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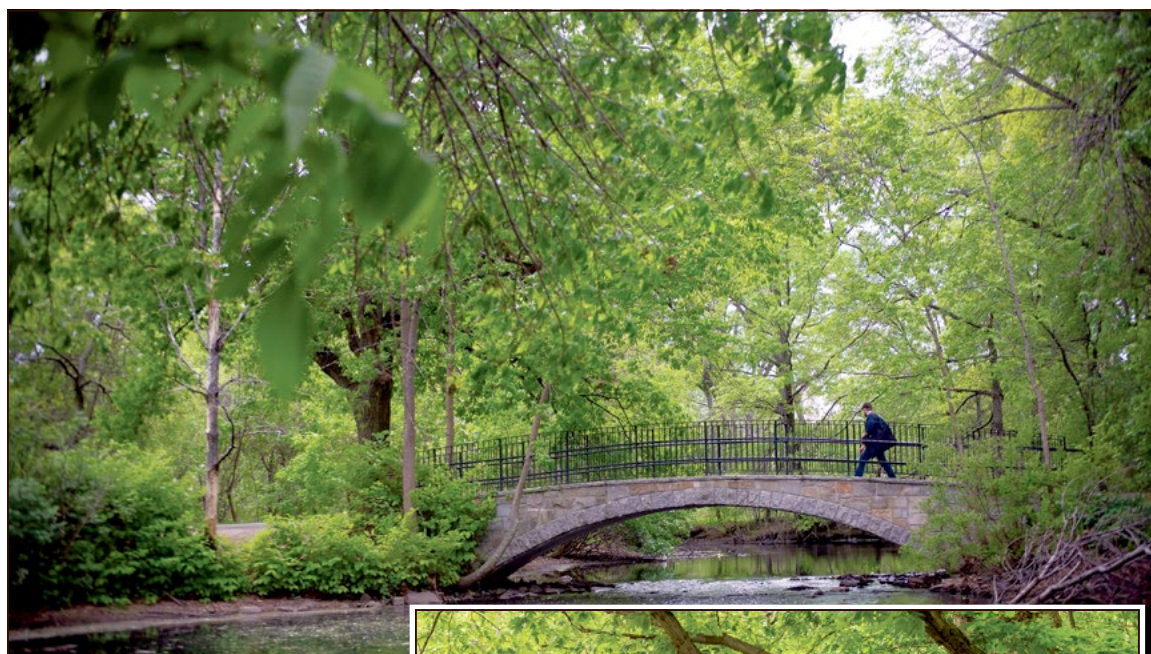
EDITOR@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE



The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is encouraging locals to explore the 1,100-acre park system this Labor Day weekend. Pictured above, a pedestrian crosses a stone footbridge over the water in the Back Bay Fens.

Pictured right, visitors enjoy a walk along a scenic paved pathway shaded by towering trees.



ERIK GEHRING

ENC encourages celebrating Labor Day by enjoying Boston's public parks

New interactive map launching Aug. 31 will make exploring the parks easier than ever

Special to the Sun

This Labor Day weekend, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) is encouraging residents

and visitors alike to celebrate the holiday by spending time in Greater Boston's most treasured public landscape: the Emerald Necklace parks.

Labor Day honors the contributions of working people who have built and continue to shape our communities. One meaningful way to celebrate that legacy is by enjoying the public parks

that were created to be accessible to everyone. That vision was at the heart of Frederick Law Olmsted's design for the Emerald Necklace. Widely regarded as the father of American landscape architecture, Olmsted believed parks should serve as democratic spaces where people of all back-

(EMERALD NECKLACE, Pg. 5)

Vote September 1

City of Boston Election Department issues reminders ahead of State Primary, issues call for poll workers

Special to the Sun

The Boston Election Department is reminding voters that the State Primary will take place on Tuesday, September 1. This election will determine the candidates on the ballot in the upcoming State Election on Tuesday, November 3.

Poll Worker Recruitment

The Election Department is recruiting poll workers for the upcoming State Primary on

Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Poll workers are paid a stipend ranging from \$160-200 in addition to payment for required training. Being a poll worker is a meaningful way to give back, participate in democracy, and help neighbors vote in elections. Residents can request to be assigned a location close to their home. Bilingual applicants are strongly encouraged.

Residents can apply or get

(ELECTION, Pg. 7)

Park Square Building offices poised for conversion to apartments

By Sun staff

An 11-story block-long office building at 31 St. James St. in the Back Bay, known as the 'Park Square Building,' is now poised to be redeveloped into 490 apartments, The Boston Globe first reported last week.

New York-based Vanbar-ton Group has proposed what

would become Boston's largest office-to-residential conversion project, entailing the redevelopment of the 540,000-square-foot property located on St. James Street between Arlington and Berkeley streets. If approved, the project would reportedly cost as much as \$410 million.

(PARK SQUARE CONVERSION, Pg. 9)

EDITORIAL

GOV. HEALEY DOES THE RIGHT THING TO BAN KRATOM

The decision last week by Gov. Maura Healey and the Mass. Dept. of Public Health to issue an order classifying kratom as a Schedule 1 drug, thereby effectively banning the sale of kratom products, removes a dangerous and highly-addictive substance from store shelves in our state.

Kratom is derived from the leaves of a tree in Southeast Asia, where it has been used medicinally in its natural form for hundreds of years with a low degree of dependency when used in moderation.

However, in this country, kratom products flooding convenience and other stores bear little resemblance to that traditional herb. Instead, manufacturers are distributing highly-potent extract powders, tablets, and gummies that isolate and concentrate kratom's active alkaloid, 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH).

Because these commercial products have been completely unregulated, consumers have had no way of knowing the dosage or chemical purity of what they are ingesting. It is these hyper-concentrated products that lead rapidly to dependency, severe withdrawal, and an elevated risk of overdose—especially among curious children and teenagers.

A number of cities and towns across the state, most recently Revere, already have taken matters into their own hands by banning the sale of kratom products in their communities.

However, local ordinances create a patchwork defense that allows buyers to simply drive to the next town over. Governor Healey's sweeping statewide ban establishes a uniform line of defense, ensuring that these unpredictable and hazardous products can no longer target the health and safety of our youth anywhere in the Commonwealth.

IRAN IS HOLDING ALL THE CARDS

When the United States and Israel embarked on their war against Iran almost six months ago, the ease with which they accomplished the assassination of the Iranian leaders created the narrative of a quick end to the hostilities.

Israeli intelligence had convinced American leaders that the regime would fall if Iran's top leaders were removed and that the successor leadership would cave in swiftly to demands to end Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Six weeks into the conflict, we were told by our leaders that Iran had "no cards."

But now, six months later, it is clear that Iran holds all the cards.

The U.S. has no answer militarily to the Iranians' ongoing blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Despite months of bombing of Iranian military (and some civilian) targets by the U.S. and the Israelis, the Iranians' drones continue to pose a serious threat both to the critical infrastructure of other countries and American military bases in the region.

Moreover, the war has drained the U.S. military of its weaponry, leaving our military critically short of both offensive and defensive missiles that will take years to replenish.

The war also is draining the morale of our service members, who are living under strenuous conditions of long deployments while under the constant threat of attack with no clear mission.

In addition, the war has created ever-widening fissures not only between the U.S. and Israel, but also between the U.S. and its allies both in the region and around the world, none of whom were consulted before the U.S. started the war.

Instead of displaying our military prowess, the war has demonstrated that the U.S. is a feckless, unreliable, and unhinged partner of limited capacity who is the new rogue actor on the world stage.

By contrast, Iran has strengthened its alliances with Russia and China, with the Chinese buying Iranian oil, and the Russians supplying Iran with weapons and crucial logistical support that helps to target U.S. military installations.

The U.S. also has failed at the negotiation table. The so-called U.S. negotiating team of Kushner, Witkoff, and Vance has zero experience dealing with either the Iranians, the intricacies of a nuclear weapons program, or how to negotiate in a war-time setting. It was their simplistic Memorandum of Understanding 60 days ago that led the Iranians to believe that they can control the strait.

With the U.S. and the world economy straining under the burden of higher energy prices -- with no end in sight -- it is becoming increasingly clear that the only option for the U.S. to get out of this quagmire is to declare victory and go home -- and let the proverbial chips fall where they may.

GUEST OP-ED

Justice beyond the headlines: Why I'm voting for Kevin Hayden

By Senator Lydia Edwards, Third Suffolk

September 1, 2026 is primary election day. With only Democrats running for Suffolk County District Attorney, the race will be over in September rather than in November. We have a choice to make this year, and unlike most seats that are up for reelection, District Attorney Kevin Hayden is being challenged seemingly from his left (Rachael Rollins) and his right (Linda Champion).

I have been an attorney in Massachusetts for 20 years this November. Today, I serve as the state senator for Boston, Revere and Winthrop (three of the four towns in Suffolk County). I am also Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee and now as the legislative session has come to an end, I am serving as a bar advocate (criminal defense attorney) for people that cannot afford private attorneys. Finally, I am an adjunct law professor at Suffolk Law School and in my spare time I am a Judge Advocate General (military attorney) in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

I want to first acknowledge that I have endorsed both Rollins (2018) and Hayden (2022) for District Attorney of Suffolk County. I have written op eds about both acknowledging their work and dedication to the people of Suffolk County. I have excitedly defended them both and enjoyed their endorsements and support. I even wrote a letter of support for Rollins' appointment to be U.S. Attorney. I know them both personally and professionally. I have spoken to Ms. Champion less so but did meet with her while she was running for District Attorney in 2018.

