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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

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Alley details for new South End Branch Library discussed at community meeting

By Dan Murphy

Alley details for the eagerly awaited redevelopment of the South End Branch Library were discussed during a standing-room seventh community meeting on the project held Tuesday, May 19, at Union Church.

A two-story structure is on track to replace the shuttered one-story library at 685 Tremont St., nearly double its size from around 9,000 to about 16,000 square feet. But the expansion of the library's footprint will result in the loss of some adjacent alley space, said Patricia Cafferky, deputy chief of operations, capital planning and special projects for Mayor Michelle Wu's office.

COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Utile rendering shows the Tremont Street elevation of the new South End Branch Library.

To save time, the bidding process, with pre-qualifications, is getting underway at the same time as the alley details are being finalized, said Cafferky.

The project is then scheduled to go out to bid this fall, said Cafferky. with construction, which is expected to run about 27 months, starting in the spring of '27.

The ground-floor footprint of the new building extends approximately 5 feet into Alley #510, which runs behind the library, while staying within the Boston Public Library's property lines. Alley #510 is connected perpendicularly to Alley #529, which is serviced by city Public Works vehicles for curbside collection of solid waste and recycling. Today, sanitation vehicles service Alley #529 via West Newton Street, as well as exit Alley #510 via both West Newton Street and Rutland Square. With the new library design, large vehicles will need to turn right out of Alley #529 into Alley #510, according to the city.

Brett Bentson, a principal at Utile, outlined the three options for reconfiguring the site to accommodate the new library, with the first option entailing no

(South End Library, Pg. 8)

Kumiko Panel Workshop held in Boston

By Eowyn Michaels

On the third Thursday of each month, Makers Gallery Boston, located in the South End, holds one of the few Kumiko Panel workshops in the area.

Kumiko is a centuries-old Japanese woodworking technique that requires no nails or adhesives to create intricate patterns, said Ian Labich, founder and member of the gallery.

It first emerged in Japan during the Asuka period, between the years of 538 and 710 C.E., and has since spread worldwide according to Smithsonian Magazine. It is used to create detailed wooden latticework for sliding doors, screens and transom window panels in traditional Japanese architecture, according to the Japan Woodcraft Association.

A panel featuring the centuries-old Japanese woodworking technique Kumiko.

"The intricacy is really what sets it apart," Labich said.

During the pandemic, Labich discovered Kumiko through Instagram and decided to pursue the craft at home.

"I bought a book during COVID with a refund check and I've been doing it ever since," he said.

Though Labich doesn't have direct cultural roots to the tradition of Kumiko, he is passionate about practicing the craft mindfully.

"It's important to recognize that it's a part of my work that I enjoy," Labich said. "But it is by no means my only pursuit in woodworking."

When Labich opened the gallery last summer, his goal was to create a space that showcased diverse perspectives.

(Kumiko Panel Workshop, Pg. 3)

COURTESY OF OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY

Rep. Jay Livingstone thanks supporters of the 27/29 Hancock St. project.

Fenway Forward receives new state funding for Beacon Hill project

By Dan Murphy

Gov. Maura Healey joined other elected officials and stakeholders Friday, May 22, on site at 27/29 Hancock St. on Beacon Hill to announce new state funding for an affordable-home ownership project spearheaded by Fenway Forward.

"Today is about supporting first-time home buyers in Massachusetts," said Gov. Healey. "We want Massachusetts to be a place where people can live, work, raise a family and build a future in the communities they love. Creating more homes for first-time buyers is an important part of that work. These projects

(Funding, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

HIGH SPEED E-BIKES MUST BE REGULATED LIKE ANY MOTOR VEHICLE

A bill proposed by Gov. Maura Healey, known as the Ride Safe Act, that would require an annual registration, liability insurance, and an official Massachusetts license plate for electric "bicycles" that are capable of exceeding 30 m.p.h. is long overdue.

These so-called e-bikes have fallen through the cracks of our motor vehicle laws, even though for all intents and purposes they are "motor vehicles."

When e-bikes first came along, they were regular, pedal-powered bicycles that were equipped with small electric motors. The primary purpose of the e-motors was to provide assistance to bicyclists who were not entirely capable of using regular bicycles, either because of age or some physical limitation, for whom the electric motors gave them a little bit of a boost.

However, as with everything else in life these days, technology soon began to expand the e-bike universe. Today "e-bikes" are capable of reaching speeds of 60 miles per hour.

Gov. Healey's bill, which resulted from a study that was commissioned in 2024, will regulate e-bikes based on their top speed. Traditional e-bicycles that do not exceed 20 m.p.h. will still be treated like regular bicycles.

Operators of e-bikes with speeds capable of 30 m.p.h. will be required to be at least 16 years of age, must wear helmets, and will be banned from using sidewalks.

The real target of the bill are the e-bikes that are capable of speeds exceeding 30 m.p.h. Owners of these vehicles -- which essentially are e-mopeds -- will have to comply with the motor vehicle laws regarding insurance, registration, and safety equipment, and will be prohibited from using bike lanes and sidewalks.

We urge our state legislators to pass the governor's bill as soon as possible. There already have been too many tragedies involving these vehicles, which are becoming increasingly popular -- and any delay will only allow more tragedies on our roadways to occur.

THE BOSTON SUN

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SEND YOUR NEWS

The Boston Sun encourages readers and residents to submit their local news! Engagements, weddings and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication.

Submitting does not guarantee publication that week.

Content will be printed on a space available basis. Items should be e-mailed to

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU TO CASA VOLUNTEERS

Dear Editor,

May is National Foster Care Month. For Boston CASA and the Eastie community, it is also a call to action.

Only about 20% of eligible youth in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties currently have a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), a trained, court-appointed volunteer who advocates solely for the best interests of one child in the child welfare system. The other 80% face a system that never stops moving, with no one constant in their corner. These are children removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect, most of whom are in foster care.

Unlike mentors or service providers, CASAs are appointed by a judge and work directly within the system, advocating in court and alongside DCF to ensure each child receives the support, stability, and services they need. According to a national study, 92% of judges say CASAs improve outcomes for children, and children with CASAs are more likely to succeed in school, access vital services, and secure a stable, permanent home.

It is with sincere appreciation that I thank the current East Boston CASAs. To anyone who is looking to volunteer and is not sure where to turn, Boston CASA is currently recruiting its next class of volunteers.

You can change the trajectory of a child's life. For more information about how to become a CASA, please visit www.bostoncasa.org.

Nicole Stewart
Executive Director, Boston CASA

Wu announces 2026 Open Streets schedule

Special to the Sun

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the 2026 Open Streets Series, a car-free event series that transforms roadways into vibrant, pedestrian-only public spaces during the summer and fall. Now in its fifth year, Open Streets Boston will return to Allston-Brighton, Jamaica Plain, and Mattapan. In addition, the City will bring Open Streets to Corinth and Poplar Streets in Roslindale for the first time on October 18.

"The warmer months provide the perfect backdrop for our Open Streets season, opening up our urban infrastructure as a welcoming and exciting space where families can play safely, residents can connect, and local businesses can help bring the neighborhood experience to life," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm excited to welcome back this beloved tradition to our city."

Open Streets allow local businesses to expand into the street and safely make space for music, games, bicycling, and community tabling in Boston's neighborhoods, reflecting Mayor Wu's vision of Boston as a home for everyone.

All events take place from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parking is prohibited along the route from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year's Open Streets dates are as follows:

•Sunday, August 2, 2026 | Jamaica Plain

•Saturday, September 12, 2026 | Mattapan

•Sunday, October 4, 2026 | Allston-Brighton

•Sunday, October 18, 2026 | Roslindale

With ample space on the routes for activations and tables, the City encourages residents, organizations, and businesses from across Boston to participate in Open Streets Boston events.

"Open Streets brings so much life and joy to our neighborhoods each year. It creates meaningful connections between neighbors while supporting our local businesses in a truly special way," said Community Engagement Chief Brianna Millor. "We're excited to come together, dance, eat good food, and celebrate in our streets again soon."

The annual Open Streets series started during the summer of 2022 with events in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury. Once again, the City of Boston will work with contractor Shana Bryant, founder and owner of Manifested Events, an MBE-certified consulting firm, to execute all events.

"To date, Manifested Events has successfully hosted 19 Open Streets Boston events across the city. We look forward to returning for a fourth year," said Shana Bryant, Founder of Manifested Events. "We will continue our work alongside city partners, small businesses, vendors, and community members who help make these family-friendly cultural events so impactful each year. Open Streets Boston has become not only a celebration of culture and community, but also an important economic boost for local businesses."

Open Streets programming varies by neighborhood, but all events will feature food trucks, face painting, balloon animals, crafts, interactive games, photo installations, and exclusive performances.

"Dream Kid Spa is excited to return as a programming partner for the 2026 Open Streets season!" said Alafia Young, owner of Dream Kid Spa and long-time Open Streets participant. "We always tell our clients to follow

(OPEN STREETS, Pg. 6)

WHERE IS OPEN NEWBURY?

MAYOR WU CLARIFIES 2026 SCHEDULE AND SUMMER PLANS

When the City of Boston unveiled its 2026 Open Streets schedule, the immediate and glaring omission of Open Newbury Street left many residents and local business owners wondering if the highly popular car-free tradition had been quietly canceled. How-

(OPEN NEWBURY, Pg. 6)

FUNDING *(from Page 1)*

will help turn underused properties into new homeownership opportunities while giving more families the chance to put down roots and build wealth here in Massachusetts."

Fenway Forward - a nonprofit developer of affordable housing previously known as Fenway CDC - will redevelop two adjacent buildings located at 27-29 Hancock St., which were last used as lodging houses and have sat vacant for many years, into a total of 15 units at 80-100 percent AMI (Area Median Income) for new homeowners.

