ann	21 Aberdeen St #B	$343,000
Pickreign, Richard J	Thatcher, Scott	220 Commonwealth Ave #3	$1,366,220
Kelly, David M	Bruno, Raffaele	226 Commonwealth Ave #1	$2,825,000
Jennifer C Boghossian T	Katrina L Welch T	23 Braddock Park #2	$1,700,000

$20,000 in grants awarded to 14 youth teams at 2026 SCI Pitch Event

Special to the Sun

Social Capital Inc. (SCI) hosted its 2026 Pitch Event at Roxbury Community College, showcasing the innovative ideas of local high school students from 10 communities across Greater Boston. At the event, 14 youth teams presented original social impact projects to a live panel of judges, competing for up to $2,000 each in grant funding from a total pool of $20,000.

"It was an amazing opportunity to show what I've learned and worked on for the community," said Anderson Alfaro, a youth team member of Building Over Blocks in Chelsea. Another youth participant, Elamin Elamin with Fortune Avenue in Boston, shared, "I loved the opportunity to meet so many people from such different backgrounds. Additionally, my team and I had a great opportunity

(SCI Pitch, Pg. 14)

Fortune Avenue youth members (left to right) Elamin Elamin, Rebecca John, Daniel Idenudia, David Huang, and Daniel David pose with Team Advisor, JAKE Small (left) and Mental Health Track Judge, Seth Libert (background, center).

EVkids Youth Leaders (second from left to right), Alexa Santana, Mariama Bangoura, Blake Dacosta, Fatoumata Balde, and Souleymane Diallo pose with Team Advisors, Dede Evans (third from right) and Ashley Clavel (right); Pitch Coach, Sam Gerry (background, left); SCI Program Coordinator, Vitalie Memeus (left); and SCI President, David Crowley (second from right).