I lead with all the above background experience and political

decisions to state, unequivocally, that District Attorney Kevin Hayden should be resoundingly re-elected. It is not just politics for me, it is my profession and it is personal.

Let's talk about his qualifications. Kevin has dedicated decades of his life to community representation. He worked his way up from a young Assistant District Attorney to his appointment as District Attorney. It's true, he didn't run initially for this office – Governor Baker had to find a qualified public servant to replace then District Attorney Rollins when Rollins left to become the U.S. Attorney. Since starting his position as DA, Kevin has proven publicly what so many people know of him personally: he just wants to do the work. He is not flashy. You won't find him tweeting tirades, he doesn't come with the quick comebacks and he doesn't play politics.

That is why we need him. If there is anything we are growing tired of its prosecution and advocacy by clicks and social media. The real work doesn't happen on screen most of the time – it's in the moments of crisis, it's holding the surviving loved ones, it's praying for the safe return

of people who are missing, it's house calls. Kevin does all of that. Kevin genuinely leads with his heart and most of that work is unseen.

It's easy to judge a district attorney, or abandon one, when you don't like the decisions they make. To bring charges against a police officer (who is innocent until proven guilty) was a difficult decision that only a district attorney can make with discern-

(OP-ED, Pg. 8)

Why I am running for Governor's Council

By Diann Baylis

As we approach the September 1 Democratic Primary, I wanted to share with voters why I decided to run to be your next Governor's Councilor. As I've traveled across the 20 communities that make up our Governor's Council district (which stretches from Marblehead to Somerville), the first question I get when I talk with voters is, what is the Governor's Council?

It's the right question to ask. The Governor's Council is the elected body in Massachusetts that confirms judicial nominations made by the Governor, at every level of our courts, including the Supreme Judicial Court (the Governor's Council also confirms nominees to the Parole Board, notaries public and justices of the peace, and they play an important role in our elections).

I decided to run for Governor's Council for three main reasons.

First, as an immigration attorney, I represent immigrant children as they seek a special juvenile visa that starts in the probate court (not in the federal immigration courts). I have dealt with probate judges that are not being open minded to these kids' unique circumstances and as a result are delaying their progress, leaving them vulnerable to deportation. I want to better vet and educate these judges, so that we can streamline this process and protect immigrant kids.

Second, in my past work as a family law attorney, including as a pro bono attorney for the "Lawyer of the Day" program at the Essex Probate Court, I have supported women and children in proceedings involving

restraining orders, divorce, custody, and child support. I have seen first-hand the sometimes arbitrary decisions that probate judges make, that fundamentally affect the lives and safety of women, children and families. I have seen women and children who would show up in desperate need of the court's services but were very wary to face a judge without some support which we provided. I want to make sure they are dealing with judges that will show fairness and compassion.

The third reason is that I want to make sure, as a lifelong Democrat, that every vote is counted and that our democracy is protected and preserved for future generations. The Governor's Council is the body that certifies state election results before they are considered final. In the current political climate, with democracy under threat, this role could become vitally important.

As your Governor's Councilor I ultimately want to make sure that judges that are nominated are not only educated but also open-minded, with integrity and compassion. I have traveled to all 20 communities in this Governor's Council district and have talked to many residents who share the same concerns as I do. I will represent these views as your representative on the Governor's Council.

Please vote by mail, vote early, or vote in person on September 1, but I am asking for your vote in the Democratic primary. Learn more on my campaign website at <https://www.votefordiann.com>.

Diann Baylis is an immigration attorney, and a candidate for Governor's Council in the 6th Governor's Council District.

GUEST OP-EDS

I will bring the DA's office back to transparency

By Rachel Rollins

In 2018, I ran for District Attorney with no political sponsor and no permission from anyone. The people who decide these races - before voters get a say - decided early that I was not qualified for the job and not viable in the field. And they were not shy about saying it. Then Suffolk County voted. What arrived was not a narrow win handed down by an endorsement or the political elite. It was a mandate built at doors and kitchen tables and church basements by people who had been told for far too long that this office was not theirs to shape.

We built an office around that mandate.

We collected data and published it. We wrote our policies down so the public could read them and hold us to them. We brought in researchers who could tell us honestly whether what we were doing worked, including on misdemeanor prosecution, where the evidence showed that charging certain nonviolent cases made future crime more likely rather than less. We created the first Discharge Integrity Team in any prosecutor's office in the country, with a community member seated on it, so that when police used deadly or excessive force there was a process the public could see. Homicides fell to a twenty-year low.

We also went to court against the federal government. When ICE agents began terrorizing our community during the first Trump administration, I took them to court and sued them with my colleague in Middlesex County. A federal judge ordered the practice stopped. A courthouse only functions if a witness

to a shooting, a person seeking a restraining order, or a worker owed their wages can walk through the door without calculating the risk. That was true in 2019. It is more true today.

I left to serve as United States Attorney only after asking for and receiving assurances that this important work would continue. It did not. What voters built in 2018 was undone by appointment, which is the oldest way there is to take something back from people without asking them.

Within days, the research partnerships were severed and the published data stopped. The Discharge Integrity Team was disbanded. Four years later, the office still has no written protocol governing officer-involved shootings. Meetings about homicides in our neighborhoods are held by invitation only. Relationships with the police departments this office depends on have frayed in public.

You can measure the cost. Roughly 1,500 homicides remain unsolved, some dating to 1960, and not one prosecutor is currently assigned specifically to clearing those cases. Each file is a family told to wait and then forgotten. Shootings are up. That is what happens when an office

throws away the evidence that was guiding it. If voted back into office, I will bring back the Project for Unsolved Suffolk Homicides and focus on the murdered and missing that have not had answers for years or decades.

When people who live in certain neighborhoods describe what they see out their windows, the answer coming back from the people currently in charge is a statistic, a press release, and a quick change of subject. Their experience is not treated as evidence. It is treated as an inconvenience, something to be managed until they hopefully stop raising it. In my office, data was how we found the truth. It was never how we told a grieving family they were imagining things.

I am running the way I ran the first time. Against the people who settle these things privately, for the people who have to live with what they settle. I ask for your vote and pledge to bring the office back to transparency, community focus and data driving our policies, all while remaining steadfast about public safety.

Rachael Rollins is the Former Suffolk County District Attorney and a candidate for Suffolk County District Attorney.

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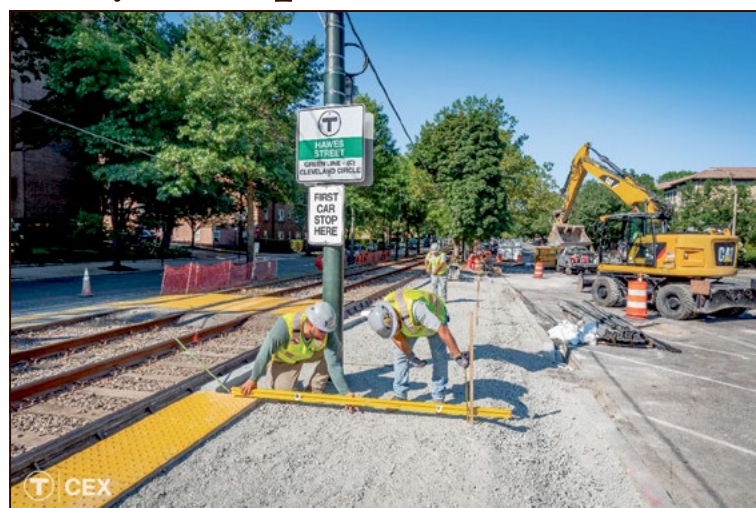


MBTA successfully completes latest infrastructure work on Green Line

Special to the Sun

The MBTA has announced the successful completion of its latest infrastructure improvements along the Green Line, including work on two major projects: critical signal upgrades within the central Green Line tunnel and the C Branch Accessibility Improvements Project. This work took place during nine consecutive days of service suspensions between Government Center and Babcock Street on the B branch, Government Center and Cleveland Circle on the C branch, North Station and Kenmore on the D branch, and Heath Street and North Station on the E Branch.

“We are fully committed to building a transit system that our riders deserve and can rely on, and upgrading our 100-year-old legacy Green Line signal system is essential. These signal upgrades are a critical component for reliable train movements, and the work we are performing brings us another step closer to ensuring the improved service we have been delivering is not only maintained but capable to meet future demands and needs. These new signals will provide the operational flexibility that is necessary to run a world-class system, with the ability to improve schedules, respond to situations more quickly, and avoid or better mitigate service impacts,” said Interim Secretary of Transportation and MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “This new signaling system is vital to the operations of the new fleet of Green Line Type



MBTA workers at Hawes Street Green Line stop.

10 cars that will further enhance the rider experience with state-of-the-art trolleys. As we maximize every diversion to deliver as much work as possible and save money, the street-level C branch stations will also be improved to create a better station environment that is all part of delivering a safer, more accessible, and enjoyable ride for everyone. We know every diversion impacts our riders, and I want to personally thank the public for their patience and allowing us to perform this vital work that has been so long-deferred. With the continued support from the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Legislature, we are reinvesting in the system and delivering meaningful results, revitalizing our infrastructure to provide the best service possible for riders.”

