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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

NABB honors two longtime board members with community service awards

By Dan Murphy

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay honored two of its own with community service awards at the organization's annual meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Goethe-Institut Boston.

Martyn Roetter, a NABB board member for the past 15 years, was the recipient of this year's Paul Prindle Community Leadership Award for displaying "important and sustained leadership in promoting residential interests in the Back Bay."

Roetter, who served as NABB's board chair for two stints, from 2017-2020 and again from 2023-2025, has been an active member of NABB's Green Committee for more than 10 years. He has also served as a member of the Alliance of Downtown Civic Organizations (ADCO) for 15 years.

Warren Johnson, a NABB board member since 1976, was the recipient of this year's Mary Natale Community Service Award in recognition of his "significant and sustained dedication and service to the residential interests of the Back Bay and, in particular, unselfish and unheralded commitment to the community."

Johnson served as president of the Back Bay Federation, when

(D-4 CRIME REPORT, Pg. 4)



COURTESY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE BACK BAY

Left to right: Warren Johnson, recipient of this year's Mary Natale Community Service Award; Martyn Roetter, recipient of this year's Paul Prindle Community Leadership Award; District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn; and District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan. Councilors Flynn and Durkan are seen presenting Official Resolutions from the city to Johnson and Roetter.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

Mayor Michelle Wu was on hand Thursday, Sept. 24, for the second National Rodent Summit - a two-day program hosted by the City of Boston that drew rodent-prevention experts from around the U.S.

Urban Rat Summitt comes to Boston

Special to Sun

The City of Boston hosted the second-ever National Urban Rat Summit on Sept. 23 and 24, bringing together leading experts, academics, researchers, public health professionals, and municipal officials from across the U.S. and the world to discuss urban rodent-prevention strategies.

"Boston is a home for everyone—except rats. We're proud to host the second-ever National Urban Rat Summit this September, where we will share our progress, hear directly from residents, and learn from other cities," said Mayor Michelle Wu in a press release ahead of the summit. "Since we launched the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP) in 2024, our rodent control team has been deploying new technologies to target rodent activity, better coordination of City services based on data and analytics, and tailored strategies to eliminate rodent populations in different areas. We look forward to bringing cities together to burrow under barriers, gnaw through nagging issues, and scurry toward solutions for the highest quality of life for our human residents."

The summit focused on practical, evidence-based approaches to one of the most persistent challenges facing cities: managing and reducing rodent populations. Guided by the annual theme of innovation, collaboration, and data-driven action, the event also allowed cities to exchange the best practices for rodent prevention.

"The upcoming Rat Summit is an important opportunity to bring together experts,

EDITORIAL

AN EXPENSIVE WINTER AHEAD

The war with Iran already has cost U.S. consumers more than $100 billion in direct costs for our gasoline purchases. That's about $800 per family since the war began in February -- and that figure is increasing every day that the war drags on.

However, what we are paying at the pump because of this so-called war is nothing compared to the coming shock of heating oil prices for the 20% of Mass. residents who use oil to heat their homes.

The average price for a gallon of heating oil already is a jaw-dropping $6.15 per gallon, which represents a staggering 75% increase above the average price of $3.52 per gallon at this time last year.

This means that a fill-up of 200 gallons for a family's oil tank will cost about $1250, a figure that is completely unaffordable for many and that will strain the budgets for most.

Natural gas prices are not predicted to increase as much, but the 50% of Mass. residents who heat their homes with natural gas are expected to see an increase of up to 15% in their heating bills this winter.

Even if the war with Iran were to end tomorrow, the significant disruptions to the world's energy supply chains that already have occurred would not bring significant relief from the current elevated prices for gasoline, diesel, and home heating oil.

In short, there is no relief in sight -- and there is the likely prospect (depending on weather around the country and more supply shocks) of prices going even higher.

The only hope we have for making it through the winter heating season without emptying our wallets is to pray for a warmer-than-normal winter. Even so, we still should plan on lowering our thermostats -- and wearing heavy sweaters -- in our homes.

WAS THIS WEEKEND'S NOR'EASTER A PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME?

This weekend's long-lasting storm brought torrential rain, high winds, and some coastal flooding for almost four full days. The miserable conditions made life difficult for most of us -- but it was not nearly as severe as it could have been.

Those who live along the coast were fortunate that the predicted high tides (in the range of 10.4 feet) during the 72-hour period were not unusually high. Combined with the storm surge of about 2.5 feet, the highest tide of this past weekend was 12.9 feet -- enough to flood some low-lying areas, but not a devastating surge.

By comparison, the highest tide ever recorded in Boston Harbor was 15.16 feet on January 4, 2018 (which exceeded the 15.10 tide of the Blizzard of '78). That epic high tide, which flooded the Boston Seaport and the Blue Line at Aquarium station, occurred during a "King Tide" of 12.1 feet.

The 14.67 high tide two months later on March 2 was predicted to have been a 10.21 tide -- but there was a storm surge of almost 4.5 feet that bumped it up to the third highest high tide in Boston history.

If you do the arithmetic, you can see where we're going here as we look ahead to the coming winter months.

Meteorologists tell us that while the historic El Nino that is occurring right now prevents the formation of hurricanes, it encourages the type of long-lasting coastal nor'easters that we experienced this weekend.

We were lucky that this storm occurred during a period of low high tides. In addition, the storm occurred in September. The power outages that affected thousands of residents were just an inconvenience, unlike in winter, when below-freezing temperatures can be life-threatening.

However, the high tides in October, November, December, and January will exceed 11 feet, with the highest occurring over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays at 11.5.