Suneeth P. John, Fenway Forward deputy director, said: "Fenway Forward is honored to receive support through the CommonWealth Builder program for the 27–29 Hancock Street project. This investment will help create permanently affordable homeownership opportunities in one of Boston's most historically exclusive and high-cost neighborhoods. We are grateful for the support of the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing, and engaged resident stakeholders including the Beacon Hill Civic Association, and Homes on Hancock, whose partnership reflects a shared commitment to maintaining Beacon Hill as a vibrant and welcoming neighborhood."

Advocates for the project have noted it will have a significant impact on Beacon Hill's housing stock, since there is now only one affordable home ownership unit in the neighborhood.

COURTESY OF OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY

Gov. Maura Healey announces new state funding for home-ownership project proposed for 27/29 Hancock St. on Beacon Hill.

Rep. Jay Livingstone, a longtime advocate for the Hancock Street project who was also on hand for the event, noted that the building had been falling into disrepair for years but that he was confident Fenway Forward would create a "beautiful building" in its place.

"Thank you Governor Healey, Secretary Matias, and MassHousing CEO Kornegay for making this award. Fenway Forward's project will bring needed affordable homeownership opportunities to Beacon Hill," said Rep. Livingstone. "I can't wait to meet the new homeowners and welcome them to the neighborhood."

This project was among four selected to receive a total of $24.5 funding via the state's new CommonWealth Builder awards, which will help underwrite the creation 123 new affordable homes for first-time homebuyers in Boston and Brockton. Other Boston projects include Mission Hill Pathway, five-stories of new affordable housing planned for Mission Hill; and NUBA Homes, which will create 45 affordable condominium homes in a new six-story building in Roxbury.

The Affordable Homes Act included $100 million in new capital authorization for the CommonWealth Builder Program to support the creation of affordable homeownership units. The administration is also advancing the Massachusetts Homeownership Tax Credit, created through the Affordable Homes Act and administered by MassHousing, which provides up to $10 million a year annually through calendar year 2029 to support the development of new affordable homes.

KUMIKO PANEL WORKSHOP *(from Page 1)*

"I've always been really interested in … just showing people that making things with your hands isn't as big and scary a task as it may seem," said Labich.

According to Labich, students began the process with small, pre-made hexagon grids that served as a frame for the smaller pieces they cut. They then used a Japanese saw to cut thin strips of basswood into 18 tiny rectangles.

Students then shaved the ends of the rectangles with a chisel to form the precise sizes and shapes needed to fit the pieces together tightly within the hexagonal grid. Based on patterns of horizontal and vertical lines, pieces are organized into larger frames, Labich said.

"[Basswood's] a good place to start because it's soft enough that you can cut it easily, but it's also dense enough that it can hold the intricate geometries that we'll be cutting into it," said Labich.

"It was a nice beginner session," said Tyson Maynard, a Kumiko student. "I had not done any woodworking before, and I feel like I picked it up pretty well."

At the end of the class, students added the three pieces they cut to a 10-foot, floor-to-ceiling Kumiko screen that Labich made when he first opened the gallery. Every Kumiko class, the panel gets denser, signifying Boston's growing Kumiko community, said Labich.

"I like to think that all the students have a part in the gallery itself," said Labich.

It will take at least 150 more Kumiko classes to fill in the community panel, leaving plenty of time for people to contribute, said Labich.

"Everyone," Labich said, "is capable of making beautiful things."

This story is part of a partnership between The Independent Newspaper Group and Boston University Department of Journalism's Newsroom program.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD CONCLUDES ITS MAY PROGRAMS

The final SoWa Sunday of the month takes place on May 31 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 450 Harrison Ave. This event is free and open to the public.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD OFFERS JUNE PROGRAMMING

SoWa First Friday will take place June 5 from 5 to 9 p.m., and SoWa Sundays are scheduled for June 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

BOSTON SYNAGOGUE'S JEWISH FAMILY OPEN HOUSE AND BBQ SET FOR JUNE 14

Come meet other Jewish parents and children and explore the vibrant Jewish culture in Downtown Boston at The Boston Synagogue's Jewish Family Open House and BBQ on Sunday, June 14, at 11 a.m. at 55 Martha Road.

Discover The Boston Synagogue's rich community while learning about its Hebrew School, family events, holiday celebrations, Music for Tots, and student-led Family Shabbats.

FORUM FOR STATE SENATE CANDIDATES SET FOR JUNE 9 AT BERKLEE

The Boston Wards 4 and 5 Democratic Committees will sponsor a forum with the candidates running for State Senate seats for the 1st Suffolk and the Suffolk and Middlesex Districts on Tuesday, June 9 at the Berklee College of Music, which will be a double-header with candidates for the two State Senate races speaking from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and then from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The order will be announced prior to the event.

Confirmed candidates to date include Sen. Nick Collins, Latoya Gayle, Sen. Will Brownsberger, and Daniel Lander.

Reserve your spot for the forum online at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ma-state-senate-forum-1st-suffolk-and-suffolk-middlesex-districts-tickets-1988775461943

WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP SERIES RETURNS TO CITY PARKS

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has announced the return of its popular ParkARTS Summer Watercolor Painting Workshop series, including stops at Christopher Columbus Park in the North End on Sunday, May 31; the Public Garden on Sunday, June 7; and the James P. Kelleher Rose Garden in the Back Bay Fens on Saturday, June 13.

All classes are held from 10 a.m. to noon, weather permitting, for these free workshops offered as part of Boston Parks' 2026 ParkARTS program, which brings arts and cultural programming to parks across the city.

Open to Boston residents ages 9 and up, the Watercolor Painting Workshops welcome artists of all skill levels to create their own green space-inspired masterpieces. Materials and instruction will be provided by a local instructor. Pre-registration is required. For more information, visit boston.gov/watercolor-workshops.

BEACON ENSEMBLE'S BEACON NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL VOLUME II COMING JUNE 5-7

Beacon Ensemble's Beacon New Music Festival Volume II is coming June 5 to 7.

Opening night of the festival with Mink Duo is set for Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at Beacon Hill Friends House, located at 6 Chestnut St. on Beacon Hill.

Night two of the festival follows with Reflections Duo on Saturday, June 6, at 7 p.m., again at Beacon Hill Friends House.

The finale performance of the festival features event host, Beacon Ensemble, on Sunday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Covenant, located at 67 Newbury St. in the Back Bay.

Visit https://www.beacon-ensemble.org/beacon-new-music-2026festival for more information on the festival.

D. MURPHY

The 23rd annual Ancient Fishweir Project, which is installed on Boston Common now through June.

Fishweir Project returns to Boston Common

By Dan Murphy

The 23rd annual Ancient Fishweir Project has returned this month to Boston Common, again paying tribute to a time when Native Americans once lived off this land.

The fishweir, which is currently installed near the Charles Street entrance to the park, along the central pathway, is a fence-like structure comprising interlaced brush wood (invasive buckthorn) that closely resembles the fishweirs used by early Native Americans to catch fish, such as herring and other smaller catch.

Again this year, the fishweir installation was built in collaboration with Boston Public school students from the Horace Mann School for the Hard of Hearing and the Josiah Quincy School and support from Jeannie Foster and Thomas Green of the Massachusett Tribe, who are involved with programming, brush collection, and construction of the fishweir itself.

The installation will remain in place through June, including being featured as part of the Making History Day on Boston Common for elementary school students on Monday, June 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of the Public Garden.

Around the same location on the Common where the fishweir is now located would have been close to the shoreline of the original Shawmut Peninsula, where Native Americans built fishweirs between 3,700 and 5,300 years ago.

Archeologists found remains of 65,000 ancient fishweirs buried in the clay (layers of sediment) 28-40 feet below the streets of the Back Bay when subway excavation got underway in 1913.

Visit www.fishweir.org to learn more about this year's 23rd annual Ancient Fishweir Project.

YGB names Sonia Chang-Diaz to first-ever Chief External Affairs Officer role, to lead next phase of impact and influence

Special to the Sun

YMCA of Greater Boston (YGB) President and CEO David Shapiro has announced the appointment of Sonia Chang-Díaz as Chief External Affairs Officer, a newly created senior leadership position that reflects the organization's evolving role and breadth of impact in meeting the needs of residents across the region.

YGB is America's first YMCA, and is celebrating its 175th year. The appointment marks a pivotal moment in its history as the organization accelerates its work at the intersection of civic engagement, public leadership, and systems change. In this role, Chang-Díaz will lead YGB's external affairs strategy across public and private partnerships, policy engagement, communications, and resource development.

"Sonia brings a rare combination of expansive issue expertise, public credibility, strategic vision, and deep experience building coalitions that drive meaningful and responsive progress," said Shapiro. "As YGB charts a course for the future in an effort to be as responsive to evolving needs as possible, this is a key investment in our ability to shape direction, forge partnerships, and expand our impact both on the ground and at a systems level. Sonia is exactly the leader to add to our great team to help unify and guide this next chapter."

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Sonia Chang-Día has been named Chief External Affairs Officer for the YMCA of Greater Boston.

The creation of the Chief External Affairs Officer position signals YGB's evolution from a well-known "gym and swim" provider into a partner at scale with government, philanthropy, and business and civic leaders in driving community outcomes. YGB is an inter-generational community cornerstone with a portfolio that includes youth development, food security, adult education and enrichment, housing, teen employment, fitness, aquatics, and workforce development.

A nationally respected public leader and advocate, Chang-Díaz previously served in the Massachusetts Senate, where she built a reputation as a leading voice on education equity, economic opportunity, and democratic participation. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for her ability to bridge sectors, convene diverse stakeholders, and translate bold ideas into actionable outcomes. She and her family are long-time YGB members.

At YGB, she will help deepen relationships across the public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors while advancing the organization's long-term strategic priorities.

"YGB is stepping into an important new era," said Chang-Díaz. "Several things drew me to this opportunity: my past personal and professional experiences with the Y, the incredible breadth and depth of the organization's impact, and its commitment to building lasting influence–both responding to the moment and helping shape what comes next. I'm really excited to help tell YGB's story, expand its reach, strengthen its partnerships, and position the organization for even greater impact."