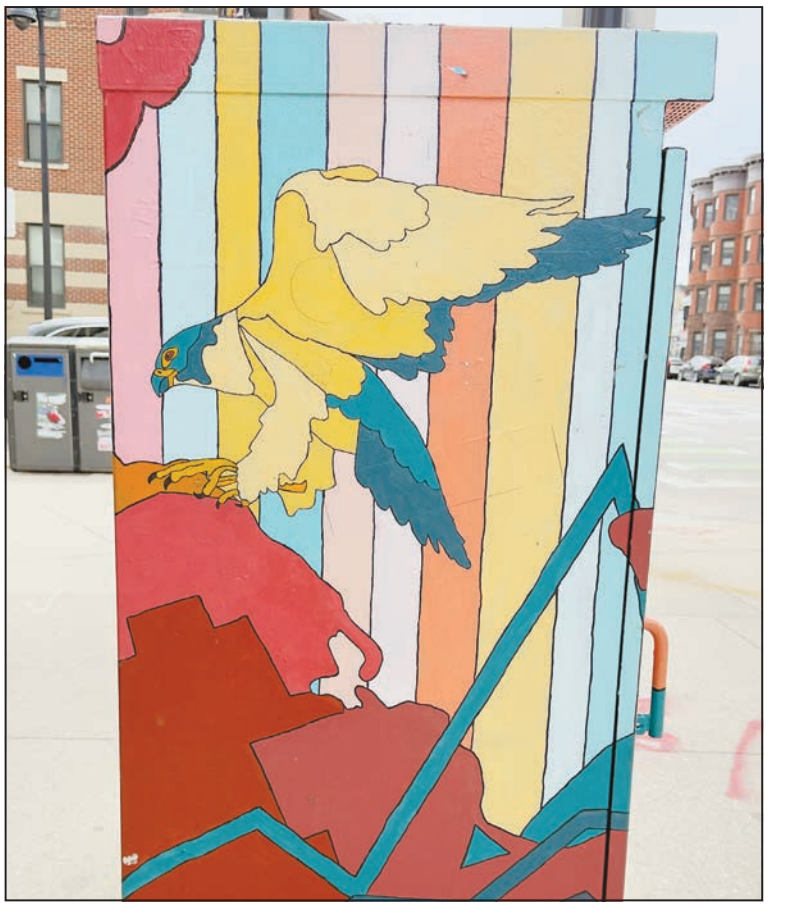
Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Soricut Ft	Melvin, William Scott	240 Marlborough St #3B	$660,000
Kayden A Thomas Irt	Simmons, Susan M	249 Beacon St #3	$2,495,000
Scanlon, Samantha	Cogan, Derek Alan	290 Commonwealth Ave #11	$799,024
292 Marlborough St LLC	Bostontownhome LLC	292 Marlborough St	$10,500,000
Blueburd T	Monleon, Robin	30 Marlborough St #3	$4,910,000
Lo, Vivian	Cowdow LLC	362 Commonwealth Ave #64	$608,000
Suns Holdings LLC	Lynch, John	37 Beacon St #23	$1,040,000
Mann Ft	Ritchie, Timothy	400 Stuart St #16E	$2,778,750
Ann M Corcoran 2001 Ret	Apolo Capital Inv Inc	492 Beacon St #43	$1,530,000
Lan, Vo Thi H	Hunt, Kristin F	50 Symphony Rd #404	$1,525,000
Mehta, Preeti G	Raval, Bansri B	684 Massachusetts Ave #3	$780,000
Ghoul, Kheira	Hernandez, Luningning	701-703 Massachusetts Ave #11	$280,000
Arcy Gdns-79 Gains 204 LLC	Xu, Hong	79 Gainsborough St #204	$695,000
Lipps, Michael	Erdin, Ethem Yalcin	909 Beacon St #4	$1,225,000
BEACON HILL			
Barnes, Connor	Cohen, Steven M	1180-1200 Washington St #403	$2,600,000
De Las Deses, Paul D	Fusaro, Nancy L	145 Charles St #4	$1,217,000
Comneu LLC	Remote Care Providers LL	2 Hawthorne Pl 2-101S	$120,000
River Cross LLC	Perace-Lima, Sanja	22 Irving St #3	$680,000
Lilium Diagnostics Inc	Kennedy, Mary P	333 Washington St #714	$105,000
Clinton Savings Bank	33 35 Bowdoin Street LLC	35 Bowdoin St #1	$5,859,000
Ont Mt Vernon Re LLC	Lio, Angie E	35 Mount Vernon St #1	$1,187,000
41 43 Phillips St Unit 8 R	Cheng, Chi-Wo Joy	41-43 Phillips St #8	$2,315,000
Kimmelstiel, Carey D	Sabia, Drew W	580 Washington St #611	$895,000
Swati Sharma Lt	V Alin Botoman Ret	6 Whittier Pl #7E	$675,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Rhonda R Kitaeff T	Dan Family Re LLC	1 Avery St #14A	$1,265,000
Avery B Rt	Kelner, Jonathan A	1 Avery St #30D	$2,399,000
Salem, Deeb	Fredberg, Deborah	1 Avery St #35C	$1,638,000
1 Franklin St Unit 350 Rt	Oconnor, Kevin	1 Franklin St #3505	$2,195,000
Sheppard, Brian F	Hinds, Walter	100 State St #8	$1,595,000
Taylor, H Jeanie	Korff, Alina Von	141 South St #1	$607,000
Connery, Cabot H	Allen, Christopher S	2 Maple Pl	$1,900,000
Mirabella, Erica	Arakelian Jr, John A	357 Commercial St #720	$1,300,000
Feinbloom, David B	Hanley, James J	60 Pond St #2	$2,500,000
Pgi T	Armstrong Rodney Est	65 E India Row Ph-F	$1,310,100
Kathleen Rose Lt	Herron, Roark	85 E India Row #14G	$1,035,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Rhonda R Kitaeff T	Dan Family Re LLC	1 Avery St #14A	$1,265,000
Avery B Rt	Kelner, Jonathan A	1 Avery St #30D	$2,399,000
Salem, Deeb	Fredberg, Deborah	1 Avery St #35C	$1,638,000
1 Franklin St Unit 350 Rt	Oconnor, Kevin	1 Franklin St #3505	$2,195,000
Sheppard, Brian F	Hinds, Walter	100 State St #8	$1,595,000
Taylor, H Jeanie	Korff, Alina Von	141 South St #1	$607,000
Connery, Cabot H	Allen, Christopher S	2 Maple Pl	$1,900,000
Mirabella, Erica	Arakelian Jr, John A	357 Commercial St #720	$1,300,000
Feinbloom, David B	Hanley, James J	60 Pond St #2	$2,500,000
Pgi T	Armstrong Rodney Est	65 E India Row Ph-F	$1,310,100
Kathleen Rose Lt	Herron, Roark	85 E India Row #14G	$1,035,000