Let's hope that the El Nino-fueled nor'easters that will be coming our way this winter -- and we know they'll be coming -- do not occur during these periods of extreme high tides. Winter nor'easters typically feature stronger winds, and if the rain we experienced this weekend had been snow, it would have been measured in feet. A storm similar to this weekend during a high-tide cycle in winter will be an epic natural disaster.

More than ever, all of us will be at the mercy of Mother Nature this coming winter -- and we should be prepared to batten down the hatches.

Flynn files resolution in support of a commission to hire and retain BPD officers

Special to the Sun

City Councilor Ed Flynn filed a resolution last week calling for the establishment of a Commission focused on recruiting and retaining Boston Police officers and strengthening the Department's workforce for the future.

The longstanding challenges of understaffing, overstretched resources, mandatory overtime, and looming retirements at the Boston Police Department remain a serious public safety and public health concern. These pressures not only impact the Department's ability to effectively serve our communities but also take a significant toll on officers' physical and emotional well-being and the well-being of their families, according to a press release from Councilor Flynn's office.

In July of 1980, the minimum number of patrolmen at a given time for the Boston Police Department rose from 2,300 to 2,500 by law in the City Municipal Code to ensure adequate staffing for police duties. Recently, the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association said there are approximately 1,640 police officers. With such low staffing levels, it is all the more critical for the City of Boston to act urgently to ensure that the Boston Police Department is comfortably in excess of 2,500 officers. The City must make it a top priority to prevent a dynamic of overworked officers, which has resulted in this ongoing crisis.

During these challenging times, with increasing violent incidents over the summer, we must have all necessary tools to hire and retain Boston Police Officers. A commission dedicated to hiring and retaining Boston Police officers is a critical step to address our dangerously low staffing levels. The commission will work to improve public awareness of upcoming Boston Police Academy classes, promote officer wellness, and take the necessary steps to retain officers. Enhanced legislation will be needed to codify this commission in the City Code, however, it is critical that the Boston City Council indicates its support for taking concrete steps to improve officer wellness for the overall public safety of the City, police officers, and their families as well.

"We cannot accept the status quo when it comes to low staffing levels at the Boston Police Department. Our officers are being asked to do more with fewer resources, while working mandatory overtime and 16 and 17 hour days. It is critical that we both recruit and retain enough officers to maintain sufficient staffing levels, keep our neighborhoods safe, and support the health and wellness of our police officers and their families," said Councilor Flynn in a press release.

For more information, contact Councilor Ed Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

THE BOSTON SUN

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News in Brief

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO OFFER EVENTS IN OCTOBER.

SoWa First Friday will take place on Oct. 2 from 5 to 9 p.m., and SoWa Sundays are set for Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. SoWa Artists Guild events are free, open to the public and take place at 450 Harrison Ave.

AUTHOR ANDRE HARDY IN CONVERSATION OCT. 14 AT UNION METHODIST CHURCH

The Friends of the South End Library will host Andre Hardy, in conversation with Sara DiVello, about his debut novel, 'Tear The City Down,' on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Union Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave. (entrance to the Connection Room from West Newton Street).

Refreshments will be served, and Parkside Books will have copies of the book for sale.

You can also attend virtually; email info@friendsofsouthendlibrary.org to get a zoom link

More information on Hardy and FOSEL is available online at https://www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org/.

WLP'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER RETURNS OCT. 29 TO FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA

The Women's Lunch Place's annual Spaghetti Dinner takes place on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel.

WLP Advocate Bonnie Zamparelli will be the event's featured speaker.

Visit https://womenslunchplace.org/event/sponsors?utm_source=Women%27s+Lunch+-Place+Community to purchase tickets or for more information on the event.

Rat Summit *(from Page 1)*

municipal leaders, researchers to exchange ideas and strengthen our collective approach to rodent management," said John Ulrich, Assistant Commissioner of Environmental Services, Inspectional Services Department (ISD). "Rodent activity is a challenge that extends beyond city boundaries, making collaboration and the sharing of proven strategies essential. By learning from one another and building on successful practices, we can continue developing innovative, coordinated solutions that improve public health, enhance neighborhoods, and improve the quality of life for residents in Boston and communities across the region."

Boston hosting the second National Urban Rat Summit reflected the city's emergence as a national leader in urban rodent mitigation through the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP). Launched by Mayor Wu, BRAP is a coordinated, cross-departmental initiative that brings together more than 20 City departments, agencies, and external partners to address one of Boston's most persistent urban challenges.

Since its launch, BRAP has hosted quarterly meetings with city departments and partner agencies to coordinate on rodent mitigation and build a citywide integrated pest management system; piloted innovative technologies, including sewer and surface traps in partnership with the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and Boston Housing Authority;

expanded integrated pest management practices while reducing reliance on traditional rodenticides; improved inspection, enforcement, sanitation, and construction coordination to address the root causes of rodent activity; installed rodent-resistant trash receptacles and advanced public education on proper waste storage and disposal; used data, mapping, and analytics to prioritize interventions and measure outcomes across neighborhoods; and strengthened partnerships with residents, businesses, institutions, and community organizations to support long-term rodent prevention.

"Through BRAP, we are focused on improving quality of life for all residents by reducing rodent activity and addressing the factors that contribute to it, including how we manage waste, keep public spaces clean, and limit access to food sources," added Mike Brohel, superintendent of the city's Basic City Services. "The 2026 National Rodent Summit builds on this work by creating a space for cities and partners to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen collaborative approaches."

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Local students with their backpacks ready to receive the blessing during the annual Blessing of the Backpacks, held at their Sept. 13 mass.