Green Line Work Accomplished

During this service suspension, the MBTA accomplished work on two major projects:

critical signal upgrades within the central Green Line tunnel and the C Branch Accessibility Improvements Project.

At over 100 years old, the MBTA's Green Line signal system is ready to be replaced with upgraded, modern technology. When the project is complete, the new signal system will provide the MBTA Operations team with a safer work environment through improved train detec-

tion, better management of train congestion within the tunnel, and more consistent train spacing (which provides the foundation for improved service frequency). These operational improvements also mean more reliable service for riders with fewer unplanned disruptions and emergency repairs caused by the older, aging signal system. Compatible with the upcoming fleet of new Type 10 Green Line cars, these signal upgrades also help prepare the MBTA for future generations of riders.

Through this service outage and other outages being planned later this year, work crews will:

- Replace 90 existing 25 Hz track circuits with modern 100 Hz equipment
- Install more than 72 miles of signal cable and more than 4 miles of fiber-optic communications infrastructure
- Upgrade 129 signal-system components at key locations, including Copley, Park Street, and Government Center

Integrate and thoroughly test the new system before restoring passenger service

Complete related inspections and repairs, helping reduce future service disruptions

The Green Line C Branch Station Accessibility Improvements project is in the process of making accessibility improvements at seven inaccessible above-ground stations on the C Branch along Beacon Street in the Town of Brookline: Englewood Avenue, Dean Road, Tappan Street, the consolidated Fairbanks Street/Brandon Hall station, Summit Avenue, Saint Paul Street, and Hawes Street.

During this service change, work crews will continue to address the existing low and narrow platforms that create barriers for people with disabilities and others who need easier boarding, such as older adults, families with strollers, and riders carrying luggage. The project is creating a safer boarding experience through raised, wider platforms, which reduce the height and distance a rider navigates when boarding and disembarking trains, and assists with faster and more efficient boarding for all riders, which helps Green Line trains stay on schedule. Through other improvements like protected platform shelters, better lighting, upgraded pedestrian crossings, and additional customer-assistance areas, the project is also improving safety elements and the overall customer experience for all riders.



Workers running new cable inside of Copley Station.

(GREEN LINE, Pg. 5)

EMERALD NECKLACE *(from Page 1)*

grounds, occupations, and walks of life could find rest, recreation, inspiration, and connection with nature—and with one another.

Boston's parks are now easier to discover than ever. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy recently launched an interactive map as part of its newly transformed and enhanced website, putting the entire 1,100-acre park system at visitors' fingertips. Designed to inspire exploration and make the parks more accessible to everyone, the map allows users to discover scenic pathways, landmarks, destinations, amenities, and access

points—and easily plan their own adventures throughout the Emerald Necklace. Whether looking for a new place to walk, a favorite destination, or a hidden gem to explore, the interactive map makes it easier to find your way and experience all that Boston's iconic park system has to offer.

"This Labor Day, we hope everyone will experience the Emerald Necklace and celebrate the enduring idea that great public parks belong to all of us," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "Whether

you're taking a walk, riding a bike, enjoying a family barbecue, or simply finding a quiet place to contemplate, the Emerald Necklace offers something for everyone."

From the winding trails of the Riverway to the broad meadows of Franklin Park and the scenic shores of Jamaica Pond, the Emerald Necklace offers countless opportunities to enjoy the outdoors over the holiday weekend and throughout the year. Time spent in nature and green space supports both physical and mental well-being—providing opportunities to walk, exercise,

recharge, reduce stress, and connect with the natural world. The Emerald Necklace offers space for everyone to move, breathe, and reconnect.

To explore the interactive map and learn more about the Emerald Necklace, please visit www.emeraldnecklace.org

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 1997 to steward and champion the Emerald Necklace, Boston's largest park system. The Conservancy protects, restores, helps maintain and promotes the Emerald Necklace's seven distinct parks

designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, and comprises 1,100 acres of meadows, woodlands and paths. In collaboration with its public partners, the Conservancy provides maintenance of the parks and capital restoration projects, free cultural events, visitor services and environmental education. The parks serve as a respite from the city, a valuable commuting connector and a community convener for more than one million residents and tourists each year. www.emeraldnecklace.org

GREEN LINE *(from Page 4)*

The work includes:

- Raised, widened, and lengthened platforms for safer, more level boarding
- Accessible ramps and improved pedestrian crossings
- Better lighting, shelters, signs, and customer-assistance areas
- Platforms designed for the upcoming fleet of longer, higher-capacity Type 10 Green Line vehicles
- Improved drainage, emergency power, and station infrastructure

- The consolidation of Fairbanks Street and Brandon Hall into one accessible station
- The closure of Kent Street after nearby stations are upgraded
- Landscaping and tree replacement where construction affects existing trees.

The MBTA also maximized the unencumbered access to the Green Line track area by accomplishing many other piggybacking projects. This work included:

- The MBTA's Maintenance of Way team upgraded the complicated crossover track at Saint Mary's on the C branch.
- Contractor crews worked throughout the service suspension area to address any potential tripping platforms at station, accomplish critical maintenance as needed, and deep clean sta-



MBTA employees working on the tracks.

tions.

- Upgrades and improvements also took place in the Communications Rooms at Government Center and Park Street.

- The MBTA's Systemwide Radio project completed a survey of the Copley area.

- Overhead catenary wire relocation work and lighting upgrades took place at Arlington.

- In advance of the arrival of the Type 10 fleet, station concrete work took place at Boylston.

- Through close coordination with the MBTA's municipal partners, the Town of Brookline accomplished critical work to upgrade the Tannery Brook drain near Washington Square.

Benefits of Coordinating the Central Tunnel and C Branch Closures

Suspending service in both the central Green Line tunnel and along the C branch at the same time allowed the MBTA to make improvements on a faster, accelerated timeline during one coordinated service outage instead of multiple shutdowns on many different dates. With unencumbered access to the area for multiple days, crews were able to work more safely and more efficiently, and multiple signal, accessibility, track, power, and maintenance crews worked simultaneously. The coordinated work during this nine-day window also saved the MBTA millions of dollars in redundant service outage costs

associated with coordinating shuttle buses, personnel, equipment, and construction support.

Significance of Multi-Day Outages

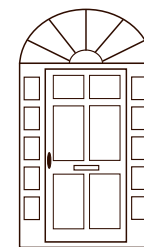
The MBTA is reminding riders that service outages such as these are a critical and necessary part of maintaining the infrastructure improvements that took place as part of the 2024 Track Improvement Program while also making further system upgrades and modernizing the MBTA's infrastructure. This work cannot be performed during the overnight hours when the MBTA does not operate, and would be extremely inefficient and costly if planned

during single weekend outages.

Closing a section of the transit system for multiple days is the most efficient way to perform the MBTA's routine maintenance, revitalization efforts, inspections, and upgrade work, and combines the efforts of multiple contractors and the MBTA workforce around the clock 24/7 to maximize productivity. This work is necessary and continuous to maintain the reliable service riders count on.

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

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Rentals

News in Brief

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO OFFER MORE AUGUST EVENTS

SoWa Sundays will be held Aug. 23, and 30, starting at 11 a.m.

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

OPEN NEWBURY STREET RESUMES FOLLOWING STRATEGIC HIATUS

Following a one-week operational pause, the City of Boston’s highly successful Open Newbury Street initiative will resume on Sunday, August 23, once again transforming the iconic Back Bay commercial corridor into a sprawling, pedestrian-only promenade. From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the entire eight-block stretch from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue will be entirely closed to vehicular traffic, allowing local diners, retail shoppers, and pedestrians to freely utilize the full width of the streetscape. Major cross streets, including Arlington, Berkeley, Clarendon, Dartmouth, and Exeter, will remain open to facilitate neighborhood traffic flow,

while Fairfield, Gloucester, and Hereford streets will be closed at their respective Newbury intersections. Residents are reminded that strict parking restrictions on Newbury and immediately adjacent streets will be enforced beginning at 5:00 a.m. The pedestrian-only Sundays will continue on select upcoming dates, including September 6, 13, and 20, before concluding on October 11.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ‘CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD’ SERIES WRAPPING UP FOR SEASON

Proposed Publication Text:

The Boston Public Library’s Central Branch in Copley Square is preparing to conclude its highly celebrated 2026 “Concerts in the Courtyard” series with a diverse and globally inspired lineup of final performances. Set against the stunning architectural backdrop of the historic McKim Building Courtyard, these free, public concerts have showcased a dynamic mix of established local artists and emerging talents from the Berklee College of Music. Upcoming evening performances feature award-winning classical cellist Luke Walker on Wednesday, August 19, at 6:00 p.m., and Latin R&B saxophonist Diego Herrera on August 26 at 6:00 p.m. Afternoon attendees can enjoy the Hawa Collective performing traditional Arabic music on Friday, August 21, at 12:30 p.m. The summer season will officially conclude with a dramatic, staged concert by the

Boston Lyric Opera on Friday, August 28, at 12:30 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, all performances will be relocated indoors to Rabb Hall.

NABB HOSTS ‘FAREWELL TO SUMMER’ PARTY

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) is warmly inviting local residents to gather and toast the end of the season at their exclusive “Farewell to Summer” event on Monday, August 24, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Orchestrated by the NABB Special Events committee, this year’s gathering will be hosted at Bubble Bath Back Bay, the newly opened and highly anticipated rooftop wine bar located at the CitizenM Hotel. The event offers neighbors a structured yet relaxed opportunity to connect, discuss neighborhood affairs, and enjoy spectacular skyline views of the city. Tickets are priced at \$55 per member, which includes a premium welcome drink—with sophisticated non-alcoholic options readily available—and a curated selection of gourmet appetizers. Registration is currently active and accessible through the official NABB website.