Attention to Detail

Photos and Text By Penny Cherubino

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The bird detail in the last clue is on an electrical box mural at the corner of Mass Ave and St. Botolph Street. The city says, "The PaintBox program is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, the Boston Transportation Department, and Public Works."

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 with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE

City Paws

Pet cleanup, home and away

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

When we brought our first Westie, Sassy, home, Penny was working for a total dog person. Jean, her boss, visited our home within hours of Sassy's arrival. Naturally, she wanted to meet the puppy. However, with her extensive doggie experience, she arrived with a basket of items we didn't know we'd need, since we were new to dog guardianship.

Today, if we were to welcome a first dog into a family, we'd fill our basket with cleaning supplies and items to prevent having to clean up after the dog, both at home and away.

At Home Necessities

Think for a moment about the types of clean up you might have to do for a dog or cat. There will be accidents around the house that require an enzymatic cleaner/stain remover to address evidence of bodily fluids. We use Nature's Miracle Enzymatic Formula Urine Destroyer Plus Dog Stain & Odor Remover. You'll also need a gentle pet shampoo to clean the animal if needed.

Next is a basic animal first-aid kit, which should include a thermometer, self-adhesive bandages, sterile saline wound wash, chlorhexidine wash for skin issues, gauze pads, and scissors or a mini shaver to remove hair around a wound.

Preventative Measures

We've found many ways to prevent the need for cleanup or at least make it easier. We invested in waterproof throws for our furniture and bed. We love the Mambe brand and have sent these as gifts to friends to celebrate the arrival of a new dog. And, we take them with us when we travel to protect the furniture and beds in hotels or rental homes.

Puppy pads in various sizes are great for incontinence or GI upset. If you've ever tried to pick up loose stools on the sidewalk, you know it's difficult. Our solution is to carry small pads and a plastic bag. We slip a corner of the pad under our dog when she sets up to poop, and do our best to make sure it catches what she produces. If successful, you not only leave the sidewalk as you found it but also prevent the spread of diseases from the waste.

When faced with GI issues inside, we put larger puppy pads around our Poppy's favorite resting spots and can grab one quickly if she shows signs of vomiting or diarrhea. We also used these in rental cars with our last Westie, Maggie Mae, who suffered from motion sickness.

For dogs with incontinence, in heat, or being housetrained, there are belly bands for boys and disposable diapers for girls. If you choose to use these, you have to be very careful to change the absorbent material and clean the area as soon as it is wet to prevent skin damage from the moisture.

Always Pick Up Dog Waste

When you are out and about, there is no excuse for not picking up after your dog. It's the law, and what's more, not picking up and off-leash dogs are the weapons dog haters use to restrict access to parks, beaches, and other places we would love to take dogs.

When you are out and about, there's no excuse for not picking up after your dog.

Despite having a supply of pickup bags in our pockets, we keep an extra roll on our leash. We can share these with other dog guardians who've run out of their supply and are considerate enough to ask another dog person if they have an extra bag.

However, we also supply bags to potential scofflaws when we catch them in the act. If they know we saw them, we'll ask if they need a bag. If they've already walked away, we use a line that always stops them in their tracks: "Excuse me, you dropped something!" When they turn back, we offer them a bag. So far, this has not proved dangerous for us, but we suggest you use it with common sense and your own safety in mind. We all know how nasty some people can be these days.