Trinity Church Boston launches new program year with community celebration

Special to the Sun

Trinity Church Boston launched its 2026-27 program year on Sunday, September 13, welcoming parishioners and community members back for a new season of worship, formation, fellowship, and service. The program year marks the beginning of Trinity's busiest congregational season from the Sunday after Labor Day through early June. This year, this special period of reflection and celebration will encompass the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Trinity Church's historic building on February 9, 2027.



Students who received the backpack blessing at Trinity Church Boston got to take home a special backpack tag to keep as a reminder throughout the year.

This program year theme, "From These Stones," invites the parish to reflect on the congregations nearly 300 year-long

(Trinity Church, Pg. 5)

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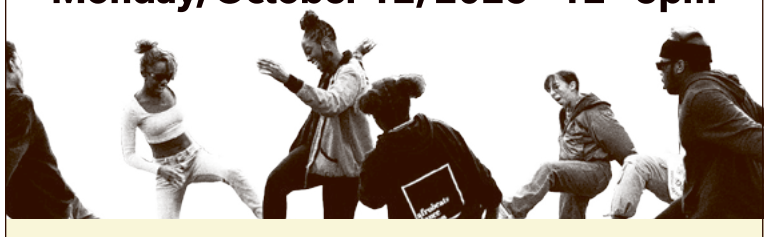
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Visit www. fenwayculture.org/ood-2026-schedule for schedule and map of the day!
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DCR unveils 2026 interactive fall foliage map

Special to the Sun

Continuing its efforts to ensure Massachusetts residents and visitors get the most out of fall in New England, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today announced the return of its Interactive Fall Foliage Map, which has been updated for the 2026 season. The map depicts foliage conditions across the state, showing where leaves have begun to change, as well as how far they are in the process.

"Fall is one of the best times to get out and enjoy Massachusetts, and our state parks are some of the most beautiful places to see the season change," said Governor Maura Healey. "This interactive map makes it easier for residents and visitors to find peak foliage, explore different parts of the state and experience everything our parks and communities have to offer."

Scan to visit the DCR fall foliage webpage and the interactive map.

"From the Berkshires to the North Shore, fall brings people together to enjoy the outdoors and discover communities across Massachusetts," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "The Fall Foliage Map is a great tool to help families and visitors plan a trip, explore our state parks and make the most of the season."

"We take fall very seriously in Massachusetts, and we want everyone to be able to enjoy the best New England has to offer,"

(Fall Foliage Map, Pg. 5)

NABB *(from Page 1)*

that group erected the Samuel Elliot Morrison statue in 1982. He was also instrumental in NABB's reorganization around 1981-1982, writing the bylaws that allowed for its transition from a small, narrowly focused group to a larger organization with impactful committees.

In 2006, Johnson established NABB's Portfolio/Endowment and also the organization's Finance Committee, which guides the organization's investment management process. He continues to lead both of these efforts for NABB.

District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn and District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan, who were on hand for the annual meeting, presented Roetter and Johnson both with Official Resolutions from the city in recognition of their respective achievements.

Requests for nomination for the awards were solicited from all NABB members via the NABB e-News, the NABB board, and nomination requests published in the local papers, including this one. An eight-member 'Special Awards' committee then selected this year's award winners from dozens of nominations received.



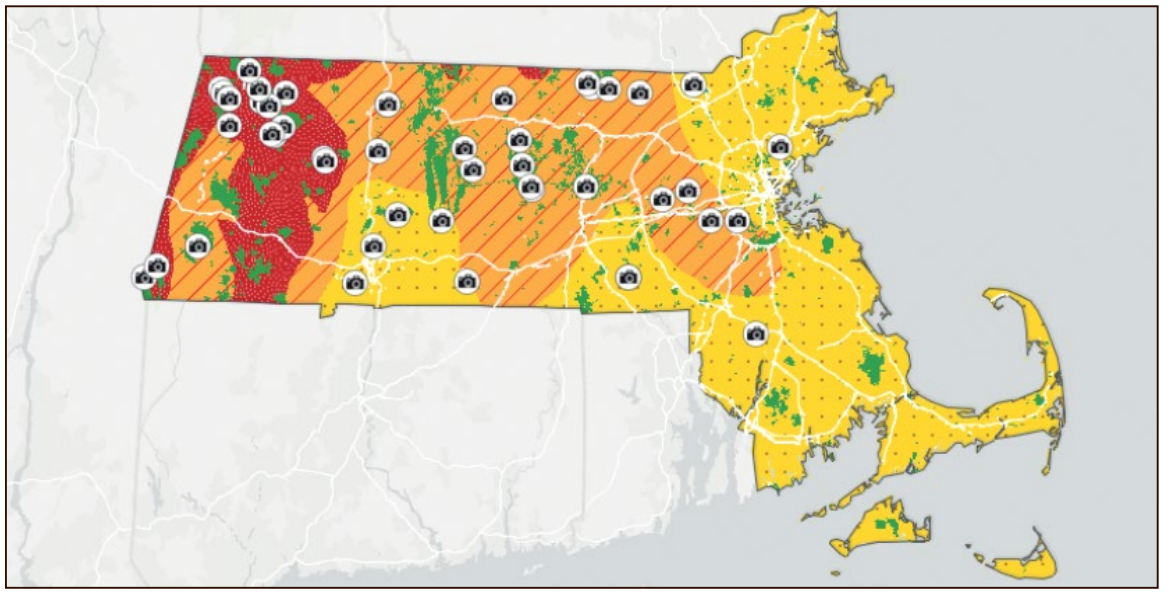
Martyn Roetter receiving the Paul Prindle Community Leadership Award from NABB member Michael McCord.



Warren Johnson receiving the Mary Natale Community Service Award from NABB member Carol Ann Hayes.