The announcement comes as YGB has recently completed a strategic plan, done a real estate and facilities assessment, and launched the public campaign, "See You at the Y," to elevate attention to the mounting public health problem of loneliness. YGB continues to broaden its footprint and invest in new initiatives designed to convene leaders, shape policy, grow resources and create stronger connections

(CHANG-DIAZ, Pg. 5)

Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy announces Arboretum Certification

Special to the Sun

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy has announced that the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston has been awarded a Level I Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum, for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. This new designation marks an exciting milestone in the park's continued growth as a vibrant public green space in the heart of downtown Boston.

"Trees and green spaces play an important role in making downtown Boston more welcoming, comfortable, and resilient," said Chris Cook, Executive Director of the Greenway Conservancy. "This recognition reflects years of thoughtful stewardship by our horticulture team and highlights how public parks like The Greenway can bring environmental, social, and cultural benefits to the city every day."

Stretching through the center of Boston, The Greenway has been transformed over the past two decades from a corridor once defined by elevated highway infrastructure into a thriving linear park with active public spaces. Today, its trees contribute shade, seasonal beauty, habitat support, and environmental benefits for residents and visitors alike.

"The Greenway's recognition as an arboretum affirms the care, intention, and expertise that shape this landscape every day," said Brian Gibbons, Director of Horticulture at the Greenway Conservancy. "Our tree canopy is not only beautiful—it supports biodiversity, improves the visitor experience, and helps create a healthier and more inviting downtown environment."

Achieving Level I Arboretum accreditation reflects years of work to formally document and steward The Greenway's diverse tree canopy. This milestone was made possible through the dedication of staff and volunteers, alongside the support of industry partners, including Hortis, whose plant records and collections management tools helped advance the Conservancy's cataloging and tracking efforts. As an accredited arboretum, The Greenway also serves as a place of learning and discovery, offering visitors new ways to engage with and better understand the role of trees and horticulture in an urban environment.

Spanning multiple districts, The Greenway's living collections showcase a wide range of trees selected for seasonal beauty, urban resilience, and their role in supporting biodiversity. Signature plantings include the iconic Washington elm, an allée of yellow magnolia, and curated displays of Appalachian Red redbuds, fothergilla, and Japanese stewartia in the North End Parks. In the Wharf District Parks, native tree species—including black tupelo, maples, oaks, and tuliptrees—anchor ecologically focused plantings. The Fort Point Channel Parks feature seven distinct species of dogwoods and more than 15 selections of hydrangeas, adding seasonal diversity and horticultural interest. Dewey Square Park includes a sweetly scented ribbon of silver lindens, while Chinatown Park showcases distinctive conifers such as lacebark pine and Japanese white pine, complemented by ginkgo trees for year-round texture and interest.

PHOTO COURTESY GREENWAY CONSERVANCY STAFF

A path through the Rose Kennedy Greenway in in full bloom.

Managed using sustainable, organic practices, The Greenway's arboretum emphasizes soil health, plant diversity, and long-term resilience within a highly urbanized setting. The collections are supported by ongoing plant records development, thoughtful species selection, and an integrated approach to design and maintenance that enhances both ecological function and visitor experience.

This designation reflects the collective efforts of the Conservancy's horticulture team, seasonal gardeners, volunteers, and external partners whose expertise and collaboration help sustain the long-term health and resilience of The Greenway's urban forest.

The Conservancy will continue building on this foundation through ongoing investments in the park's canopy, including enhancements to areas such as Dewey Square. These efforts will expand shade, increase biodiversity, and strengthen The Greenway's role as a welcoming, climate-responsive landscape for years to come.

For more information, please visit www.rosekennedygreenway.org

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston and one of the most visited attractions in the Commonwealth, welcoming millions of visitors annually. The Greenway is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, a non-profit responsible for the care and activation of the park. The majority of the Conservancy's annual budget is made up of generous community donations that help cultivate a gathering space where all are welcome and celebrated.

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta. ArbNet facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta meet their institutional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. The program offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, planting and conservation.

More information is available at www.arbnet.org.

CHANG-DIAZ *(from Page 4)*

among institutions, communities, and decision-makers.

The YMCA of Greater Boston, one of Massachusetts leading nonprofits and America's first Y, is dedicated to enhancing the mind, body, and spirit of individuals and families in our communities. For 175 years, the Y has been developing skills and emotional well-being through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse populations, preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities. We provide welcoming, belonging, and opportunity for all. For more information visit Home - YMCA of Greater Boston (ymcaboston.org), or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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Fourth annual North End Pride Celebration set for June 3

Special to the Sun

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata is hosting the 4th Annual North End Pride Celebration on Wednesday, June 3rd at 5:00 PM at the North End Library.

"We've spent the past four years creating beautiful memories, building traditions, fostering community, and celebrating love. I'm delighted to host our 4th annual North End Pride Celebration. This month and every month, we reaffirm our commitment to love, equality, and standing in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "All are welcome to join us in this celebration of love and inclusion as we honor our LGBTQ+ neighbors and affirm that no matter who you love or your gender identity, you belong in this neighborhood."

Councilor Coletta Zapata is hosting the Pride Celebration in partnership with State Senator Lydia Edwards, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, and the North End Boston Public Library. The celebration will begin at 5pm with a short program followed by refreshments and musical performances by North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC).

"This year's Pride Celebration is the perfect way to kick off Pride Month," said Senator Lydia Edwards, State Senator for the Third Suffolk District. "It is an important reminder that love and visibility belong in every neighborhood. I'm proud to stand with fellow electeds, community partners and neighbors as we honor our LGBTQ+ residents and continue building a more inclusive Boston for all."

"This month, I'm honored to once again celebrate with our North End LGBTQ+ community and kick off Pride Month, and by doing so, promoting love and inclusion" said State Representative Aaron Michlewitz.

For additional information please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov.

Open Streets *(from Page 2)*

their bubble and wherever it pops is where the magic is. We're looking forward to connecting with families and the community at Open Streets events this year, and of course, welcoming everyone to our brick-and-mortar in Hyde Park as well."

The annual Open Streets series is part of the City's broader effort to create family-friendly, accessible, and free events for all residents. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up or learn how to get involved by visiting the Open Streets webpage. For programming and dates, see the Open Streets 2026 series.

Additionally, throughout the summer, a variety of city programs will engage community members and visitors, including the Summer Fitness Series, hosted by the City's Parks and Recreation department and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), which offers a wide range of fitness classes across city parks, and the Block Party Grants, launched by the City to support residents, neighbors, and community groups who are interested in hosting block parties on their streets, fostering community and reflecting the spirit and diversity of Boston.

To learn more about summer programming and additional events, visit boston.gov/summer.

Open Newbury *(from Page 2)*

ever, Mayor Michelle Wu directly addressed the community's concerns, confirming that Open Newbury is absolutely returning for 2026, with dates currently being finalized alongside feedback from local businesses.

According to Mayor Wu, the confusion stems from internal city administration, as Open Newbury and Open Streets are managed by two entirely different departments operating on separate announcement timelines. While Open Streets is run by the Tourism, Sports & Entertainment Department alongside a partner vendor to build destination experiences in residential neighborhoods, Open Newbury is handled directly by the City's Streets Cabinet to manage recurring pedestrian closures on an already busy commercial thoroughfare.

The distinction also sheds light on why the broader Open Streets lineup looks a bit different this year. Boston is bracing for a historically busy summer packed with massive, resource-intensive events. Between June 11 and July 19, the city will host FIFA World Cup events, alongside the 250th semi-quincentennial celebrations leading into July 4, and the return of the Tall Ships from July 11 to July 16.

Because managing these mega-events requires an extraordinary deployment of public safety and Boston Police Department resources, the city is scaling back to one formal Open Streets event per month for 2026 to keep logistics manageable. In the meantime, the city is pivoting resources toward neighborhood block party grants, FIFA watch parties, and supporting successful, community-led traditions like the Little Saigon Night Market in Dorchester. City officials noted that once the massive summer of 2026 concludes, Bostonians can expect a return to a more traditional, expanded Open Streets and Open Newbury calendar in 2027.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

From the State House

Gov. Healey, Campbell warn against illegal renter-paid broker fees

Special to the Sun

Following reports that some brokers and landlords are attempting to charge unlawful broker fees to renters, Governor Maura Healey and Attorney General Andrea Campbell last Friday reminded renters, landlords, and brokers that under Massachusetts law, a broker fee may only be charged to the party who hired the broker.

Governor Healey and AG Campbell also underscored that their offices are working to ensure renters understand their rights and that landlords and brokers understand their obligations under the new law.

"Any broker or landlord who continues trying to charge illegal fees is breaking the law, taking advantage of renters who are already struggling with high housing costs, and will be at risk of losing their license," said Governor Healey. "Renters should know their rights, and if anyone tries to charge them unlawful fees, they should report it immediately."

"This law establishes a clear standard: a broker may only charge a tenant a fee if the broker is working for the tenant and not for the landlord," said Attorney General Campbell. "I encourage anyone who may have been charged an unlawful fee to report it, so that my office can continue protecting renters and helping ensure compliance with the new law."

The law, which took effect on August 1, 2025, prohibits landlords of residential rental properties from requiring that renters pay the landlords' broker fees. Now, the broker's fees for rental units must be paid by the person who hired the broker or salesperson. The reform was signed into law by Governor Healey as part of broader efforts to lower housing costs and make Massachusetts more affordable for residents.

Under the law, tenants may only be charged a broker fee if they hired the broker directly to represent them in their apartment search and negotiations. A broker may only charge a tenant when they are providing a service to the tenant and working on the tenant's behalf, solely with the tenant's interests in mind. The fact that no formal contract exists with a landlord does not necessarily mean a broker can charge a fee to a tenant. A landlord or broker who requires tenants to pay broker fees for services at least partly provided to landlords violates the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act, G.L. c. 93A.