SAN GENNARO FEAST TAKES OVER THE NORTH END THIS WEEKEND

The vibrant culinary and religious traditions of Boston’s historic North End will proudly be on display at the Paul Revere

Mall for the highly anticipated annual San Gennaro Feast, taking place from Friday, August 21, through Sunday, August 23. This expansive three-day festival promises an immersive celebration of Italian-American culture, featuring nearly continuous live entertainment and diverse culinary offerings from more than 50 renowned North End restaurants and local purveyors. Explicitly designed as a family-friendly weekend, the feast invites residents from across the city to experience authentic Italian street food, traditional music, and an unparalleled sense of community spirit right in the heart of the neighborhood.

ROSE KENNEDY GREENWAY HOSTS END-OF-SUMMER FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

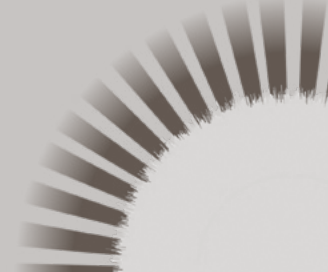
Culinary enthusiasts and families are invited to converge on the Wharf District for the Rose Kennedy Greenway Food Truck Festival on Saturday, August 22. Serving as a massive, open-air celebration to officially close out the summer season, this annual event will feature 15 highly sought-after local food trucks offering a diverse, global array of cuisines. Beyond the primary culinary attractions, the festival features curated artisan vendors, an expansive inflatable obstacle course, and a towering inflatable rock-climbing wall, establishing it as an ideal, all-encompassing

weekend destination for families. The event highlights the continued vibrancy of the Greenway as a premier destination for dynamic outdoor dining and recreation in the heart of the city’s financial and waterfront districts.

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN REVEAL ‘UNTOLD STORIES’ IN FINAL SUMMER TOURS

Residents and visitors have a closing window of opportunity to discover the complex, hidden history of America’s first public botanical garden through the “Untold Stories of the Public Garden” walking tours. Hosted by the non-profit Friends of the Public Garden, these free, one-hour guided excursions are expertly led by highly knowledgeable volunteer guides who delve deeply into the park’s fragile horticulture, its iconic sculptures, and its groundbreaking historic design. Tours are available to the public every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., and Thursday at 4:00 p.m., convening at the famous Make Way for Ducklings statue near the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets. The seasonal tours will continue to run through the end of September, offering a unique, educational perspective on the meticulously maintained botanical landscape that defines this treasured urban oasis.

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Public Notice – Amtrak Voice Radio Upgrade
Project – Readville Facility

National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is proposing to collocate antennas on an 82-ft lattice tower near 1800 Hyde Park Ave, Hyde Park, Suffolk County, MA (42° 14' 15.6372" N, 71° 8' 0.4632" W). Public comments regarding the potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Anuradha Kumar – Parsons Corporation, 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 460204, anu.kumar@parsons.com or 317-703-9996.

Upcoming film screening at Copley BPL highlights voters' rights ahead of '26 midterms

By Sun staff

Ahead of the '26 midterm elections, True North Action Alliance Boston, a dual chapter of Indivisible and Progressive Mass, continues its four-part documentary and community discussion series, the Good Trouble Film Series, with a screening of the 2025 documentary, 'Democracy Under Siege' on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Rabb

Hall at the Copley Square Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Directed by Oscar- and Emmy-nominated filmmaker Laura Nix, the film "traces the roots of today's threats to American democracy," according to a press release, via commentary from historian Heather Cox Richardson, and Rep. Jamie Raskin, among others. Nix will join the post-film discussion virtually, alongside panelist Jerren

Chang, president and CEO of Partners in Democracy; additional panelists to be announced.

The film-screening-and-discussion series began on July 17 with a virtual screening of the recent documentary, 'Love, Joy & Power: Tools for Liberation,' which was directed by Emmy winner Daresha Kyi, and follows Black Voters Matter Fund co-founders Cliff Albright, April England Albright, and LaTosha

Brown as they travel the country mobilizing Black communities ahead of the 2020 election.

A screening of and discussion on 'Lightwalkers' - a documentary written and directed by veteran filmmaker Bobby Roth that profiles a diverse group of 37 Americans as they confront the problem of saving democracy in the face of fascism - followed on Aug. 20 at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library.

The Good Trouble Film Series will conclude with a screening of 'Minnesota Neighbors: Not In Our Town' on a yet-to-be-determined date in late October at WBUR CitySpace.

This new documentary by Patrice O'Neill, founder of the Not In our Town movement, shows how Twin Cities residents came together to protect their

(FILM SCREENING, Pg. 8)

ELECTION (from Page 1)

more information at boston.gov/pollworkers, by emailing the Election Department at pollworkers@boston.gov, or by calling 617-635-0905.

Voter Registration

The voter registration deadline for the State Primary on September 1 is Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026.

Voters may register:

- In person: At the Boston Election Department, 1 City Hall Square, Room 241, Boston, MA 02201, by Saturday, Aug. 22, 5:00 p.m.
- Online: At voteinma.com by Saturday, August 22, 11:59 p.m.
- By mail: Registration forms must be postmarked by Aug. 22

In-Person Early Voting

In-person early voting will run from Saturday, August 22 through Friday, August 28. Registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location.

Boston City Hall will serve as the primary early voting site, with voting on:

- Monday, Aug. 24, Wednesday, Aug. 26, and Friday, Aug. 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25 and Thursday, Aug. 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voters are encouraged to enter Boston City Hall using the North side entrance on Congress Street (across from the Haymar-

ket T-Station).

Additional early voting locations are available in neighborhoods throughout the city on the following dates:

- Saturday, Aug. 22 and Sunday, Aug. 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25, and Thursday, Aug. 27 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All early voting sites are equipped with electronic poll books for voter check-in. Early voting locations will be well-staffed with poll workers and interpreters. All sites are fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

Vote By Mail Application

The vote by mail application deadline is Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 5:00 p.m. Voters may apply for a vote by mail ballot through the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website, by visiting the Election Department in room

241 at City Hall, or by mailing an application. Voters should not place applications in ballot drop boxes as this will delay processing.

Voters can track vote-by-mail or absentee ballot at trackmyballotma.com.

Accessible Voting

The Accessible Electronic Voting System allows voters who are unable to independently read, write, hold, or physically manipulate or mark ballots to submit their ballot via a secure electronic delivery system. Voters who qualify for an Accessible Electronic Ballot may apply online. The deadline to apply for an accessible ballot is Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 5:00 p.m. To get access to the electronic ballot, voters will need to provide their email address.

Poll Pads Electronic Check-in
Poll Pads will be used to

check-in voters at each Early Voting location. The voting process for voters remains the same: voters will check in with a poll worker, receive a paper ballot and envelope, mark their vote, seal it in the envelope, and return it to be counted on Election Day or processed in advance at an authorized facility.

Central Tabulation

On Monday, August 24, the City of Boston will begin processing mail-in and in-person early voting ballots cast in the State Primary for all 275 precincts. Ballots will be removed from their envelopes and fed into a tabulator at Boston City Hall, One City Hall Square, Room 801, Boston, MA 02201.

Only ballots received prior to Friday, Aug. 28, 2026, will be removed and deposited in Room 801.

Advance Processing Schedule

Ballot removal and processing will occur daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., beginning on Monday, Aug. 24 through Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, with processing beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Sept. 1 (if necessary) and continuing until all ballots have been processed.

- All ballots advance processed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28, 2026, will be centrally tabulated.

- All other ballots received by 2:00 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026) will be delivered to their respective precinct for processing.

- Ballots received after 2:00 p.m. on Election Day will be processed after the close of polls at 8:00 p.m., once the voter lists from each precinct have been received by the Election Department.

The list of precincts to be processed can be found on the public notice.

Public Notice – Amtrak Voice Radio Upgrade Project – Southampton Yard Facility

National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is proposing to construct a 105-ft monopole near 2 Frontage Rd, Boston, Suffolk County, MA (42° 19' 51.3948" N, 71° 3' 38.3976" W). Public comments regarding the potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Anuradha Kumar – Parsons Corporation, 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 460204, anu.kumar@parsons.com or 317-703-9996.

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CITY PAWS

Attending events with Dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Outdoor events can be fun to share with your pup, as long as you ensure the event is safe and comfortable for your dog and he will be a great ambassador for canines while in attendance.

Some seasonal outdoor events, like concerts and fireworks, prohibit dogs, but many of the spaces where such events are held

are otherwise dog-friendly. We would never advise taking dogs to fireworks shows. The noise from the explosives and the presence of people looking up rather than paying attention to a dog in the area could spell trouble for even the calmest of canines.

However, in these same spots you may have opportunities to gather friends, a blanket, a picnic, and your dog for a relaxed

evening outside.

Concerts and Movie Nights

Websites like BostonCentral.com provide updated details on events throughout the Greater Boston area. These include Free Friday Flicks at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade, Wednesday night movies at Castle Island, and Monday nights at

(CITY PAWS, Pg. 10)



Our second Westie, Maggie Mae, loved attending concerts.