Fall Foliage Map *(from Page 1)*

said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle "DCR properties are home to beautiful forests that come to life with the colors of fall. Each year, our Foliage Map helps guide thousands of people to where the leaves are most colorful so that they can experience all the magic of the fall season."



The map shows locations and stages of foliage at DCR properties throughout Massachusetts.

DCR's Interactive Fall Foliage Map enables users to prepare for leaf peeping by searching based on geography and calendar dates. The map can also search for foliage activity at specific DCR properties so that visitors can plan their trip around when colors will be most vibrant. The map also features photos taken by DCR staff, allowing visitors to see current conditions before setting out to a park.

Through a combined analysis of forestry records from past falls and data on current weather patterns, DCR is able to map where and when leaves are most likely to start changing colors. Foliage activity is expected to peak in mid-October this year. As with previous years, Western Massachusetts is expected to reach peak colors before the rest of the state.

The Interactive Fall Foliage Map is easily accessible on both desktop and mobile devices and can be found online at DCR's Fall Foliage webpage. Agency social media channels will also share foliage content throughout the season.

DCR's Fall Foliage webpage also highlights recommended ideal foliage viewing spots in the state park system, along with hiking trails, picnic areas, and scenic overlooks at the locations.

Trinity Church *(from Page 1)*

past while envisioning its future as the building approaches a century and a half of ministry in Boston. Inspired by the church's architectural and spiritual foundations, the theme will guide programming, events, and conversations throughout the year.

On Sunday, the church returned to its full program year worship schedule, offering services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 5 p.m. During the 10 a.m. service, Trinity held its annual Blessing of the Backpacks for students and educators returning to school and nearly

600 individuals celebrated the start of the new program year. Following worship, the congregation and broader community gathered for an Annual Parish Photo in the church's sanctuary and Community Picnic in the building's community space.

"This congregational season feels especially meaningful as we commemorate 150 years of ministry, community, and worship in our historic home," said

The Rev. Morgan S. Allen, rector of Trinity Church Boston. "Our anniversary-year theme, 'From These Stones,' charges us to consider what has been built here over generations, as well as discern how God calls us to serve one another, our city and the whole world in the centuries ahead."

As part of the anniversary planning process, Trinity Church has engaged parishioners through visioning sessions and collaborative planning efforts led by the church's 150th Committee. These conversations have identified priorities centered on welcome, nourishment, justice and representation, celebration, and community engagement, helping shape the congregation's vision for the future.

Throughout the program year Trinity will host a series of forums exploring the "From These Stones" theme, offering historical, scriptural, artistic and architectural context for the church's landmark building and its role in Boston's civic and spiritual life. Its next series of forum sessions, Walls, Windows, and Women Artists will kick off on Sunday, October 4. Additional anniversary-related events and initiatives will be announced in the months ahead.

The program year will also feature a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages, including children's and youth programming, adult formation, community service projects, Bible studies, musical offerings, fellowship events, and outreach initiatives.

"Trinity Church has long been a place where people gather to worship, learn, serve, and build community," said Izzy Allen, 150th anniversary planning committee co-chair for Trinity Church Boston. "As we enter this milestone year, we look forward to welcoming both longtime parishioners and new visitors to participate in the many opportunities that lie ahead."



Local students and their families gathered at Trinity Church Boston for a special Blessing of the Backpacks ahead of the new school year.

The church's 150th anniversary observances will culminate in a series of special events during 2027, including an anniversary celebration on February 9, 2027 and a community-wide Trinity Sunday celebration on May 23, 2027.

Trinity Church in the City of Boston was founded in 1733, and has made its home in Copley Square since 1877. The parish, part of The Episcopal Church, continues to thrive as a community engaged in worship, music, education, and community-service activities

seven days a week. Tens of thousands annually visit to pray, tour, or come together in this National Historic Landmark, recognized by the American Institute of Architects as one of the ten most architecturally significant buildings in the U.S.

Learn more at trinitychurchboston.org

Councilor Durkan introduces hearing order to address package theft

Special to the Sun

City Councilor Sharon Durkan filed a hearing order at last week's Council Meeting with Councilors Ed Flynn and Henry Santana to examine the scope of package theft in Boston and bring city officials together to discuss how to address this persistent quality-of-life issue.

"All residents should be able to enjoy the convenience of at-home package delivery. Stealing someone's property is punishable as a criminal offense, but enforcement and prosecution can be an ongoing challenge. That's why I think it's so important that we better understand the scope of this problem, evaluate how we can improve enforcement, and explore strategies like secure public lockers or 311 reporting to better track incidents and reduce package theft," said Councilor Durkan.

Residents should report package theft to the Boston Police Department (BPD), but many do not due to a lack of awareness, the perceived hassle of filing a police report, or the feeling that it is not worth the department's time. More comprehensive data could help the City better understand where and when package theft is occurring and identify areas where additional resources or interventions may be needed. The hearing will bring BPD and relevant City officials together to discuss ways to improve reporting, strengthen enforcement, and explore additional strategies to prevent package theft.



City Councilor Sharon Durkan

Councilor Durkan identified that package theft is a challenge across Boston but can be particularly difficult in District 8 neighborhoods like Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and Fenway, where many multi-unit buildings lack designated space for package deliveries and packages are often left on the street. The hearing will also explore the potential for a public locker pilot to give residents a secure and convenient place to receive their packages.

"For our seniors and neighbors living with disabilities, a stolen package can mean missed medication, delayed equipment, or lost daily essentials. Package theft touches almost every neighborhood in our city, directly threatening the health, safety, and independence of those who rely on home deliveries. We must take proactive, practical action to protect our neighborhoods and safeguard our most vulnerable residents," said Councilor Santana.