Anyone who thinks they've been improperly charged a broker's fee can contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division online or call 617-727-8400 for assistance.

In many cases, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) is able to secure relief for renters without the need for formal enforcement action. For example, the AGO helped a resident obtain a full refund of nearly $1,000 after their landlord unlawfully charged a broker fee. In another case, a tenant reported being charged a broker's fee for the preparation of lease documents when moving between units in the same building. Following the AGO's intervention, the landlord waived the $400 fee.

The Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL), an agency within the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, is responsible for oversight of the Board of Registration of Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons. Any consumer who believes they have been illegally charged a broker fee should file a complaint with the board. Complaints against brokers may result in disciplinary action including fines, suspension, or revocation. Consumers with questions may call DOL's Office of Investigations at 617-701-8756.

Individuals may also have private rights of action under state consumer protection and landlord-tenant laws. The Healey-Driscoll Administration has released an FAQ for renters, landlords and brokers to help them navigate this new policy and know their rights. The AGO has also released an advisory on the new law.

The Visitor's Center on the Boston Common is the start of the Freedon Trail and it has restrooms!

City Paws

Exploring new walks

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Gather your favorite walking crew, leash up the pups, and set off to explore a new walking trail. We find two distinct types of planned and routed walking trails. With a little research, you can find a walk through nature, along the shore, follow an historic or artistic trail, or just explore a new neighborhood.

Nature Trails

Fortunately, our ancestors set aside and maintain beautiful places like the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation in Winthrop, the Northern Strand Community Trail from Everett to Lynn, or the well-loved Middlesex Fells Reservation. Please check the rules for dogs at any location you consider. Unfortunately, these can change over time due to irresponsible dog guardians.

We're big fans of the Trustees of Reservations and appreciate the dog-friendly policies at some of their properties. In planning our list of places to stroll, we checked the rules for the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln. It brought a smile when we saw, "We welcome dogs; please keep them on a leash and pick up after them." This property is perfect for planning a walk, enjoying the sculpture, and having a picnic on the grounds.

Historic, Artistic, and Cultural Trails

In the historic Greater Boston area, organized trails by subject matter abound. In addition to the well-known Freedom Trail, there are more specific walks through history. Boston has a Women's Heritage Trail, a Black Heritage Trail, an Irish Heritage Trail, and the Emerald Necklace. You can opt for self-guided or guide-led tours. And, you can decide to do parts of a trail rather than all of it. For example, you might walk the Charlestown section of the Freedom Trail as a separate activity.

Outdoor art in the form of murals and sculptures is a great way to explore neighborhoods. There is a mural map on the City of Boston website that points you to artwork all over the city, from East Boston to Hyde Park.

Chinatown in Boston offers the Chinatown Art Tour, which includes a map listing twenty or more pieces of art for you to view. MIT, Boston University, and Northeastern all have public art collections you can explore.

You can extend your art walks to other cities and towns. For example, Lynn describes, "The Downtown Lynn Cultural District's Public Art Directory provides an extensive selection of striking public art installations created by local and global talent." Look up a city or town you want to explore, and Google the place and the words' Public Art,' and you may find a new way to see that community.

Other Approaches

When you are looking to shake up your longer walks, we have a few suggestions for targeting an area. The summer farmers' markets began opening this month. Pick a market and check whether it is dog-friendly, since some aren't. Then see what else is in that general area that might be of interest to you and your pack.

MBTA and Commuter Rail stations are another starting point for exploration. You can walk along the shore at Revere Beach. From various stations, you can stroll the Southwest Corridor in Boston or the Esplanade.

Don't forget to pack or determine where you can find water or snacks for everyone, and keep your eyes open for facilities for humans. Practice great responsibility as a dog and human pair, and you will make friends for canine companions wherever your feet and paws take you.

Sen. Collins, Rep. Biele announce state funding for public safety planning during World Cup

Special to the Sun

Senator Nick Collins and Representative David Biele announced that the City of Boston will receive $1.2 million through the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's Sports & Entertainment Events Fund to support public safety and operations associated with FIFA World Cup 2026 activities.

The funding is part of a statewide grant initiative made available to communities hosting official FIFA events, including World Cup matches, Fan Fest activities, team base camps, and municipalities neighboring Gillette Stadium in Foxborough.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the largest in the tournament's history, featuring 48 national teams competing across North America, with organizers projecting that the tournament could bring an estimated 450,000 visitors to the region. Boston is expected to host a wide range of events and visitors connected to the tournament as the region prepares to welcome fans from around the globe.

The funding awarded to Boston may be used to support public safety planning, crowd management, transportation coordination, and other operational needs associated with large-scale public events and watch parties throughout the city.

"Boston has long been a beacon for people from all over the world, and hosting World Cup activities is a generational honor that should be a source of pride for our city," said Senator Collins. "We want to make sure we have the resources in place to allow residents and visitors alike to enjoy these events safely and responsibly, and this grant will help us deliver on that."

"This state grant will provide crucial public safety resources ahead of this year's FIFA World Cup, which will bring visitors from all over the world to the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," said Rep. Biele. "I was proud to join my colleagues in the Legislature in allocating funding to meet the public safety and transportation needs of local municipalities as we host World Cup matches this summer."

The FIFA World Cup 2026 will begin in June 2026, with the Boston region serving as one of the tournament's host sites.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of $195.00 per paper.

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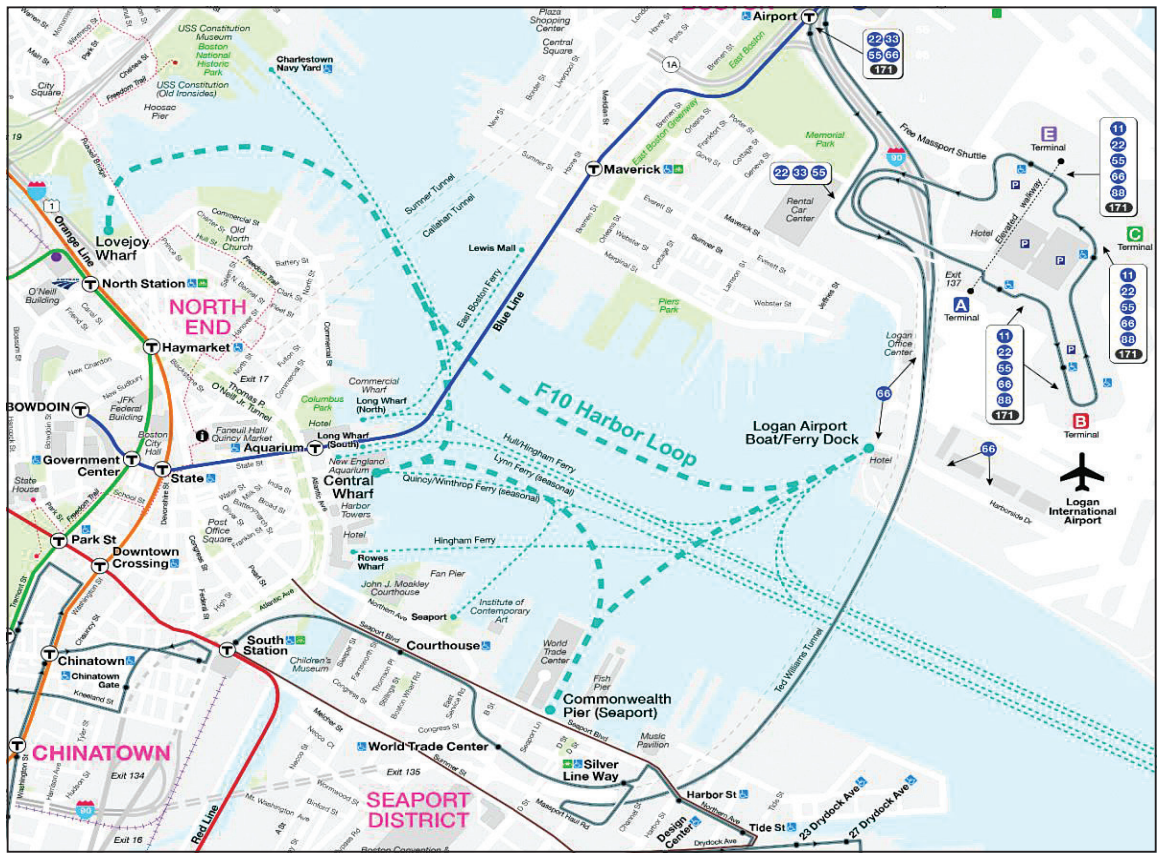
New weekday Harbor Loop Ferry service set to begin June 29

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has announced the launch of the new F10 "Harbor Loop" ferry route, beginning Monday, June 29, 2026. The new route will provide year-round weekday service connecting Lovejoy Wharf (North Station), Central Wharf (Aquarium), Seaport, and Logan Airport, expanding transit access and improving connections across Boston Harbor.

"We want people in Massachusetts to have more affordable, reliable and convenient ways to get around, and this new Harbor Loop ferry service will make it easier for commuters, residents and visitors to travel between some of Boston's busiest destinations," said Governor Maura Healey. "Expanding ferry service helps us take advantage of Boston Harbor as a transportation asset while strengthening connections across the MBTA system and improving access to jobs, housing, and Logan Airport."

(Harbor Loop Ferry, Pg. 10)



South End Library *(from Page 1)*

changes to the park while maintaining a strip of asphalt to allow access for city and emergency vehicles.

The sides of Alley #510 would be flush with cobblestone to deter illegal parking there. "We're trying to take away the ambiguity," said Bentson.

Powering the expanded library will require the installation of a new Eversource electrical transformer on site, said Bentson, and in the first option, the generator would be located near Alley #510.

The second alternative would leave the alley configuration alone, said Bentson, while placing the transformer partially within the boundaries of the existing park, which would require tree relocation.

A third option entails minor modifications to both Alley #510 and the park, expanding the alley as much as possible with asphalt. The transformer would be installed within the park, making the entrance narrower in an effort to preserve the existing trees.