OP-ED (from Page 2)

ment. While some may like or may not like the decision, I don't think there is one person that can say Kevin did it due to politics or to curry favor with the police. I would argue the same when it comes to his choice to prosecute crimes that Rollins chose to ignore. He isn't making political decisions. He is making prosecutorial ones based on what is best for public trust and public safety.

That's what I want in my district attorney – to just do the job – and we are getting more than that with Kevin. He has creatively approached public safety and continued programs that worked to keep people out of jail and communities safe. Fundamentally, Kevin is a man of deep faith and believes that people deserve a second chance. He supported eviction record sealing knowing that housing stability was fundamental to recovery and recovery was fundamental to staying out of jail. Kevin expanded the

Services Over Sentencing program with \$400,000 of seized drug money because “traditional court involvement is not the answer for many of the vulnerable individuals in the center or fringes of Mass and Cass. We need to present alternative solutions that identify and address the issues that brought them there in the first place..., and... money seized from drug-related convictions is a fitting method to fund it.”

Another example is Hayden's new initiative for young adults. While Beacon Hill is deciding whether to raise the age for court involved youth to 18 years for Juvenile Court, Hayden already piloted a program. Hayden's Emerging Adult Program follows science and creates “diversionary pathways to prosecution for emerging adults, (18-25 years old) connecting them with established non-profit organizations like ROCA to create individual-

ized service plans in conjunction with an ongoing criminal case. The program is in 4 phases and can last 6 to 18 months during which participants meet with wrap-around services, are held accountable for their mistakes and hopefully graduate with a clean record. That is justice centered prosecution. It is also community focused accountability that allows the young person to earn a new beginning and the community to heal.

My final example (though there are many more) of Hayden's justice centered prosecution is his recent support and contributions to the Protect Act. This new law protects court houses, schools, and hospitals from ICE (Immigration Enforcement). For District Attorney Hayden that means prosecutions of defendants won't be interrupted by federal agents. It means victims and witnesses will come to court and testify without fear of being detained. It means people

will report crimes to the police keeping us all safer. Hayden was also a leader in ensuring U and T visa (special visas for human trafficking and domestic violence survivors) certification reforms were practical and included in the Protect Act. The process will be faster, more consistent and the reforms have been lauded by non-profits dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and abuse.

Finally, I want to say Kevin, unlike his predecessor, has the immense respect of his fellow district attorneys. Kevin was elected by his peers to lead the Massachusetts Association of

District Attorneys. In that role Kevin leads monthly meetings about criminal justice reforms policies and trends. He is a statewide leader and voice for all justice-minded prosecutors.

There is a long list of why Kevin's opponents are not the kind district attorneys we need. Both have continued distracting controversies. Rollins displays hers on a daily basis on social media.

Champion, in a demonstration of thin-skinned vindictiveness, recently filed a lawsuit against the Globe for \$50,000 because she was “defamed” by a Globe story discussing where she lived. And, yes, Hayden was fined for campaign missteps while running for district attorney. But the difference between Hayden and his opponents is that he paid the fine and it no longer serves as distraction. He also has not made the mistake again. Essentially, the “buck” and the controversy stopped with him.

In conclusion, I am asking you, the voters of Suffolk County, to vote for Kevin Hayden on September 1. If what I described above is new to you, it's because Kevin was focused on the work and not on politics or marketing. Kevin is a public servant that has earned your trust and your vote.

Lydia Edwards is the State Senator to the Third Suffolk District of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FILM SCREENING (from Page 7)

neighbors during the intense ICE enforcement campaign in winter 2025–2026. Ordinary citizens overcame their differences and fear to defend their immigrant neighbors, winning the 2026 JFK Profile in Courage Award. The October screening follows a well-received rough cut preview in April, presented by True North at Suffolk Law School.

Producer/Director O'Neill will join the post-film discussion; additional panelists and details to be announced.

The Good Trouble Film Series is co-sponsored by: Boston Indivisible, Partners in Democracy, the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), Mass 50501, Dunk the Vote, Indivisible Hingham Hull,

and Activist Evenings. About True North Action Alliance Boston.

Both of the upcoming film screenings and discussions are free and open to the public, though seating is limited, so community members are encouraged to R.S.V.P. in advance. More information is available at truenorthboston.org.

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

Suffolk County DA Hayden is proud of his many accomplishments

By Cary Shuman

When Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden was introduced at a recent political event in Revere, the applause was substantial.

Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe praised Hayden in his remarks, stating, “We’re here to celebrate our public safety. We have the most sworn officers, police and fire, that we’ve had in over two decades. We haven’t had a homicide in the City of Revere in over four years.”

A week later at an event in Chelsea, residents gave Hayden an equally enthusiastic and respectful welcome as City Councilors Leo Robinson and Calvin T. Brown hailed the district attorney’s many accomplishments during his four-plus years in office.

“Kevin Hayden has done a tremendous job working with our law enforcement officials in protecting our residents and engaging with our community,” said Robinson. “He has been highly visible at events promoting public safety and his office has always been accessible and professional in its immediate response to correspondences and phone calls from our residents. He always has a team present at such events as National Night Out and public meetings.”

Hayden, who is seeking a second term as district attorney for Suffolk County that encompasses Boston, Revere, Winthrop, and Chelsea, said, “We have accomplished a lot of things in the short time that I’ve been in office, and we need to make sure that good work continues.”

Statistics indicate that there has been a significant decline in incidents of crime across the county that has 800,000 residents.

“Historically low crime rates don’t happen by accident, and a

lot of what we’ve done over the course of the first term has helped achieve that,” said Hayden, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Boston University Law School. “Whether that’s dealing with our Juvenile Alternative Resolution (JAR) Program helping our young people and keeping them away from our criminal legal system – a program which we’ve expanded to emerging adults – it has been extraordinarily successful so far.”

Services Over Sentences (SOS), an alternative-to-prosecution program launched in 2022 by Hayden, has been a focus of the DA’s office in addressing the opioid crisis.

“The opioid epidemic continues to be a problem for us, particularly in our South End neighborhood right now, and our focus is on recovery, on getting people we call high-risk, high need, into the treatment that they need, the housing access that they need, and to give them the opportunity to build a life that they need, and hopefully, first and foremost, to get clean and sober. That’s how we address that problem. That way we can prosecute people less, and it saves lives – we have real proof of having saved lives through our Services Over Sentences program.”

Speaking about the intervention and prevention aspects of his office, Hayden, who oversees approximately 165 attorneys and 310 staff members overall, noted, “We have our Fraud Fighters piece, which is primarily geared toward our elder community, but as time goes on, we’re finding that our younger folks are very interested in it as well. When you talk about online fraud, phone scams, and the things that are happening now, particularly in this new age of AI, it’s a rampant problem. It’s one that’s hard to prosecute, so we know and we’ve learned that intervention and prevention are



Kevin Hayden

our most useful way of combating that problem, telling people exactly what scammers are doing, and staying up-to-date and one step ahead of them, and letting our communities know how they can prevent themselves from being defrauded.”

Hayden said that retail theft continues to be “a real issue.”

“The reality is there is no one-size-fits-all solution in how you tackle that problem,” said Hayden. “Someone who’s homeless and down and out, and starving for food who is stealing is a lot different than someone who’s running out of a store with thousands of dollars of merchandise at a time and doing that for a profit. So, we have partnered

with our retailers and with law enforcement to make sure we are dealing with shoplifting and retail theft in a comprehensive and effective way.”

Hayden emphasized that his office “will always focus on the most serious and most violent crimes, first and foremost.”

“That’s what keeps people up at night, that’s what people are concerned about – everyone wants and deserves to be safe,” said Hayden. “And we continue to focus on violent crime, and how to drive it down, and how to be better. But we’re doing very well in that area. We are seeing historically low crime rates across the board.”

Hayden smiled when he was asked about the rousing receptions he has garnered at local events. He knows that there is work still to be done.

“I’m just extraordinarily humbled by the response I’ve received in our communities – it’s humbling to know that people have the confidence in my staff and me and the work we’re doing,” said Hayden. “I’m proud of the work we’ve done during my term. Rome doesn’t get built in

a day. It takes time to establish things that we’ve established - the extraordinary successes across every major area. We’ve also improved the office internally as well, from a professional development standpoint, from raising the salary of our assistant district attorneys and all our staff. We’ve been able to work very closely with our legislature to get salaries increased for our staff – that’s very important when it comes to retention and being able to keep people around. And we’ve also increased the number of staff. We have 40 more people working in the office than we had before, and we continue to work on adding some more, because if you don’t have the people to do the work, then it’s hard to get it done. I’m so proud of the work we’ve done. We have some of the best public servants in the entire state doing this work. We’re proud of what we’re doing in Suffolk County, keeping our communities safe while also continuing to advance important ideas around criminal and legal reform. But we’re not resting on our laurels.”

PARK SQUARE CONVERSION *(from Page 1)*

The building, which was once the largest in New England, has reportedly struggled financially since the pandemic and was sold in April at foreclosure for \$95 million to LNR Partners, a Miami-based subsidiary of commercial real estate giant Starwood Property Trust.

Existing ground-floor tenants, including French furniture retailer Roche Bobois and the restaurant, Fire + Ice, intend to continue occupying 30,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space, according to the Globe, although nearly two dozen office tenants are expected to vacate their respective spaces by the end of the year.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Park Square Building, located at 31 St. James St. in the Back Bay.