"Residents don't always report to BPD because they don't think it's an important issue, but package theft is high priority. When packages are stolen, it impacts public safety and quality of life. Let's come together as a Council to support our neighbors and our community," said Councilor Flynn.

The docket has been assigned to the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice.

Healey-Driscoll Administration announces Violence Against Women Act grants to support victims and survivors

Special to the Sun

The Healey Driscoll Administration invites qualifying nonprofits and public agencies to apply for $3.4 million in federal grant funding to support victim services and efforts to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The funding is available through the FFY26 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program, administered through the Massachusetts by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR). The competitive grant process is held once every four years, and organizations selected through this round may be eligible to receive funding for up to four years, through the next competitive process in 2030.

"Massachusetts stands with victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking," said Governor Maura Healey. "We are committed to making sure victims and survivors across Massachusetts can get the support they need when they need it. These grants will strengthen the organizations doing this critical work every day and help keep people and communities safe."

"Victims and survivors deserve access to strong, trusted support in their communities," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This funding will help organizations across Massachusetts strengthen services, support survivors and improve how we prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking."

"This funding strengthens the partnerships that are essential to supporting victims and preventing violence," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Gina Kwon. "By investing in law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers and community organizations, these grants help ensure that every part of the system has the resources to work together, respond effectively and better support survivors."

"This grant program allows police, prosecutors, service providers and other critical partners the opportunity to secure sustained resources needed to build their capacity to address domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and to better serve victims of these crimes," said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton. "We're committed to ensuring these organizations have access to funding and grant support over the full lifetime of their grant."

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has continued to strengthen support for victims and survivors across the public safety system, with a focus on improving access to services, coordination and trauma-informed responses. Recent efforts include investments in services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, expanded victim-centered training for law enforcement, and resources that help victims stay informed and supported as they navigate the criminal justice system.

The last competitive application process for VAWA funding was held in 2022. That process resulted in 42 organizations receiving a combined total of nearly $12.8 million in VAWA grant funding between 2022 and 2025.

Interested agencies can learn more and apply on the VAWA program page of OGR's website. Applications are due no later than 4 p.m. on October 23.

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South End Historical Society House Tour set for Oct. 17

Special to the Sun

The South End Historical Society (SEHS) will hold its 58th annual South End House Tour on Saturday, October 17th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. First organized in 1967, the South End House Tour features an inside look at restored and renovated townhouses in the largest Victorian row house district in the United States. The tour is a perennial favorite of anyone interested in home design, architecture, restoration, history, or preservation. Participants are given a guidebook that includes descriptions of the private homes and a map so that they can design a route at their own pace.

In addition to private homes, this year's tour features two historic South End buildings – the Children's Art Centre and the Cathedral of the Holy Cross – that participants can visit. Ticketholders will have the opportunity to learn more about the history of these two buildings by attending talks relating to each of them. Julia Glatfelter, artist, author, and former teacher at the Children's Art Centre, worked with relatives of Charlotte Dempsey (the Director of the Children's Art Centre from 1930-1971) to publish a book written by Charlotte about her time at the Centre. Julia will be talking about Dempsey's book at the Children's Art Centre at noon and again at 1:30pm. South End Historical Society Historian John Neale will be at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross speaking about the history of the cathedral at 11:00am and 3:00pm.

The South End Historical Society was founded in 1966 to preserve the architectural fabric of this unique urban neighborhood. In 1973, their efforts resulted in the South End being placed on the National Register of Historic Places and ultimately its designation as a Boston Landmark District in 1983. Today, the annual House Tour is just one of the ways SEHS raises funds to continue to encourage and compile research, and to advocate for preservation of these historic buildings, monuments, and public spaces.

Tickets for the House Tour are $30 in advance and are available at www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/housetour. Tickets will also be available on the day of the Tour for $35 each at Sprogis & Neale Real Estate, 679 Tremont Street.

For more information, please contact the South End Historical Society at admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org or 617-536-4445.

MAYOR MICHELLE WU HOSTS SOUTH END COFFEE HOUR





MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

Mayor Michelle Wu joined South End residents for the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hour at Titus Sparrow Park on Friday, Sept. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. The community gathering gave neighbors the opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and representatives from various city departments, discuss local issues, and enjoy a morning of community building.

Attendees were treated to complimentary coffee provided by local sponsor C'Yool Coffee & Bakery. Additionally, neighbors in attendance received free flowering plants provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.











City Paws

Fall fitness adventures with dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

While we may have a few warmer-weather days in the weeks ahead, now's the time to think about outdoor activities with your dog in lower temperatures and humidity. Pull out your calendar and set aside dates for long walks and favorite frolics with your pal.

Canine and human winter weight gain is something we often address in spring. How about doing a bit of prevention in the weeks ahead to slim down your dog and get them in better condition with more muscle to burn calories before the winter arrives? You might also start tapering off those extra treats that add pounds in winter.

Fun Time Frolics

While you can simply extend the length and pace of daily walks, your dog might love it if you spend time doing their favorite activities and going to their favorite places. More running free in a dog park with pals is a great way to make certain dogs happy. Joining you for that run or fast-paced walk you normally take alone could be a treat. A hike along wooded trails may be the perfect activity for your dog's nose to explore.

Doggie Destinations

Halibut Point State Park in Rockport has easy hiking trails, foliage, water views, wildflowers, rocks to scamper over, and nearby places where you and your dog are welcome for lunch.

We love this 12-acre site, jointly managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Trustees of Reservations. You enter through a wooded area with soft mulch paths leading you through the remains of decades of quarry work. As the paths begin to fork, you can choose between views of the calm, reflective, fresh water-filled quarry or the salty Atlantic crashing onto the rocks lining the shore.