In both the second and third options, a "dedicated tree" will be relocated to an area of the park where tables and chairs are presently located, said Bentson.

Mayor Wu, who was in attendance, said the matter at hand has resulted in a "difference of opinion," including among some city departments.

"I think you should choose the option that best utilizes space in the public area," advised Mayor Wu, calling the project a "generational investment," with lasting impacts to be considered 20 or 30 years from now.

In an informal straw poll conducted by Mayor Wu, the vast majority of meeting attendees favored the first option, which entails leaving the park untouched, while a handful of others preferred the second option, which would leave the alley alone. The third, hybrid option garnered little to no support.

District 7 City Councilor Miniard Culpepper said the future of the South End Branch Library was the single issue he heard about most from constituents on the campaign trail.

"Soon, and very soon, we're going to have a new South End Branch Library," added Councilor Culpepper.

District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn, who was also on hand, similarly voiced his enthusiasm for the project.

"Since devastating floods in 2022 further damaged the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library, the community has now gone without one for four years - leaving residents without a critical community resource that so many of our residents, seniors, families and students rely on," Councilor Flynn wrote in an email to this reporter after the meeting. "With residents having shared their vision earlier this week on the future of a South End Library branch, the need has never been more urgent. I remain hopeful that the near $33 million allocated in the FY27 Capital Budget for the South End Library will be sufficient to move this project into the construction phase so that South End neighbors can finally see a new library come to fruition."

Despite the optimism surrounding the project, Steve Fox, of the Rutland Square Association, cautioned, "You need to address parking in the design. While I like the look of the cobblestones, it says to me, 'park here.' We're not there yet, in my opinion."

Yvette Jarrreau, president of Friends of the South End Library, wrote in an email to this reporter after the meeting: "FOSEL does not have an official position on the three options presented by the city on how to design and manage Alley #510 behind the library. We feel this is best determined by the input from the people who live adjacent to the alley and the city officials with expertise on streets and city operations.

"I want the simplest and safest approach so my personal preference is for the second option, because I don't believe the cobblestone option will be great for plowing or walking, nor do I think it will deter parking," added Jarrreau.

Regardless of which of the three alley options is ultimately selected, Alley #510, which now runs two ways, will become one way "to minimize conflicts," said Cafferky, while new No Stop signage will be increased "to make it clear you will be towed," if you park in the alley illegally.

Pending approval from the city's Public Improvement Commission (PIC), Alley #510 will also be designated as a private alley open to public travel, said Cafferky, giving Boston Police the authority to tow vehicles parked there illegally while clarifying the alley's designation. Ownership of Alley #510 is currently shared, with abutters having the rights to one side and the city/BPL controlling the other side of the alley.

"These changes will make whatever option we go with run a little better," added Cafferky.

The South End Branch Library has been closed since April of 2022 due to flooding.

A rendering shows the interior lobby of the new South End Branch Library.

Berklee graduate Jillian Ann will release her new album on May 29

By Cary Shuman

Jillian Ann Barrows, a graduate of the prestigious Berklee College of Music in the Back Bay, will release her new full-length album, "When All is Said and Done," on May 29.

The album consists of ten songs and was three years in the making. Barrows, (whose stage name is Jillian Ann) began recording the album in Los Angeles following her graduation from Berklee.

"Just by chance, I met a Berklee alumnus (Apostolos Papapostolou) in LA, and he was my producer," said Ann. "I recorded at his studio in North Hollywood."

The attractive 31-year-old singer and songwriter said the significance of the album's title stems from the lyrics of a song.

"There's a song on the album called, "Runaway Boy," and in that song, I sing that line," related Ann. "It's sort of like the closing chapter. All these songs are written over a 10-year period -10 songs over 10 years. It was all written and recorded in LA, so now that I don't live out there anymore, when all is said and done, it's the culmination of everything that's happened over the years."

In most instances an artist will release a single before the release of an album, but Ann chose a different route.

"My producer and I decided we didn't want to put out any singles, because I feel that every song has its own individuality, its own uniqueness," said Ann. "And I want all the songs to stand on their own."

Ann said her musical style is "indie, pop rock and singer/songwriter genre."

She draws her influence from singer/songwriters from the 1970s. "Carly Simon is my greatest inspiration," related Ann. "I grew up listening to her. Kate Bush is another favorite artist of mine. Stevie Nicks, Linda Ronstadt, and Joni Mitchell are great influences as well as the singers from the rock band, Heart, Ann Wilson and Nancy Wilson."

Degrees from Suffolk and Berklee

Interestingly, Ann initially graduated from Suffolk University with a degree in Music Journalism. She audi-tioned for Berklee and was admitted to the college in 2017.

"The first song I ever wrote was "Julian," and Berklee liked it so much, that I got into the school with that song," said Ann proudly.

After writing articles for the Suffolk Journal, the university newspaper, Ann continued that path, publishing reviews of artists at Berklee.

At Berklee, Ann majored in Songwriting and took jazz theory classes. "So, I learned how to compose songs, score music, and arrange for songwriters," said Ann.

She performed in musical shows at the Modern Theatre at Suffolk University and was a weekly performer at Potbelly Sandwich Shop in Boston.

"My biggest show to-date was at the Hard Rock Café," said Ann, who has also taken the stage at Middle East Club in Cambridge and at the Revere Fall Festival the past two years.

PHOTO BY THE VISION FIELD

Jillian Ann's latest album which debuts today, Friday May 29.

Following her studies at Berklee, she performed at major venues in Los Angeles such as The Mint and The Hotel Café.

An early introduction to the piano and singing

Ann grew up in Medford and graduated from Austin Preparatory School in Reading, where she was a stand-out athlete, participating in varsity softball and basketball.

Ann's introduction to music came at a young age.

"Ever since I was little, I was listening to music," said Ann. "My parents played music in my house. My grandmother was also a piano player who played by ear. I learned how to play piano by ear as well. I taught myself to play piano, and I would always be singing in school, choirs – any kind of musical activity."

Dedication of her album

In a tribute to the tremendous support that she has received from her family, Ann is dedicating her album to her father, Thomas Barrows, who passed away in December, 2025, her late grandmother, Anna May Riminis-cenza, and her high school music teacher, Stephen Williams.

"This album is dedicated to their memories, because they had a big influence on me," said Ann reverentially. "My grandmother, my father, and my music teacher all encouraged me to keep doing my music, and they were always my biggest supporters. They were very important to me, and the reason why this album was made."

Ann also credited the valuable support and encouragement of her mother, Virginia Barrows, throughout her academic and music career.

Upcoming performance

Boston music fans will have the opportunity to watch Ann perform live on Saturday, June 27 at The City Winery, Boston.

"I'm very excited about that – it's going to be a big show," said Ann. "Tickets go on sale this Friday at 11 a.m. I'm hoping to fill the room."

(Jillian Ann's music can be found on jillianannmusic.com).

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG GARDEN RETURNS TO COMMON

D. MURPHY

Volunteers again planted more than 37,000 American flags – one in honor of each of the Commonwealth's fallen veterans - at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Boston Common to commemorate Memorial Day. Every year since 2010, the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund has led the effort behind the annual Memorial Day Flag Garden.

please recycle this newspaper when you are through

Harbor Loop Ferry *(from Page 8)*

transportation has been embraced by the public and under the Healey-Driscoll Administration, we are committed to improving water transportation options for all," said Interim Secretary and General Manager Phillip Eng. "Year over year, we have enhanced water service and this year is no different. I'm proud that we can offer this new route to be served by the MBTA as we welcome both old and new riders this summer."

The F10 Harbor Loop route – operated by Bay State Cruise Company – will offer service between the following stops:

- Lovejoy Wharf (North Station)
- Central Wharf (Aquarium)
- Seaport (Commonwealth Pier)
- Logan Airport

Designed with commuters in mind, the Harbor Loop will operate on weekdays approximately every 30 minutes during peak travel periods.

- Morning service will operate counterclockwise from 6:10am to 11:30am
- Evening service will operate clockwise from 3:55pm to 7:50pm.
- There will be no service between 11:30am and 3:55pm, or after 7:50pm.

The Harbor Loop supplements and does not replace the existing Seaport Ferry route, which is operated by the Massachusetts Convention Center.

The new route provides more consistent travel options during peak commuting hours.

The route also improves connections across the MBTA system. Riders can access the subway network at Aquarium Station and North Station and connect to other ferry routes serving at the Long Wharf /Central Wharf area, including Hingham/ Hull, Lynn, Winthrop, Quincy, Charlestown, and East Boston.

Fares

One-way fares will cost $2.40 (full fare) or $1.10 (reduced farefare), matching subway and Zone 1A pricing. Riders may pay using contactless Tap to Ride, cash or credit card on board, or the mTicket app.