Boston Athenaeum announces free Community Day open house, September 19



BOSTON ATHENÆUM

Special to the Sun

The Boston Athenaeum invites the Boston community to its fourth annual Community Day open house on Saturday, September 19, welcoming all residents, visitors, families, and friends across the city to explore the landmark historic building at 10½ Beacon Street from 10 am - 3 pm. The event is free and open to everyone.

Guests will have the opportunity to view rare items from the Athenaeum's special collection, share stunning views of the Granary Burial Ground, Boston Public Garden, and State House, enjoy live music performances

from local artists, and immerse themselves the architectural beauty of the twelve floors housing over half a million books.

Scheduled programming throughout the day includes:

- Live music on multiple floors
- Hands-on crafts for all ages
- Interactive reading discussion group prompts
- Story times in the Athenaeum's children's library

The free admission includes access to the two current first-floor exhibitions at the Boston Athenaeum: *Where's Boston?* 50 Years Later, revisiting the 1970s photography of Boston photographer Constantine Manos, and *Imagined Nation* an America250

installation featuring historical artifacts centered around American themes of citizenship and democracy.

"Our annual Community Day is one of the best ways for our neighbors to experience the joy of discovery that the Boston Athenaeum ignites in our members," said Leah Rosovsky, Director of the Boston Athenaeum. "The Athenaeum has something for everyone in the community, and we are so happy to open our iconic red doors to welcome them."

Community Day at the Boston Athenaeum was launched in celebration of the 2022 renovation and expansion of the historic library, museum, and cultural center. The project expanded the institution's physical footprint and strengthened its ability to host art collections, events, and its members and the public.

Founded in 1807, the Boston Athenaeum is a unique combination of library, museum, and cul-

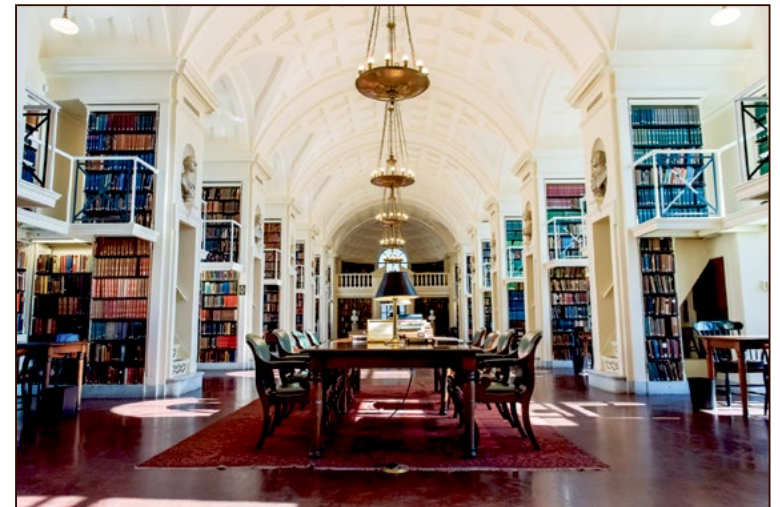


PHOTO COURTESY THE BOSTON ATHENAEUM

A look at one of the rooms in the Boston Athenaeum.

tural center. One of the country's oldest and most distinguished independent libraries, the Athenaeum's circulating collection includes over half a million books, from works published in the 1800s to the latest bestsellers. Special collections include active research holdings of significant

works of art. Members, visitors, and the community enjoy a year-round calendar of cultural programs. The Athenaeum is a member-supported not-for-profit institution that everyone is invited to join. Learn more at boston-athenaeum.org.

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CITY PAWS (from Page 8)

Time Out Market.

They also list concert series and will update these listings when the fall schedules are announced.

Markets and Festivals

Dogs on leashes are welcome at many farmers markets and local festivals. Always check the rules before you arrive. There is a perception that farmers' markets close down when school begins, but many operate into October and some until Thanksgiving week. For example, the Boston Seaport Summer Market runs through October 10th.

Boston artists and craftspeople will display their work during the Boston Arts Festival at the Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park in mid-September. In addition, October will bring the spirit of Oktoberfest to beer gardens and other sites in the area. Halloween displays and costume

parties will follow.

You will also find event listings on the websites of specific hosting locations. Check out the Rose Kennedy Greenway events and activities that continue through early fall:

Is This Right for Your Dog?

Here are a few tips to make these outings more enjoyable for you, your pup, and the people around you. Obviously, if your dog is not well-mannered or not comfortable around either people or dogs, this is not the right activity for you.

- If you have a high-energy dog, make sure she's tired before the event.

- At a concert, find a spot away from speakers and watch your pup's expression to see if the amplified sound is causing any discomfort.

- Bring water for your dog. And stash a few treats in your

pocket to reward good behavior.

- Make sure your pup has plenty of opportunities to relieve himself away from the crowd to avoid an embarrassing leg lift on a neighbor's chair.

- Don't let your canine companion give all dogs a bad name by begging for or stealing your neighbor's lunch.

- Tick reports are plentiful this year. Be sure to check yourself and your dog for ticks during and after the event.

Catch Up with Friends and Neighbors

You don't need an event planned by an organization to spend an afternoon or evening in the great outdoors. Send out a message and have a group of dog buddies gather around a bench with a few extra blankets spread on the grass.

BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Notice Of Public Hearing. The Boston Landmarks Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 25, Design Review Hearing - 4 p.m. and the Business Meeting at 6 p.m. ZOOM: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1651490508> Subject of the Public Hearing will be action on the agenda below, and such other business as may come before the Commission in accordance with Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

Attention: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to our <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1651490508> or calling 1 (646) 828-7666 and 165 149 0508 . You can also submit written comments or questions to blc@boston.gov .

I. Design Review Hearing -
4:00 PM

APP # 27.0044 BLC Swallow Mansion, 33 Cordis Street
Applicant: Joshua Matt Proposed Work: Construction of rear addition, and exterior building envelope and landscape updates. Presentation

APP # 27.0102 BLC Mission Church Complex, 94 St Alphonsus Street Applicant: Marc LaCasse Proposed Work: Demolish existing school building and erect new school building. (Applicant attended Advisory Review on May 26, 2026) Presentation

II. Administrative Review

APP #26.1086 BLC 121
High Street - Richardson Block
Remove existing storefront
along Pearl Street and remove
steel security grating and alumi-
num storefront door at corner
of High and Pearl Street. Cover
existing stair with new floor
assembly and install new store-
front system to match existing
adjacent Pearl Street storefront
system.

APP #27.0104 BLC Boston
Common - 125 Boylston Street
Installation of four interpretive
signage panels at Central Bury-

ing Ground.

APP #27.0098 BLC Adams
Nervine Asylum - 1010 Centre
Street Installation of HVAC con-
denser unit on roof.

APP #27.0029 BLC Adams
Nervine Asylum - 1010 Centre
Street Installation of a prefabricated steel egress stairway and catwalk connecting existing fire escape systems.

APP #27.0099 BLC Loring
Greenough House - 12 South
Street Restoration of privy pit
brick walls and installation of
bulkhead enclosure.

APP #27.0094 BLC Lewis
Dawson Farm House - 1090
Centre Street Remove existing
vinyl siding and restore and
repaint existing clapboards and
windows. Install window shut-
ters.

APP #27.0091 BLC Harvard Medical - 210 Longwood Ave Restoration of the marble façade, cast iron spandrel panels, copper roofing and flashing, and decorative metal grates, the 6th floor metal cladding, and the replacement of all windows with historic replicas.

APP #27.0097 BLC China
Trade Building - 2 Boyston Street
Replacement of membrane roof
skylights, roof hatch, mechanical
system curbing, and additional
guardrails.

APP #27.0089 BLC Quincy
Market - 37 South Market Street
Installation of new signage.

APP #24.1038 MHT 1617-1615 Tremont Street Extension of approval granted on 9/4/2024 for one year to expire on 9/4/2027: At the combined parcel of 1617-1615 Tremont Street: demolition of existing structure at 1617 Tremont Street; retain row house at 1615 Tremont Street and repair and restore historic facade. Demolish alley facade at 1615 Tremont Street and connect to new construction at 1617 Tremont Street consisting of a full basement with four stories of new construction above grade.

APP #27.0145 SB 5 Albemarle-

le Street At front and side facade, replace non-original windows with aluminum clad windows.

III. Business Hearing - 6:00 PM

IV. Ratification Of July 22, 2026 Public Hearing Minutes
Commission to vote on meeting minutes from the July 22, 2026 meeting.