The DeCordova Museum in Lincoln is another favorite spot for a civilized stroll with your favorite canine. The Trustees of Reservations also manage this dog-friendly resource. As long as you and your dog respect the sculpture, use a lead, and clean up any mess you make, your pal is welcome here.

Concord and Lexington are often overlooked as fall foliage destinations. These nearby towns offer recreation and conservation areas where you can stroll, hike, and in some cases let your dog off leash.

Minute Man National Park in Lexington welcomes leashed dogs in all the outside spaces. Lexington has also set aside 26 conservation areas with trail access. The current rules for dogs are on the town website.

While we are offering guidance on this area, you should know that at Walden Pond State Reservation, "Dogs, bicycles, flotation devices and grills are prohibited."

As Always …

Increase conditioning and activity gradually. Add 15-30 minutes at a time and evaluate how your dog recovers from the new norm before adding more. Think about how sore you can be when you increase your exercise. And since our dogs are bare-pawed, check those pads to make sure they aren't being overworked.



There are few things Poppy likes better than exploring piles of leaves with her nose!

If your time is spent in new locations, like wooded areas, be sure you are doing tick checks and know how to remove ticks safely. We've found ticks on dogs walked on the Charles River Esplanade, so even city walks in places with more trees and shrubs warrant post-walk grooming.

Before any change in diet or exercise, consider both your and your dog's health and ability, and check with your doctor and veterinarian for any issues that might add more conservative guardrails for your adventures.

Finally, always check each destination for availability, special events, fees, and any rule changes when planning your adventures.

MBTA Bus Stop and Bus Lane Automated Camera Enforcement Program now in effect

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) announced that a new Automated Camera Enforcement program began on October 1, 2026. As part of an educational period, the MBTA will begin issuing educational advisory notices to motor vehicles parked in bus stops and parked or standing in bus lanes. Violators are subject to fines beginning January 1, 2027.

"Riders deserve safe, accessible, and efficient bus rides, which is why we are implementing Automated Camera Enforcement education this fall, with enforcement in January 2027," said Interim Transportation Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phil Eng. "When bus stops are blocked, people with disabilities, people with strollers, and anyone who has mobility challenges loses the option for level boarding. When bus lanes and stops are blocked, thousands of riders are impacted and lose time out of their schedules every day. This program is about keeping buses moving, but also about keeping people safe and giving everyone valuable time back in their day."

Safety, accessibility, and improved bus service for all riders

This program, as authorized by a January 2025 change in state law, directly improves safety, accessibility, and reliability. Blocked bus stops are a hazard to riders and make bus service inaccessible. Automated Camera Enforcement ensures that buses can safely pull up to the curb and deploy ramps so all riders can get on and off the bus safely. Additionally, Automated Camera Enforcement ensures that buses can properly fit in bus stops and travel in dedicated bus lanes,

MBTA, Pg. 10)



MBTA PHOTO

The #39 bus makes its way down Huntington Avenue.

ColSo presents The Memory Quilt Project: What Remains

Special to the Sun

The Copley Society of Art (ColSo) is pleased to present The Memory Quilt Project: What Remains, a solo exhibition by artist Kasey Kaufman, on view in the Little Gallery from October 22 through November 21, 2026.

Kaufman created The Memory Quilt Project during her 2025 year-long residency at Newton Cemetery & Arboretum. Throughout the residency, she walked the grounds, researched its history, and spent time with the people who came there, listening to their stories of love, loss, family, and remembrance.

Rather than creating a single monumental work in response to those encounters, Kaufman began making small, intimate visual fragments. Paintings, drawings, collage, handwritten words, photographs, and found imagery gradually accumulated into an evolving quilt of memory.

Inspired in part by the AIDS Memorial Quilt, each panel tells an individual story while becoming part of a larger whole. Kaufman brings a documentary sensibility to her work, informed by a 30-year career as an award-winning television journalist, including 23 years as an anchor and reporter at Boston's WBZ-TV. As in her former career, she begins by observing, listening, and gathering fragments of individual stories, allowing them to become part of something larger.

The resulting work reflects the way memory itself operates, not as a seamless narrative, but through fragments: a place, an object, a few words, a familiar image, a person we loved. The Memory Quilt Project: What Remains invites viewers to consider their own landscapes of memory. What remains as memory begins to fade? What do we carry forward from the people we have loved? And how do the ordinary objects, places, rituals, and moments of a life become vessels for remembrance?

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



Images of the The Memory Quilt Project by Kasey Kauffman.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

ROSLINDALE

ROSLINDALE SQ.

Between Belgrade Ave. and Washington St.



BOSTON.GOV/OPEN-STREETS

CITY of BOSTON

Mayor Michelle Wu

Final boarding call for Voice of Logan

Special to the Sun

The search for the Voice of Logan is entering its final stretch. Since being announced two weeks ago, the Voice of Logan contest has taken Massachusetts by storm. As of today, over 3,225 Bay Staters have submitted auditions, from Pittsfield to Boston and Methuen to Edgartown. But time is running out if you want to submit—the deadline is Sunday, October 4 at midnight.

Following the close of submissions, a selection committee and the public will help determine who becomes the next Voice of Logan according to the following schedule:

- October 4: Submission period closes.
- October 5-18: A selection committee reviews all entries and selects five finalists who best embody the spirit of Boston.
- October 19: The five finalists audition live on Kiss 108.
- October 24: Finalist auditions are posted on www.voiceoflogan.com, and public voting opens.
- October 28: Public voting closes.
- November 5: The winner is announced on Billy & Lisa in the Morning on Kiss 108.