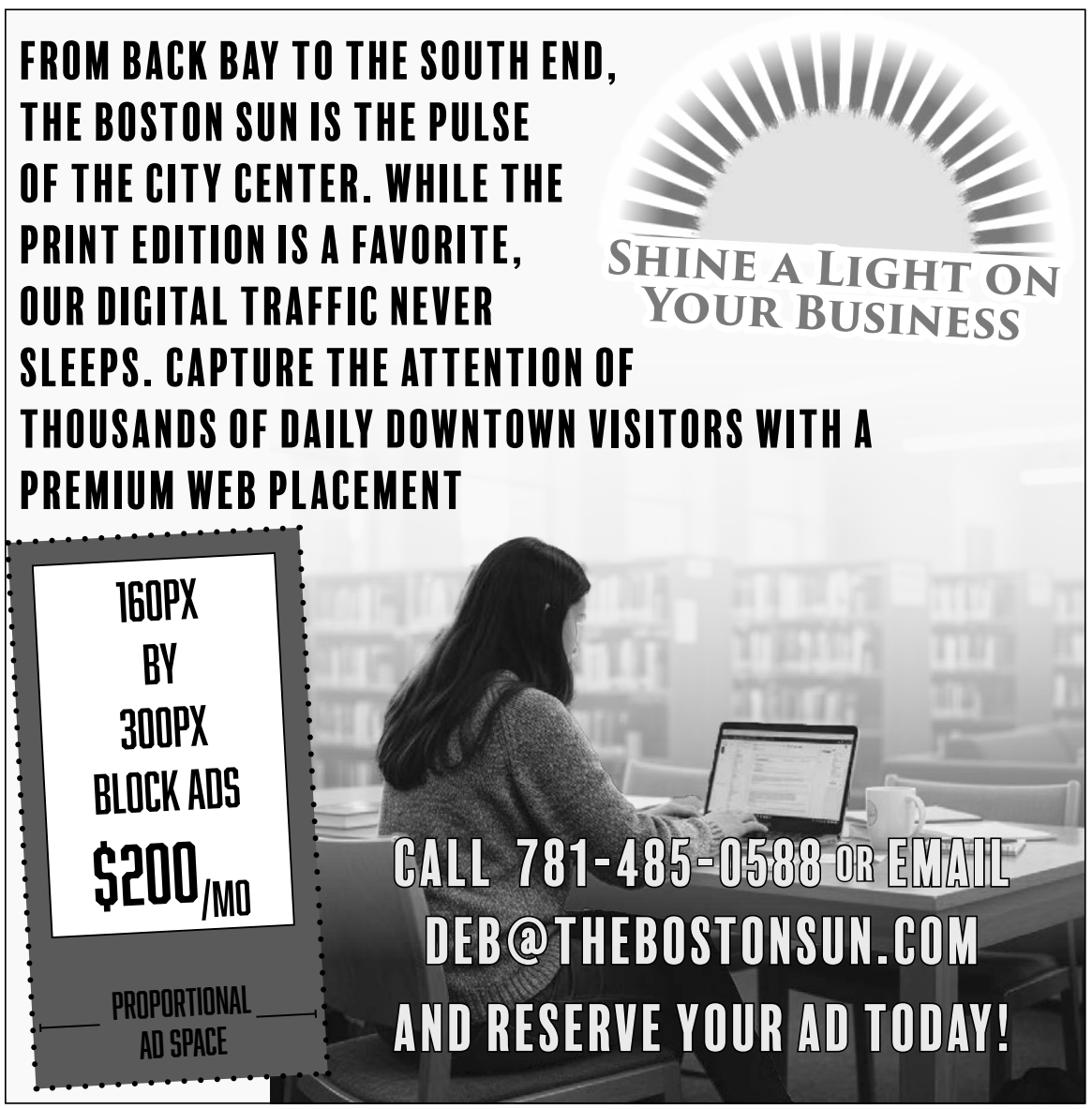
Commuter Rail passes Zone 1A through Zone 10 are valid on the new ferry route.

CharlieCards cannot be used on any ferry route.

The new Harbor Loop advances the MBTA's continued efforts to expand transit options, improve regional connectivity, and provide riders with more flexible and reliable ways to travel.

Schedules and additional information will be available soon. Please visit mbta.com/ferry.

For more information, visit mbta.com/ferry or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.



COURTESY OF NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

Tapestry hanging in the parlor at the Nichols House, prior to conservation.

Beloved Flemish tapestry returns to Nichols House Museum after 10-month conservation process

Special to the Sun

The Nichols House Museum's beloved Flemish Tapestry that has taken pride of place in the parlor of the townhouse since the museum opened to the public in the 1960s, has recently taken a remarkable journey.

The tapestry was purchased by the Nichols family in Paris in the early 1900s and had been displayed at both 55 Mount Vernon St., and the family's summer home in Cornish, N.H.

Last July, the tapestry left Beacon Hill to travel to the Textile Conservation Laboratory (TCL) at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City, the only conservation studio in the U.S. that could accommodate the tapestry's 10-by-12-foot dimensions. It returns to the Nichols House this week and will be celebrated at the Spring Fete on June 3.

Last summer, the tapestry was removed from the parlor and carefully packed for transport by conservator Deirdre Windsor of Windsor Conservation and a team from Maquette Fine Art Services for shipment to New York. Once received at TCL, the conservation process was initiated with the removal of the tapestry's lining, followed by a thorough inspection and photographic documentation of its condition. The tapestry was then hand-vacuumed to remove loose dirt and debris, followed by wet cleaning in a bath of deionized water with conservation-grade detergents. This process not only cleaned the tapestry but, just as importantly, re-hydrated and pH-balanced its fibers.

After wet cleaning, the tapestry was rinsed, dried, and placed on a gentle tensioner for the stitching and stabilization of weak areas. By far the most time-consuming part of the process, the repair of slits and other weak or damaged areas in the tapestry's silk-and-wool weave, required painstaking and methodical work by a team of practiced textile conservators. Slits were closed using cotton yarn, support patches were carefully applied where necessary, and past repairs were reinforced.

"The medieval motif tapestry is believed to be the oldest object in the Museum's collection," explained Linda Marshall, executive director of the Nichols House, "and this is the largest single object conservation project that the Museum has under-

(Tapestry, Pg. 11)

Massport announces new aviation leadership appointments

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) Board of Directors today approved the appointment of Sharon Williams as Executive Director of Aviation and David Ishihara as Deputy Executive Director of Aviation, effective July 1, 2026. Williams and Ishihara will succeed longtime aviation leader Ed Freni, who will retire in July following a distinguished 26-year career at Massport overseeing New England's busiest airports.

"Massport is fortunate to have two incredibly talented and experienced aviation leaders in Sharon and David," said Rich Davey, Massport CEO. "Their deep industry expertise, operational leadership, and commitment to excellence will help guide the Aviation team into the future while building upon the tremendous legacy and leadership of Ed Freni."

For over two decades, Freni has helped ensure the region's airports remain among the safest and most operationally resilient in the nation. Through strong leadership, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to public safety, he strengthened airport security standards, enhanced interagency coordination, and built a culture of preparedness that continues to shape operations today, across Massport's aviation system.

Freni guided Boston Logan through major challenges, including the aftermath of September 11, severe winter storms, and the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining operational continuity and public confidence. One of his most lasting contributions was establishing a daily airport-wide security and operations meeting after September 11, a practice that continues today and has strengthened coordination among airport, airline, federal, state, and local partners.

"Sharon and David bring exceptional strength and experience to Massport's Aviation leadership team," said Patricia Jacobs, Massport Board Chair. "Their steady guidance, deep expertise, and commitment to public service will ensure continued excellence, while carrying forward the remarkable legacy Ed Freni leaves behind. Ed's leadership helped define a culture of resilience, collaboration, and unwavering focus on safety that has shaped Boston Logan, Hanscom Field and Worcester Regional Airport for decades, and his impact will be felt for years to come."

Sharon Williams, Executive Director of Aviation at Massport.

Sharon Williams currently serves as Director of Aviation Facilities and Passenger Services at Boston Logan. In this position, she oversees airport facilities operations, customer service, terminal management, and oversight of Hanscom Field, New England's second busiest airport and the region's premier general aviation facility. Prior to this role, she served as Director of Hanscom Field for twelve years.

During her 32-year career at Massport, Williams has held numerous leadership positions. She began as an Operations Manager at Hanscom Field before moving to Boston Logan, where she served in several key operational roles, including Manager of Terminal B, Manager of Airside/Landside and Fleet Maintenance, Manager of Airport Facilities, and Deputy Director of Aviation Services. In 2011, she returned to Hanscom as Manager of Airport Administration and was appointed Airport Director in 2013.

Williams earned her private pilot license at age 17 and has been a commercial pilot for 37 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management and Flight Technology from Florida Institute of Technology and a Master of Science in Aviation and Aerospace Operations and Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

David Ishihara currently serves as the Director of Aviation Operations, Safety and Security at Boston Logan. In this role, he is responsible for the management of airfield operations, safety management systems, aviation security, ground transportation and parking operations, as well as the oversight of Worcester Regional Airport.

Before joining Massport, Ishihara served as Deputy Director of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center at the U.S. Department of Transportation. His aviation leadership experience also includes serving as Transportation Security Administration Federal Security Director at Bradley International Airport and as a Federal Aviation Administration Field Office Manager. Following the September 11 attacks, he served as the FAA Security Manager assigned to Boston Logan. Earlier in his career, he was Assistant Airport Manager in Portland, Maine.

Ishihara holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management and Flight Technology from Florida Institute of Technology and is an active pilot with Commercial and Instrument ratings.

Going Above and Beyond. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport.

TAPESTRY

(from Page 10)

taken. Given the Nichols family's devotion to this historic textile, and our visitors' affection for the real and imagined animals that are depicted in it, we are happy to see it return to permanent display in the parlor for the enjoyment of our visitors for years and years to come."

Please join Nichols House friends and supporters on June 3, at the Museum's annual Spring Fete fundraiser, to celebrate the tapestry's return and thank some very special donors for their support of this important project. The evening will include cocktails in the garden, a silent auction with many exciting items including stays in London and Tuscany, and a gin tasting with Shortpath Distillery.

Visit https://www.nicholshousemuseum.org/events/spring-fete-2026/ to purchase tickets.

Tapestry Conservation Laboratory staff examine the Nichols House tapestry.

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.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Attention to Detail

Photos and Text By Penny Cherubino

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

The door detail in the last clue is on 18 Fairfield Street, designed by Peabody Sterns and built in 1878. The website BackBayHouses.org is constantly expanding, adding new information on the genealogy and details of properties in the Back Bay Residential District. Today's answer is from an architectural drawing they have added for this address. Check this site often for interesting updates.