SCI Pitch *(from Page 12)*

to connect with one another on a level we otherwise couldn't have."

SCI welcomed nearly 200 people to the Pitch Event in Roxbury, with youth participants, program volunteers, family, supporters, and invited guests in attendance. In total, 99 young people aged 13-19 years old were involved in the 2026 SCI Youth Grant Pitch Contest. Out of the 14 participating teams, 3 were awarded the maximum grant award of $2,000: EVkids Youth Leaders (Boston), Fortune Avenue (Boston), MA Youth Climate Coalition (Malden/Greater Boston). Each youth team will have until December 31, 2026 to complete their respective projects and will submit a project impact report by the end of January 2027.

Below is the full list of participating teams in the 2026 SCI Youth Grant Pitch Contest with their award amounts:

Arts & Culture Track

- Community Health Cohort from La Colaborativa in Chelsea. Awarded $1,900.
- ECO (Environmental Chelsea Organizers) from GreenRoots in Chelsea. Awarded $1,680.
- Green Jobs from La Colaborativa in Chelsea. Awarded $1,420.
- Connor's Kindness Project from Connor's Kindness Project in Woburn and Winchester. Awarded $1,000.

Bridge-building Track

- EVkids Youth Leaders from EVkids in Boston. Awarded $2,000.
- Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition from Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition in Greater Boston. Awarded $2,000.
- Soley from Immigrant Family Service Institute in Mattapan. Awarded $1,500.
- Camp Warm Welcome, a youth-led initiative in Boston. Awarded $750.
- Con Manos Unidas We Change from De Nosotros Foundation and Eastie Coalition in East Boston. Awarded $750.

Mental Health Track

- Fortune Avenue from Fortune Avenue in Boston. Awarded $2,000.
- Lynn Lady Leaders from Boys & Girls Club of Lynn. Awarded $1,900.
- Building Over Blocks: House of Health from La Colaborativa in Chelsea. Awarded $1,100.
- GrowWithGuidance from GrowWithGuidance INC. in Natick. Awarded $1,100.
- BGCD Keystone from Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester. Awarded $900.

SCI's Youth Grant Pitch Contest provides youth with access to adult-mentoring relationships, financial support, and network-building resources, while intentionally cultivating connections across socioeconomic barriers in Greater Boston. Since launching in 2021, SCI's Youth Grant Pitch Contest has supported 53 youth-led projects through $69,000 in grants that have benefited over 6,000 community members across 14 Greater Boston communities. The 2026 Pitch Event was supported by 1981andCo Photography, the Ironside Group at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Roxbury Community College, the YMCA of Greater Boston, and TITIN (Extra Virgin Olive Oil). For more information visit socialcapitalinc.org/ygpc.

The 2026 SCI Youth Grant Pitch Contest is made possible by the generous support of Boston Bridges Initiative, Winning Home, Inc., State Street Foundation, The Brooks & Joan Fortune Family Foundation, M&T Bank, The Boston Foundation, Kick It For A Cause, Boston Children's Hospital, and a Massachusetts state budget line item (thanks to the advocacy of State Senator Cindy Friedman). Major support for SCI's youth programs is provided by Cummings Properties.

Mayor Michelle Wu announces 2026 Civic Summit

‘We The People’ theme celebrates Boston’s communities and the power of civic action in the nation’s 250th year

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the 2026 Civic Summit, a full day event focused on uniting neighbors, civic leaders, and non-profit advocates to strengthen community and civic engagement in Boston. As Boston commemorates the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding, this year’s Civic Summit theme, “We the People,” reflects the City’s continued focus on community-driven progress and making Boston a home for everyone.

The summit will be held on Saturday, August 1, at Boston University Questrom School of Business featuring a fireside chat with Mayor Michelle Wu, a panel discussion with community leaders, and breakout sessions led by subject matter experts, including faculty from Boston University. Registration and a full agenda are available on boston.gov/civic-summit.