"We have been blown away by the enthusiasm for the Voice of Logan contest and how much fun people are having with it," said Rich Davey, CEO of Massport. "There's a lot of pride in what it means to be from Massachusetts, and we want the Voice of Logan to capture that spirit and give our passengers a memorable welcome when they travel through the airport. For those on the fence about submitting, now is the time to do it. Who knows, you could be the next Voice of Logan."

The content has also captured attention well beyond the airport, with everyone from Boston Bruins players and local personalities getting in on the fun to national coverage on NBC's TODAY. The Voice of Logan even made its way to late-night television, with Jimmy Fallon highlighting the contest and Ben Affleck trying his hand at the script with Jimmy Kimmel. The response has helped turn the search for Boston Logan's next voice into a true statewide – and national—conversation.

We love seeing the posts on social media of people reading the script but just remember to submit your audition online at www.voiceoflogan.com. Only those submitted online will be eligible to win. We encourage everyone who can to submit before the deadline.

Additional details, eligibility requirements, and submission instructions are available at www.voiceoflogan.com.

The 2026 'Boston Blooms with Daffodils' bulb giveaway announced

Special to the Sun

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will distribute over 15,000 daffodil bulbs for planting on public ways citywide through the "Boston Blooms with Daffodils" beautification initiative started in 2011.

Individuals, civic associations, faith-based organizations, sports leagues, scout troops, open space advocates, and park friends are encouraged to participate. Last year, over 100 community groups planted bulbs in neighborhoods citywide..

"Every spring, our parks come alive with cheerful yellow daffodils among the first flowers to bloom. Boston Blooms is a wonderful way for residents to take part in caring for our parks and their communities by planting bulbs that will brighten our neighborhoods come springtime," said Diana Fernandez Bibeau, Commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and Deputy Chief of Open Space. "Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who help elevate the ecological beauty of our city's natural spaces."

Registration is now open and is available at boston.gov/boston-blooms. The online application form will remain open until late September on a rolling basis. Due to limited supply, groups are not guaranteed bulbs but the Parks Department will strive to accommodate all requests. The application deadline is October 2 and may be closed sooner if demand exceeds supply.

Bulbs will be available for pickup on Thursday, October 29 and Thursday, November 5 and plantings will take place in approved locations on those weekends. The Parks Department will contact interested groups to provide bulb pick-up instructions and dates. Groups and individuals are asked to use their own tools.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department encourages volunteers to take photos of their groups on planting days and share them via social media using the hashtag #BostonBlooms and tagging @bostonparksdept.

For more information on "Boston Blooms with Daffodils," call (617) 961-3004 or email parks@boston.gov. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks visit boston.gov/parks, call (617) 635-4505, join our email list, and follow our social channels at @parks.boston.gov on Bluesky and @bostonparksdept on Facebook and Instagram.



An MBTA bus boards passengers along its route by Copley Square.

MBTA *(from Page 4)*

so buses do not have to weave through traffic making difficult maneuvers. Keeping lanes and stops clear also helps to keep bus trip times consistent and reduces overall delays for riders. The MBTA anticipates that enforcing bus lanes will result in an additional time savings for riders.

Tickets

Violations will be automatically captured by cameras installed on MBTA buses, and a team of human evidence reviewers will review all incidents to confirm if a violation has occurred. Fines will be sent to vehicle owners (both private and commercial) and will range from $25 to $125.

Using the RMV database, warnings or tickets will be mailed to the address where the vehicle is registered. Vehicles registered in Massachusetts will be mailed a warning or ticket within 14 business days of the violation. Vehicles registered in another state or country will be mailed a warning or ticket within 21 business days. This follows the same process used for HOV violations and tolling.

A first-time bus lane violation will receive a warning (with a lifetime lookback) unless the violation created a public safety risk. Drivers who violate bus stop laws will automatically receive tickets, not a warning, due to safety and accessibility concerns.

To dispute a ticket, the registered vehicle owner may submit an appeal within 60 days of the violation being issued.

In regard to privacy; the automated enforcement cameras on MBTA buses will not be used to track vehicles, nor can the data collected by the automated camera system be used or shared for any purpose other than to enforce a bus lane or bus stop violation as stated by the MBTA's Privacy Policy.

The program will begin with enforcement along SL4 and SL5 routes and will expand to other routes.

Interacting with bus lanes

Under Automated Camera Enforcement, fines may be issued to drivers parking in bus stops and parking or standing in bus lanes. However, exceptions apply, with the most common ones listed below.

Turning in a bus lane: As a driver approaches a turn near a bus lane, hashed markings or a sign will show where a driver can legally enter the lane to make a turn. Drivers must give approaching buses the right of way.

Parking next to a bus lane: As a driver is pulling in or out of a parking space next to a bus lane, drivers are permitted to temporarily stop in bus lanes. Drivers must give approaching buses the right of way.

Making way for emergency vehicles: Drivers can temporarily stop in bus stops and bus lanes to safely make way for emergency vehicles. Active emergency vehicles are permitted to drive in bus lanes.

Please visit MBTA.com/BusOnly for more information.

City of Revere to welcome Greater Boston to annual Fall Festival at Beachmont Square

Free, family-friendly celebration features live music, food trucks, local vendors, football, and more across The Yard and The Amp

Special to the Sun

The City of Revere is inviting residents and visitors from across Greater Boston to celebrate the season at its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3, 2026 from 1:00pm-6:00pm at The Yard and The Amp at Beachmont Square, located at 10 Suffolk Downs Boulevard, Revere, MA 02151. The free, family-friendly event will take place just steps from the MBTA Blue Line's Beachmont Station, with nearby parking options available. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, October 4.

Following the success of last year's reimagined festival at Beachmont Square, this year's event will expand across both The Yard and The Amp, offering even more space for live entertainment, food, local businesses, and family activities.