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

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Fs 1D54 Holdings LLC	5402 One Dalton Rt	1 Dalton St #5402	$8,600,000
Abreu, Christopher	Hos1 LLC	116 Commonwealth Ave #A	$1,535,000
River Parking Lot LLC	Lee, Lydia	121 Beacon St #2	$1,320,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 6 L	220-224 Clarendon St #1	$9,545,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 6 L	220-224 Clarendon St #2	$9,545,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 6 L	220-224 Clarendon St #3	$9,545,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 6 L	220-224 Clarendon St #5	$9,545,000
Kasymbekova, Aisuluu	Yudkin, Ross	26 Melrose St #1	$1,101,000
Hovsepian, Sarah	Tominac, Thomas A	273 Commonwealth Ave #1002	$1,395,000
Wollam T	Xia, Tina	280 Beacon St #65	$1,525,000
Black, Darreb	Godshall, Doug	288 Commonwealth Ave #3	$9,750,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 9 L	292-296 Newbury St #A	$8,165,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 9 L	292-296 Newbury St #B	$8,165,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 9 L	292-296 Newbury St #C	$8,165,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 9 L	292-296 Newbury St #D	$8,165,000
Treeco/Newbury LLC	Linear Retail Boston 10	304 Newbury St #304	$5,290,000
Tehrani, Shirin M	Bhb Re Ventures LLC	351 Commonwealth Ave #8	$766,100
Treeco/375 Newbury LLC	Krt Holdings LLC	375 Newbury St	$25,500,000
Cartler, Dawn	Schmidt, Stacey N	39 Gray St #2	$550,000
Chan, Julie	Zeng, Helena	402 Marlborough St #2	$1,360,000
Lu, Wei	Shivkrupa Family Ltd Par	705 Massachusetts Ave #8	$730,000
Rosenberg, Jessica	Crl Int	505 Tremont St #204	$2,289,000
BEACON HILL			
Salvioni, Fabio	49 Hancock Holdings LLC	49 Hancock St	$1,500,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Kmh 139 East Berkeley St 4	Anderson, Bruce N	150 Lincoln St #3C	$920,000
Warwick 3rd, Thomas Joseph	D Lemelin-Patrick Leroy	156-160 Highland St #153	$839,000
6533G LLC	Caldwell, Carolyn Lorber	65 E India Row #33G	$1,230,000
Clough, John M	Spencer, William	68 Jamaica St #3	$670,000
Siegel, Corey	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #4109	$1,664,200
Contigo Rlty Boston 4110 L	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #4110	$4,399,000
Contigo Rlty Boston 4111 L	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #4111	$1,560,000
Lutts, Jessica	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #4510	$3,993,000
Contigo Rlty Boston 4905 L	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #4905	$5,358,000
Chan, Catherine	Yeomans, Elaine	70 Lincoln St L-312	$895,000
Caldwell, Carolyn Lorber	Rose M Cole 2016 Ret	85 E India Row #33B	$2,550,000
Caldwell, Carolyn Lorber	Rose M Cole 2016 Ret	85 E India Row #33C	$2,550,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Rossi, David	Py & L Oriental Star LLC	188 Brookline Ave #20J	$2,550,000
Hooftallen, Rylee	Bourbonais, Corey	219 Shawmut Ave #1B	$512,965
Cole, David P	36 Milford St LLC	36 Milford St #1	$3,350,000
Falcone, Gabriella	Jarreau, Julien	501 Shawmut Ave #2	$965,000
Keenan, Jennifer	Nguyen, Kevin	58 W Rutland Sq #1	$1,949,000
Pozniak, Julian	Alaoui, Mohammed	83 Worcester St #3	$2,200,000

Annual Groundbeat Concert Series at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell kicks off Sunday

Special to the Sun

The Esplanade Association (EA) is thrilled to announce the eighth season of their GroundBeat Concerts: The Esplanade's FREE Pre-Juneteenth Riverfront Music Series. Each concert is produced by local creators and showcases a diverse lineup of artists, bringing communities across Greater Boston together through music, culture, and connection.

All performances take place at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell with a lively atmosphere of vendors, lawn games, and family-friendly activities.

GroundBeat begins with a Community Day kickoff concert: 'ZUMIX Hatch Shell Takeover' produced by ZUMIX on Sunday, May 31 at 4:00 PM. ZUMIX is celebrating their 35th anniversary by featuring performances from ZUMIX's youth bands (Zukix, Voces, Pop Rocks, Beware of Denise, Rhythms of Ghana, Sprouts Ukulele Orchestra), the ZUMIX Staff Band, Alumni performances (Nick Shea, Lady Fortuna), and Dance Groups (Salsa y Control, the Floor Lords, and Pumawari Tusuy).

The series continues Wednesday, June 3 at 6:00 PM with 'Abilities: Amplified' produced by Luigi's Fishtank and Harvard Biodesign Lab. These organizations combine their expertise in music and wearable technology for people with disabilities to demonstrate how innovative tools and inclusive platforms can empower individuals and foster a more accessible community. Lineup includes: Lachi, The Berklee Institute for Accessible Arts Education (BIAAE) Jazz Trio, Luigi's Fishtank, and Plugged In | 3 Day Regin.

On the evening of Wednesday, June 10 at 6:00 PM, Travel Through Music returns with 'Sonic Passports – Caribbean Heritage Month.' This year's concert is a tribute to Caribbean Heritage Month, with incorporations of vibrant musical traditions from the Caribbean. Lineup includes: SAFIYA, Roots Alley Collective, and ZAMA.

The series closes off on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:00 PM with 'Salsa at the Shell' with longtime Esplanade collaborator Boston Music Project. BMP returns to GroundBeat after a grand performance last year with a 60+ youth orchestra. Their 2026 lineup includes: BCYF Creates, FutureBOS BMP Youth Band, Salsa Y Control, and Angel Subero and Latin Logic.

This year, our partners at Community Boating, Inc. are providing attendees with 50% off a 2-hour kayak or stand-up paddleboard rental on concert dates.

"We are thrilled to present 4 GroundBeat concerts in our 25th Anniversary year to further activate the park, animate the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell, and bring communities together through the arts," said Jen Mergel, James & Audrey Foster Executive Director of EA. "The Esplanade Association worked hard to secure support to revitalize the Hatch Oval Lawn as a vibrant destination for concerts, and 8 years on we are honored to commission such talented producer-partners and artists for yet another season. Inspiring, innovative, inclusive and connective arts experiences are what bring the park to life!"

Last year's GroundBeat series hosted nearly 80 artists and 34 partners, with the finale concert drawing 7,000 attendees, 51% of which traveled from more than 3 miles to enjoy. We are excited for the series' growth, affirming the Esplanade as a destination for all of Greater Boston to enjoy.

The GroundBeat series experience is made possible by the following local partners this year: Berklee Institute for Accessible Arts Education, Bionic Project, Bocadillos, The Brookline Bird Club, Mr. Vinny The Bubble Guy, Community Boating Inc., DCR, Fruttiberri, Girls in Gear, Mexibites, Mobilio, Navigation Names, Neurohumanities Network, Ohana New England Dragon Boat Team, Plugged in Band Program, Polar Beverages, Reachable, REEV, Stone Living Lab, UMass Amherst Robotics, and Youth Enrichment Services. GroundBeat is supported this year through grants from Audax Charitable Foundation and Eastern Bank.

The Esplanade Association is the community-supported non-profit dedicated to expanding the care of and for the historic Charles River Esplanade, sustain its natural green space, and build community in the park by providing educational, cultural, and recreational programs for 10,000+ people yearly. Working in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Esplanade Association is dedicated to improving the experiences of the millions of visitors who enjoy Boston's iconic riverside park. Since its founding in 2001, EA has funded and implemented more than $30M in major capital enhancements and revitalizations as well as educational, recreational and cultural activations that benefit all park users. Learn more at esplanade.org.

Performers during the 2025 Groundbeat Concert Series at the Hatch Shell.

ZUMIX is an East Boston-based nonprofit organization dedicated to building our community through music and creative technology. We believe music is the most powerful means of developing adolescent self-identity. Our award-winning music and creative technology programming is designed to equip youth with the tools necessary to reach their full potential, while creating a safe space for youth to explore who they are and who they want to be. Through community events, ZUMIX also provides access to top-quality arts experiences for a low-income, historically underserved neighborhood. Learn more at zumix.org.

Luigi's Fishtank is a musical group that performs a dynamic mix of rock, pop, and Latin music, while the Harvard Biodesign Lab develops wearable technology for people with disabilities. By combining their expertise in music and technology, these two organizations are dedicated to demonstrating how innovative tools and inclusive platforms can empower individuals and foster a more accessible community. Learn more at luigisfishtank.com and biodesign.seas.harvard.edu.

Travel Through Music is a cultural concert experience that brings audiences on a journey around the world through sound, rhythm, and storytelling. Founded by vocalist and cultural curator Safiya Leslie, Travel Through Music began to connect people to global cultures through music, travel, and shared experiences. What started as an international music subscription box has evolved into immersive live events that celebrate the artists, traditions, and communities that shape the sounds of our world. Through concerts, festivals, and community activations, Travel Through Music Live highlights genres rooted in culture and diaspora — from jazz and Afrobeat to calypso, soca, reggae, Latin music, and beyond. Each event blends live performance with cultural education, creating spaces where audiences can dance, learn, and experience the stories behind the music. Learn more at instagram.com/travelthroughmusicbox.

For fifteen years, the Boston Music Project has provided music-based Creative Youth Development programming to thousands of Boston youth. Their team of diverse teaching artists provides weekly music education to thousands of PreK to 12th-grade students at 30+ Boston schools each year. BMP before, after, and in-school programs provide students with the resources and support to unleash their musical creativity through instrumental and digital music instruction while fostering their social-emotional skills to find success in music, school, and life. Learn more at bostonmusicproject.org.

DCR manages state parks and oversees more than 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. It protects, promotes, and enhances the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Learn more at mass.gov/orgs/department-of-conservation-recreation.

The 2025 Groundbeat Concert Series brought many revelers to the Hatch shell last season. Shown above, residents enjoy music on the lawn of the Hatch Shell.