V. Design Review Recap And Vote

APP # 27.0044 BLC Swal-

low Mansion, 33 Cordis Street
Applicant: Proposed Work: Con-
struction of rear addition, and
exterior building envelope and
landscape updates. Presentation

APP # 27.0102 BLC Mission Church Complex, 94 St. Alphonsus Street Applicant: Marc LaCasse Proposed Work: Demolish existing school building and erect new school building. (Applicant attended Advisory Review on May 26, 2026)

Presentation

VI. Administrative Review/ Approval

VII. Office Of Historic Preservation Updates - Presentation of Marker Program

- Discussion and Vote

VIII. National Register Presentation

- Historic Exchange District
(no vote required)

IX. Staff Updates X. Projected
Adjournment: 8:00 PM



beaconhilltimes.com



thebostonsun.com



charlestownbridge.com



northendregionalreview.com

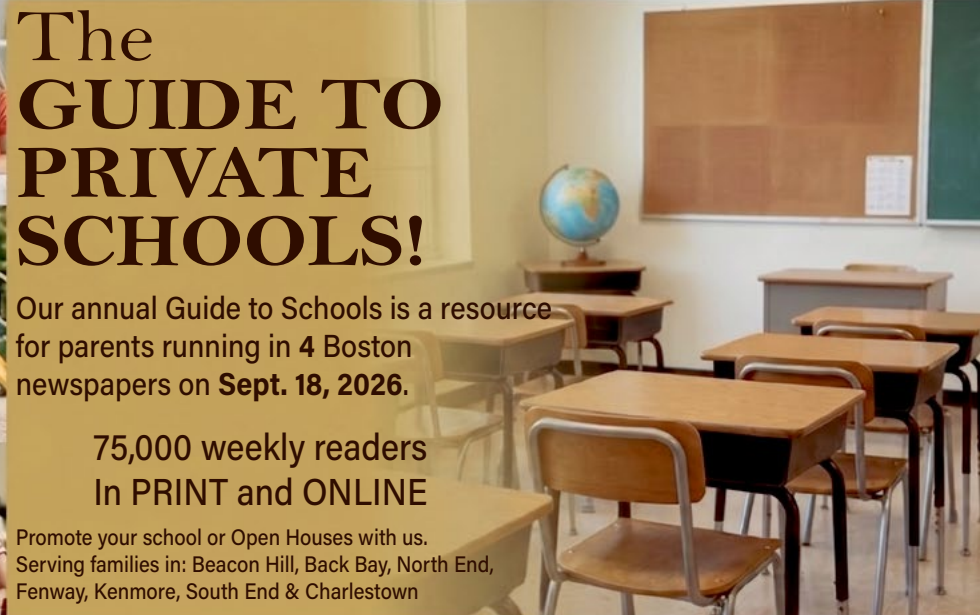


The GUIDE TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS!

Our annual Guide to Schools is a resource for parents running in 4 Boston newspapers on **Sept. 18, 2026**.

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northendregionalreview.com	missionhillgazette.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

all ads run in color in all 4 papers.
\$60 per column inch - (2x5 and under)
ads that run in the guide can run at this rate through October 2026.

- 2 col (3.95") x 3" - **\$300**
- 2 col (3.95") x 5" - **\$550**
- Quarter Page 2 col x 8" (3.9" wide) - **\$800**
- Half Page = 5 col x 5.25" - **\$1,500.00**
(10.125" wide)
- Full Page = 5 col x 10.5" - **\$2,500.00**

Prior sections are available if you would like to see samples.
Please call or email with questions. **Deadline September 11, 2026.**




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Published by the



Boston Public Library announces 2026 Fall Lecture Series

Special to the Sun

The Boston Public Library (BPL) announced its 2026 Fall Lecture Series, bringing award-winning authors, acclaimed filmmakers, and influential visionaries to Copley Square and the Shaw-Roxbury Branch this fall, with programs spanning literary fiction, documentary film, and public conversations on science and technology. All events are hybrid – free to attend in person or live via Zoom Webinar. Registration is available at bpl.org/events.

At a Glance:

- Sept. 22 — Sarah Botstein
- Sept. 29 — N.K. Jemisin
- Oct. 3 — Ann Patchett
- Oct. 21 — AI and Civic Engagement Panel
- Oct. 28 — Nicholas Boggs
- Nov. 9 — Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett

Lowell Lecture: Sarah Botstein from Florentine Films
Tuesday, September 22, 2026
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Central Library in Copley Square

As a filmmaker who has collaborated with Ken Burns for nearly 30 years as part of Florentine Films, Sarah Botstein will



Sarah Botstein, Ann Patchett, and N.K. Jemisin will headline this season of free talks.

discuss her latest film, PBS's *The American Revolution*, alongside historical filmmaking and revolutionary techniques Florentine Films uses to bring history to life. An Emmy-nominated documentary producer, Botstein will be in conversation with Imari Paris Jeffries of *Embrace Boston*. This Lowell Lecture will be introduced by BPL President David Leonard.

Author Talk: N.K. Jemisin on Revolutionary Ideas in Fantasy Fiction

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Central

Library in Copley Square

Award-winning fantasy author N.K. Jemisin discusses a 20-plus-year career built on reimagining what fantasy fiction can do. A 2020 MacArthur Fellow, Jemisin's short fiction and novels have earned multiple Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Awards. Her novels, including the *Broken Earth* trilogy, with over two million copies sold, have been widely optioned for film and television.

2026 Maury A. Bromsen Humanistic Literary Arts Lecture: Ann Patchett

Saturday, October 3, 2026
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Central Library in Copley Square

Bestselling author Ann Patchett headlines this year's Bromsen Lecture. A National Humanities Medal and PEN/Faulkner Award recipient, Patchett was named one of *TIME*'s 100 Most Influential People in the World and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her novel *The Dutch House* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and her work, translated into more than thirty languages, has repeatedly landed on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Lowell Lecture: AI and Civic Engagement with Nathan Sanders, Dr. Avijit Ghosh, Jessica Chapel and David Leonard
Wednesday, October 21, 2026

6:00 – 7:30 PM | Central Library in Copley Square

AI experts Nathan Sanders, Dr. Avijit Ghosh, and Jessica Chapel join for a conversation on AI and civic engagement, moderated by BPL President David Leonard. Nathan Sanders is a data scientist focused on making policymaking more participatory, with research spanning machine learning, astrophysics, and public health. His writing on AI and democracy has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*. Dr. Avijit Ghosh is a Lead Technical AI Policy Researcher at Hugging Face, focused on how AI systems are measured and whether those measurements can be trusted. He founded the EvalEval Coalition and represents Hugging Face in AI governance discussions with regulators in the U.S., U.K., E.U., and Singapore. Jessica Chapel is Chief of Digital & Online Services at the Boston Public Library, where she leads digitization, digital stewardship, and UX, with a growing focus on AI's role in information access.

Author Talk: Nicholas Boggs — Baldwin: A Love Story

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Central Library in Copley Square

Author Nicholas Boggs speaks about his recent *New York Times* bestselling biography of James Baldwin, *Baldwin: A Love Story*,

in celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month, moderated by Jesse McCarthy. Boggs is the winner of the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize, the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography, the Stonewall/Israel Fishman Nonfiction Award, and the Randy Shilts Nonfiction Award. Jesse McCarthy is John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities and of the Social Sciences at Harvard University, and the author of *The Blue Period: Black Writing in the Early Cold War*, *Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?*, and the novel, *The Fugitivities*. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and *The New York Review of Books*.

Lowell Lecture: A Conversation with Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett

Monday, November 9, 2026
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Shaw-Roxbury Branch

Renowned virologist and *TIME* Hero of the Year Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett discusses her groundbreaking work in vaccine development. Corbett led the team behind one of the fastest vaccine developments in history during the COVID-19 pandemic, and her patented technology underlies vaccines used worldwide, including those from Moderna, Pfizer, and Novavax. The conversation will be moderated by Frederica M. Williams, President and CEO of Whittier Street Health Center, one of Boston's preeminent community health systems.

The Fall Lecture Series is made possible by generous donations to the Boston Public Library Fund, including support from the Lowell Institute and the Eric & Jane Nord Family Fund for Author Events, with additional support for the Maury A. Bromsen Humanistic Literary Arts Lecture.

For the full schedule and to register, visit bpl.org/events.



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Ricard, Caroline A	Ricard, Louis P	2 Lyndeboro Pl	\$972,000
Munn, Jeremy	Ricard, Caroline A	2 Lyndeboro Pl	\$1,450,000
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Strawbridge, Andrew V	Squire Patricia L Est	276 Marlborough St #1	\$2,500,000
Holzel, Peter	Aiken, Paul R	319 Marlborough St #1	\$2,406,000
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Renate Heuser 2025 T	River House 615 Nt	145 Pinckney St #615	\$575,000
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12 Harry Ct LLC	Weiss, Rachel E	769 Tremont St #1	\$688,000
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Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on the corner of Boylston and Gloucester Streets. Now you'll find a bank on the first floor. Today's answer is from a 1912 photo when this part of Boylston was home to many automobile-related businesses.