“Boston has always been a leader among cities because of the strong civic leaders in our neighborhoods and communities. Each year, our Boston Civic Summit convenes residents who know our city best to share resources and strengthen connections to ensure Boston is a home for everyone,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m thankful for Boston’s strong civic leaders who shape our neighborhoods everyday and look forward to seeing everyone at this year’s summit.”

This year, the Civic Summit invites participants to reflect on the evolving meaning of democracy, their role in civic engagement in Boston, and how our city is a home of belonging for all. While "We The People" is one of the most recognizable phrases in American history, its original interpretation did not include many of the communities that make up Boston today.

The Civic Summit aims to broaden that definition by highlighting the voices, experiences, and contributions of all residents. Through conversation and collaboration, attendees will explore how civic engagement has evolved over time and how each of us can help build a more inclusive and civically engaged Boston.

"Now more than ever, every voice deserves to be heard and every resident should feel seen and know that they are a part of shaping our city's future," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. “The Civic Summit is the Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing's opportunity to invest in Boston's civic leaders, neighbors who look out for one another, and the volunteers whose dedication strengthens our communities every day. Whether you're a longtime community advocate or looking to get involved for the first time, we hope you'll join us as we learn from one another, build new connections, and continue creating a Boston where everyone belongs."

The Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing is proud to work with PurpleFox Events LLC, an event planning company based in Mattapan led by Atiya Charley. Award-winning spoken word artist and community leader Amanda Shea will serve as the host of the Civic Summit. Boston-based journalist, researcher, lecturer, and podcast host Dart Adams will lead the panel discussion "Public Assembly and Civic Action: The History and Evolution of Peaceful Assembly," exploring how the right to gather, organize, and advocate for change has evolved over time.

“I am excited to partner with the Mayor’s Office Civic Organizing to plan this year’s Civic Summit,” said Atiya Charley, Founder of PurpleFox Events. “Our team looks forward to helping create a memorable community centered event for attendees to connect, exchange ideas, and inspire meaningful action in neighborhoods in Boston.”

The City of Boston is grateful for the continued support of its community partners, whose collaboration makes the Civic Summit possible. For the third consecutive year, Boston University serves as the Summit’s lead partner. Since 2025, Cities Forward has also played a key role, helping advance civic engagement and strengthening connections between residents and local government.

“Boston University is proud to partner with the City of Boston for the third consecutive year on the Civic Summit and to welcome this year’s gathering back to the Questrom School of Business,” said Dr. Melissa Gilliam, President of Boston University. “The Civic Summit creates an important space for residents and civic leaders to come together, exchange ideas, learn from one another, and strengthen the relationships that help Boston thrive. We are grateful to Mayor Wu for her leadership and honored to support an event that celebrates the power of civic engagement, public dialogue, and shared responsibility in shaping the future of our city.”

“Cities Forward is committed to supporting cities across the country that are working to make civic engagement a natural and enduring part of how local government serves and engages residents.” said Joseph Arroyo, Executive Director of Cities Forward. “The Office of Civic Organizing and the Civic Summit are examples of the important role local governments can play in bringing together residents, nonprofit leaders, civic leaders, and public servants to strengthen social connection while equipping communities with the knowledge, relationships, and skills needed to build a city that works for everyone.”

In its inaugural year, the Civic Summit reached its 200-person capacity in fewer than 12 hours. In response to overwhelming interest, the City continues to expand this year's event to welcome up to 300 participants. The Civic Summit is free and open to the public with advance registration. Attendees will receive a light lunch, a tote bag featuring City merchandise, and resources to help them stay engaged in their communities long after the Summit. For more information and to register visit boston.gov/civicsummit.

The Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that encourage proactive community engagement, awareness, and service in our neighborhoods. Follow the Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing on social media at @bostoncivicorg and visit boston.gov/civic-summit to learn more about the Civic Summit and to register.

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