CapeFLYER train between Boston and Cape Cod resumes for the summer

Special to the Sun

The MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services (Keolis), the T's operations and maintenance partner for Commuter Rail, have announced that the popular CapeFLYER train service between Boston and Hyannis has resumed for the season. Roundtrip trains will operate Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays between Memorial Day and Labor Day along with expanded holiday service. Regular service will operate on Friday, June 19, during the World Cup match at Boston Stadium.

The CapeFLYER is a unique partnership between Keolis, the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and the MBTA to improve access to Cape Cod for residents and visitors.

"The return of the CapeFLYER is a great reminder that public transportation supports not only commuters, but those traveling to summer events, recreational activities, and warm weather fun with family and friends each season, and we hope even more passengers enjoy the service this season," said Interim Secretary of Transportation and MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "The Healey-Driscoll Administration continues to be committed to enhancing transportation options across the Commonwealth that drive economic growth and improve quality of life like the CapeFLYER. MassDOT and the MBTA are proud to partner with Keolis and CCRA on providing this service to the Cape and islands every year, and we encourage the public to sit back and relax on these special Commuter Rail trips to the Cape."

"The Commuter Rail isn't just for traveling to and from work during the week," said Keolis CEO and General Manager John Killeen. "Over 10,000 CapeFLYER tickets were sold in 2025, which shows just how many people are choosing the train for leisure travel. Keolis is proud to partner again with MassDOT, the MBTA, and CCRTA to offer this popular service."

"We are thrilled to welcome the CapeFLYER back for its 13th season following a 9% increase in ridership last year," said John Kennedy, CCRTA Administrator. "The continued growth shows just how much riders enjoy the convenience and experience of traveling to Cape Cod by train. From the popular bike car to the café car offering food and adult beverages, the CapeFLYER has become part of the Cape Cod summer experience and a fun, relaxing way to avoid bridge traffic and start your vacation the moment you step onboard. We look forward to welcoming both returning and first time riders for another exciting season."

CapeFLYER service begins at Boston's South Station and stops in Braintree, Brockton, Lakeville, Wareham, Buzzards Bay, and Bourne, ending in Hyannis. A round-trip ticket from South Station to Hyannis is $40, and children 11 and under ride free with a fare-paying adult.

Dogs and bikes are also welcome on board. The bicycle car will again be part of the train set with racks for bicycles and a tool kit for passengers to use to give their bikes a tune up during the ride. The train will also feature a café car.

Tickets are available now on the mTicket app and are also available for purchase at South Station.

To view schedules and additional fares visit capeflyer.com. Upon arrival at Hyannis, the CCRTA helps connect passengers to ferries and buses for further transit solutions around the Cape. To learn more about these options, visit CapeCodRTA.org.

For more information, visit MBTA.com or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook / TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on while supporting the region's economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, 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.

LEGAL NOTICES
(submit notices to legals@thebostonsun.com)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Trunk Space Storage - Boston located at 235 N. Beacon Street, Boston, MA, 02135 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 6/18/2026 at 11:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Shawn Frank; Denis Amaral De Abreu; Raesetja Clara Ravhuhali. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

5/29, 6/5
BS

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If the court has ordered you to publish your notice in a different community, we're here to help. The Independent Newspaper Group serves 11 communities in the Greater Boston area. just send an email with required paperwork to any of the addresses below:

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages visitors to make water safety a priority this summer

Special to the Sun

As Americans head to lakes and rivers for the 2026 recreation season, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reminding everyone to make water safety part of every outdoor adventure.

USACE manages more than 400 lake and river projects nationwide and welcomes millions of visitors each year.

While those visits create opportunities for recreation and family memories, preventable tragedies still occur on public waters annually, many involving people not wearing life jackets.

Statistics from the last five years regarding public recreation fatalities at USACE lake and river projects show that 91% of victims were not wearing a life jacket, 92% were male, 88% were age 18 or older, and nearly half were swimming in undesignated areas.

"The recreation areas operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are provided for visitors to get outside, enjoy nature and create wonderful memories," said Maj. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, USACE deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations. "If your plans this summer include activities on the water, take appropriate precautions.

Wear a life jacket, swim in designated areas, recreate responsibly and encourage your family and friends to do the same."

"Too often, accidents happen without warning and in just a matter of seconds," said Heath Kruger, USACE National Water Safety program manager. "A properly fitted life jacket remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to save a life. Whether you are boating, fishing, swimming or enjoying time near the water, preparation and awareness matter."

USACE encourages visitors to follow these important water safety reminders:

- Wear a properly fitted life jacket when boating, fishing, paddling or spending time near the water.
- Never swim alone and always swim in designated areas when available.
- Keep children within arm's reach whenever they are near open water.
- Avoid alcohol while boating or swimming.
- Be aware that water temperatures can remain dangerously cold even during warm weather.
- Use engine cutoff devices while boating to reduce the risk of runaway vessels and propeller injuries.
- Learn your swimming limits and understand that open water conditions differ from pools.

Learn more water safety tips by visiting PleaseWearIt.com and following Please Wear It on Facebook and Instagram.

USACE is one of the nation's leading federal providers of outdoor and water-based recreation, offering diverse outdoor opportunities close to home for millions of visitors each year. More information about USACE recreation sites and activities is available at CorpsLakes.us.

The Beacon Hill Civic Association holds 104th Annual Meeting

Story and Photos by Marianne Salza

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) gathered in acknowledgement of the dedicated members and supporters whose contributions embody the neighborly spirit during its 104th Annual Meeting at the Hampshire House on May 21.

"We gather not just as neighbors, but as stewards of a cherished legacy, a community built on a foundation laid more than a century ago, guided by a heartfelt principle of neighbors helping neighbors," began Joshua Leffler, Chair. "Through our shared commitment we continue the vital work of serving Beacon Hill and enhancing the quality of life for everyone who treasures this historic district."

Leffler expressed his gratefulness for the elected officials -- such as Representative Jay Livingstone, Councilor Sharon Durkan, and Senator Lydia Edwards, who were in attendance – for their accessibility, commitment to the neighborhood, and advocacy, emphasizing the importance of public safety, especially in response to criminal activity witnessed over this past year under the Frances Appleton Pedestrian Bridge, as well as on Chestnut, Myrtle, and Cambridge Streets.

President Colin Zick recognized that maintaining the vibrant, residential neighborhood of some 9300 residents is a collective effort, noting the BHCA's focus on zoning, licensing, architecture, traffic, parking, safety, cleanliness, homeless encampments, maintenance of sidewalks and ramps, and community engagement during his year-in-review. Zick also highlighted the 120-units of affordable housing that will be built above the West End Library.

"It's a changing neighborhood that we try to keep up on to work for the young and the old, renters and owners, drivers and bikers, dog and cat owners. We try to work for everybody," exclaimed Zick. "We were founded with the goal to protect the historic character; and yet, the historical character changes, and that is one of the challenges that we have. That historic character is reflected in the quality of life."

Beacon Award Committee Chair Russell Gaudreau and Executive Director Patricia Tully presented Geraldine O'Hagan with the 29th Annual Beacon Award, presented to individuals or groups for their sustained contributions to the community.

O'Hagan immigrated from Ireland to the United States in the 1990s when she began working as a nanny for a Beacon Hill family. Now, the owner of Rugg Road Paper Company and Paws on Charles Street is involved in many community activities, such as the Love Your Block neighborhood clean-up, and as a member of the Beacon Hill Business Association.

"I'm so honored to be here and be recognized," beamed O'Hagan. "I live and have businesses in Beacon Hill and truly love this place. Thank you for all the support."

Keynote speaker and Beacon Hill resident of 18-months, Paul W. Catchlove, shared his four ideas of duty, gifts, focus, and habit that he learned during his experiences as a former, professional opera singer, secretary for Pope Benedict at the Vatican when he served as a Catholic priest, and corporate lawyer.

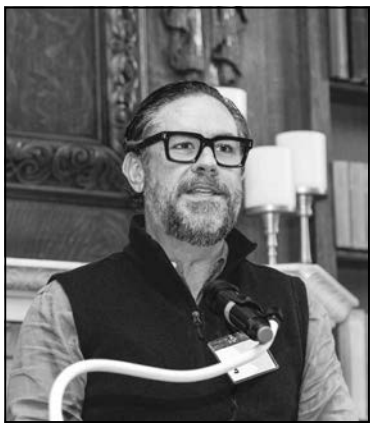
Being neighborly, according to Catchlove, is not about grand gestures, but about ordinary people taking responsibility for the place where they live through small acts. He encouraged listeners to use their gifts for others so that they may compound and grow, and deemed that the one habit that holds everything together is reflection.

"A duty, a gift, a focus, and a habit: these four things hang together," asserted Catchlove. "Reflecting helps us understand our gifts. Our gifts show us where we can contribute the unique brilliance that each one of us has. Focus determines what we prioritize. Duty is where it gets put into practice."

Now Catchlove is a global leader in business transformation, leadership development, and organizational change. As senior director with Boston Consulting Group, Catchlove has advised companies around the world in culture, performance, and large-scale change, spending much of his time helping CEOs and leadership teams to think about how they can become better versions of themselves.

"Neighborhoods like Beacon Hill exist because of generations of people having figured out what mattered, have used their talents, and kept showing up," Catchlove concluded.

Colin Zick, President, BHWF, presenting the year-in-review.



Keynote speaker, Paul W. Catchlove, Senior Director, Boston Consulting Group, sharing his four ideas of duty, gift, focus, and habit.

Directors, Joe Selvaggi, Kathy Judge, Katherine Kennedy, Betty Gaudreau, wife of Russell Gaudreau, and Meghan Awe.

Patricia Tully, Executive Director, Mark Kiefer, former BHCA board member and chair, and current Chairman of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission, with Councilor Sharon Durkan, and Colin Zick, President.

Representative Jay Livingstone speaking with Susanne Besser during breakfast at the Hampshire House.

Beacon Hill Civic Association members gathering for the 104th Annual Meeting at the Hampshire House on May 21.

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