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

A Musical Reading set for
Old North Church in October

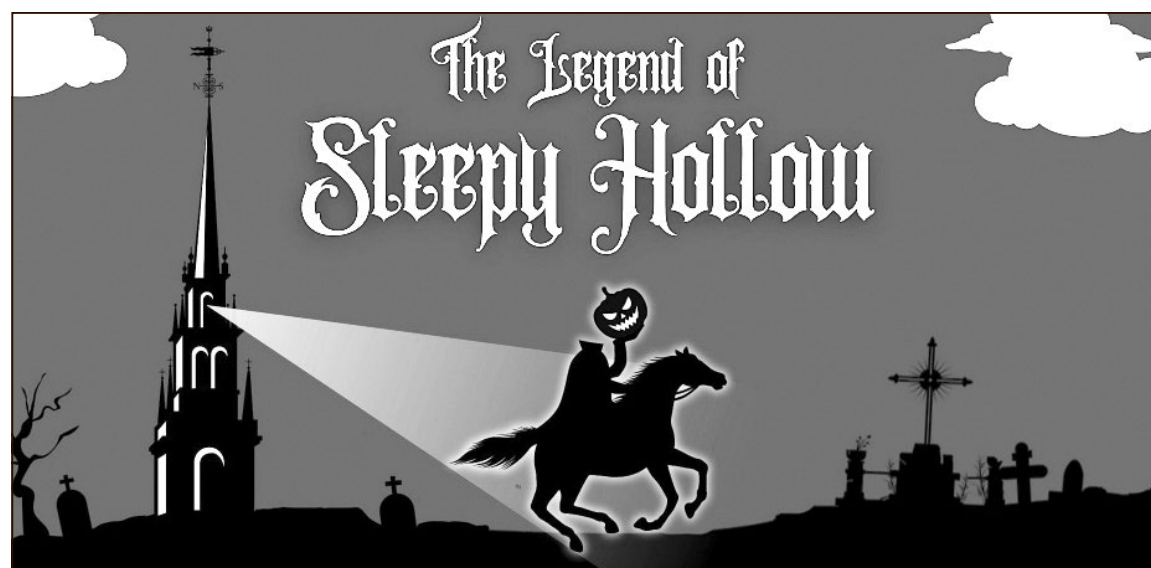
Special to the Sun

The candles will be lit, the pews will be full, and the Headless Horseman will ride again inside Boston's oldest surviving church. On Friday, Oct. 9, Old North Illuminated will partner with Crescendo Productions to present "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow: A Musical Reading,"

bringing Washington Irving's classic tale of Ichabod Crane to life inside the candlelit, 303-year-old sanctuary of Old North Church.

Actor Johnny Kinsman will deliver a dramatic recitation of the story, paired with an original score performed live by a three-

(SLEEPY HOLLOW, Pg. 15)



City of Boston earns 4-Star Certified Welcoming Designation

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), and Welcoming America announced that the City of Boston has earned a 4-star Certified Welcoming designation from Welcoming America, recognizing Boston as a national leader in creating policies, programs, and practices that support immigrant inclusion and belonging.

"Boston has been shaped by generations of immigrants seeking a better future and working hard to build the city we enjoy today," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm proud of the work of our Office for Immigrant Advancement, community partners, and neighborhood and cultural leaders to expand civic engagement, support our communities, and make Boston a city where everyone belongs."

Through its Certified Welcoming process, Boston met the criteria across all seven areas of the Welcoming Standard, Welcoming America's roadmap for building inclusive communities: government and community leadership, equitable access, civic engagement, connected communities, education, economic development, and safe communities.

This recognition builds on MOIA's ongoing efforts through

its City of Belonging "You Belong Here" initiative, a city-wide campaign that encourages every resident to feel welcome, valued, and empowered to contribute to Boston's future. The designation reflects more than symbolic commitment — Boston has built the systems, programs, and partnerships that help long-time residents and newcomers alike participate and thrive.

Through the annual Welcoming Week celebration in September, MOIA also continues its citywide outreach efforts to inform residents and share resources, so that every neighbor is inspired to support welcoming neighborhoods.

"Boston's strength comes from the people who call this city home, including our immigrant neighbors who contribute to every part of our civic, cultural, and economic life," said Chief of Equity and Inclusion Mariangely Solis. "This designation reflects our continued commitment to creating a city where language access, economic opportunity, and belonging are embedded into how we serve residents."

As part of the certification process, MOIA led a comprehensive review of City policies, programs, and practices related to immigrant inclusion. The process highlighted Boston's investments in language access, immigrant leadership development,

legal services, workforce development, community engagement, and partnerships with organizations serving immigrant residents.

"Achieving this 4-star Certified Welcoming status is the result of a collaborative effort across City government and with immigrant communities

This designation reflects our continued commitment to creating a city where language access, economic opportunity, and belonging are embedded into how we serve residents.

who shared their experiences, priorities, and vision for Boston's future," said Courtney White, Interim Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement. "This recognition celebrates the progress we have made while also strengthening our commitment to continue building a city where every immigrant resident can access resources, participate fully, and feel a true sense of belonging."

Boston's immigrant communities represent the diversity, resilience, and innovation that make the city stronger. Through pro-

grams and initiatives including immigrant leadership programs, community grants, legal service partnerships, citizenship support, and community engagement efforts, MOIA works to advance equity and expand opportunities for immigrant residents.

"Boston's work behind this designation, across city government, community organizations, and immigrant residents who shaped it, is what welcoming looks like in practice," said Daniel Valdez, Deputy Director of Welcoming America. "It's fitting that this comes in America's 250th year, here in the birthplace of the American Revolution. We're proud to recognize Boston as the first Certified Welcoming community in Massachusetts and excited to see what comes next."

The 4-star Certified Welcoming designation from Welcoming America joins a growing list of recognitions and milestones that reflect how Boston is a home for everyone. Among these accomplishments, MOIA efforts include:

- Expanding access to immigration legal services by supporting trusted community organizations that provide free and low-cost legal assistance.

- Supporting English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs that help immigrant residents build lan-

guage skills, pursue educational opportunities, and strengthen economic mobility.

- Launching and expanding Immigrants Lead Boston, a leadership program that has trained immigrant residents from across Boston's neighborhoods to become community leaders.

- Creating opportunities for immigrant youth through the Immigrant Youth Advancement program, which connects young residents with career exploration, mentorship, leadership development, and workforce opportunities.

- Strengthening community engagement through initiatives such as Community Office Hours, where MOIA brings City resources directly into neighborhoods at Boston Public Library branches.

- Advancing the City's language access efforts to help residents access government services, information, and resources regardless of the language they speak.

From September 10 to 19, Welcoming Week in Boston will include art, health, education, and economic programming, as well as virtual and in-person events to further promote City Services and the seven areas of the Welcoming Standard. To see the schedule of events, visit: www.boston.gov/welcoming.

Healey announces public listening sessions to lower health care costs for families and small businesses

Special to the Sun

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has announced a series of six public listening sessions as it moves forward with recommendations to lower health care costs for Massachusetts families and small businesses. Hosted by the Division of Insurance (DOI), the virtual sessions will gather input from patients, providers, insurers, employers and other stakeholders to help shape new state regulations aimed at lowering costs and stabilizing insurance premiums.

The sessions are a next step in implementing recommendations released this month by Governor Healey’s Health Care Affordability Working Group, which brought together health care providers, insurers, employers, labor and consumer advocates to identify immediate and long-term ways to make health care more affordable.

“Health care costs are too

high, and they’re putting real pressure on families and small businesses across Massachusetts,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We created our Health Care Affordability working group and brought together patients, providers, insurers and employers to identify ways to lower costs, and now we’re moving those recommendations forward. These listening sessions are an important next step in delivering meaningful relief.”

“If we want to make health care more affordable, we need to hear directly from the people who are paying these bills and navigating the system every day,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “These sessions will help us get the details right as we move forward with changes to lower costs for residents and small businesses.”

The listening sessions will focus on two recommendations from the Governor’s Health Care

Affordability Working Group that DOI is moving forward:

- Reducing Out-of-Network Costs: Developing new standards to protect patients and reduce excessive out-of-network health care costs.
- Stabilizing the Small Business and Individual Markets: Exploring changes to strengthen the individual and small group insurance market and help moderate premiums.

DOI will hold all six listening sessions virtually. Additional information, including topics and registration details for each session, will be available as the dates approach:

Weds., Sept. 9 at 11 a.m.
Thurs., Oct. 1 at 10 a.m.
Mon., Oct. 5 at 10 a.m.
Mon., Oct. 19 at 10 a.m.
Mon., Nov. 2 at 10 a.m.
Thurs., Nov. 5 at 10 a.m.

Patients, consumer advocates, health care providers, insurers, employers and other interested

stakeholders are encouraged to participate. For more information, see Division of Insurance Listening Sessions on Out-of-Network Costs and Listening Sessions on Stabilizing Insurance Markets to Drive Down Premium Costs.

Public Notice – Amtrak Voice Radio Upgrade Project – Back Bay Station Facility

National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is proposing to collocate antennas at the Bay Back Station at 95 Berkeley St, Boston, Suffolk County, MA (42° 20’ 50.8092” N, 71° 4’ 15.0276” W). Public comments regarding the potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Anuradha Kumar – Parsons Corporation, 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 460204, anu.kumar@parsons.com or 317-703-9996.

Public Notice – Amtrak Voice Radio Upgrade Project – Boston South Station Facility

National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is proposing to collocate antennas at the Boston South Station and associated platforms at 700 Atlantic Ave, Boston, Suffolk County, MA (42° 21’ 7.4808” N, 71° 3’ 18.4608” W). Public comments regarding the potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Anuradha Kumar – Parsons Corporation, 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 460204, anu.kumar@parsons.com or 317-703-9996.

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SLEEPY HOLLOW (from Page 14)

piece ensemble: Josiah Reibstein on bass, Joe Kessler on fiddle, and Tev Stevig on banjo. Guests who want to delve further into the church's past can add a 20-minute guided Crypt Tour, descending beneath the floorboards of Old North Church to learn the stories of the 37 brick tombs holding the remains of

roughly 1,100 early Bostonians. Two performances will be held, at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., with doors opening 30 minutes before each show. Crypt Tours run at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. The event takes place at Old North Church, 193 Salem St., Boston, MA 02113. Tickets are available for advance purchase only: single

seats are \$36, and private pews seating three, four, or five guests range from \$100 to \$160. The Crypt Tour add-on is \$12 per person. Seating and crypt tours are limited. To purchase tickets, visit: <https://oldnorth.com/event/sleepy-hollow/>. To learn more about Old North Illuminated, visit www.oldnorth.com.

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