"Fall Festival is one of the best opportunities we have each year to bring people together and showcase everything that makes Revere great," said Mayor Patrick M. Keefe Jr. "We are excited to welcome our neighbors from across Greater Boston back to Beachmont Square for an afternoon filled with great music, great food, local businesses, and plenty of fall fun. We hope everyone will come out and celebrate with us."

Attendees can enjoy live music throughout the afternoon, featuring Jillian Ann, Azucar with Horchata Soto, and Renee and the Renegades, along with college football game screenings, an expanded beer garden featuring brews from Revere's own Twisted Fate Brewing, and a diverse lineup of some of Boston's best food trucks. The Revere Beach Farmers Market will also be on-site, offering fresh, seasonal food from local vendors.

The festival will also feature more than 50 artisans and vendors showcasing locally made goods, as well as a Revere Chamber of Commerce cornhole tournament, a free pumpkin patch and photobooth while supplies last, and entertainment and activities for all ages.

With its convenient location just steps from the Beachmont Blue Line station, the Fall Festival offers an opportunity for residents and visitors to experience Beachmont Square while supporting local businesses, artisans, farmers, and food vendors.

For more information on the City of Revere Fall Festival, follow the City of Revere on social media at "City of Revere" on Facebook, and @cityofreverema on Instagram.

Scan for more details.

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October 1st - 2nd & 3rd and into October

Visit these participating Charles Street businesses to support and learn about Ellie Fund services.

- A Sanctuary Cafe
- Charles Street Supply
- Cobblestones
- E.R. Butler and Company
- East Coast Ivy
- Eastern Bank
- Forty Winks
- Friends of the Public Garden
- French + Italian
- Gus & Ruby
- J. Grady Home
- J. McLaughlin
- Market Square Jewelers
- Nantasket Sweets by Swedes
- Persona Jewelry
- Remy Creations
- Rugg Road
- Sara Campbell
- Soodee
- Tess
- The Designers Leather Clothiers
- The Hummus Shop
- Toscano Restaurant
- Upstairs Downstairs Home
- J.P Licks

About Ellie Fund

Since 1995, Ellie Fund has provided non-medical essential services – including grocery gift cards, healthy prepared meals, transportation to appointments, childcare, housekeeping, and integrative therapies – to breast cancer patients, so they can focus on what matters most: spending time with their families and healing. Every breast cancer patient in active treatment in Massachusetts is eligible. www.elliefund.org

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FULL, FUN, FIRST WEEKS AT PARK STREET SCHOOL

Park Street School has had a wonderful start to the 2026-2027 school year! The halls of our Elementary School campus are buzzing again with happy reunions, big smiles, new backpacks and the unmistakable excitement of a new school year. Anticipation and excitement for new beginnings and new friendships has been contagious at the Preschool campus! Our youngest learners have already shown they are ready for a year of growing, exploring, playing and learning together. There is something wonderfully joyful about seeing friends, meeting teachers and exploring new classrooms and downtown spaces! And, of course, our PSS Knight was there to welcome everyone! Here's to a year of curiosity, courage, friendship, discovery and plenty of reasons to celebrate!



Students also were able to meet new reading buddies (Kindergarten and Grade 3.)



The students learned the differences between the Asian and African elephants, their instinct, patterns, and habitat, and discovered that these sculpted creatures were made from the lantana weed, which is invading their habitat. They did a little creative problem-solving and learned why this exhibit was created.



Students are learning new classroom routines!



Young learners worked on math word problems together.



The Grade 4/5 Adventure in New Hampshire was well attended and well enjoyed.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Everyone enjoyed seeing friends again after the summer break.



Grade 3 students integrated science, math and social/emotional learning as they compared and measured the elephants on display on Comm. Avenue.



Grade 4/5 students enjoyed the climbing wall at Camp Wicosuta.

FULL, FUN, FIRST WEEKS AT PARK STREET SCHOOL



Park Street School has had a wonderful start to the 2026-2027 school year. Everyone was warmly greeted by our friendly Park Street School Knight.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Kingsbury, Gabriel	Blackwod St Rt	15 Blackwood St #1	$755,000
Kawakami, Seiji	Desantis, Connor	15 Lawrence St #2	$1,450,000
Mtsb LLC	Donald T Chen Irt	157 Berkeley St	$1,025,000
Battista, Marissa	20 Hereford St LLC	20 Hereford St #4	$899,000
Sullivan, John T	Mohan, Roshni	239 Commonwealth Ave #10	$590,000
Froot, Mark	Emily Bradford Gallup Re	334-338 Beacon St	$865,000
Froot, Mark	Emily Bradford Gallup Re	334-338 Beacon St	$865,000
Breanna P Kirk 2022 Ret	Achernar 36 LLC	36 Commonwealth Ave #1	$7,400,000
Kumar, Vikram Sheel	Gallucci, Meaghen A	390 Commonwealth Ave #P4	$1,695,000
Yates, Nathan A	Grove Association T	80 Marlborough St #7	$599,000
BEACON HILL			
Prefontaine, Michael	Westra, Christian J	5 Charles River Sq	$4,500,000
Mahadev Lt	May Y Tom Lt	6 Whittier Pl #17D	$820,000
Kwon, Young-Min	Russell, David	7 Primus Ave #7-6	$437,500
Toque LLC	Weisburd, Ben	70 Revere St #3	$597,500
Claussen, Holly	Darren Joseph Langis Ret	89 Revere St	$4,500,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Labrie, Marie Ann	Mehta, Aakanksha	65 E India Row #39C	$1,340,000
Qinan Zhang Ret	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #3910	$4,125,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Boynton, Casey	1395-1405 Wa St LLC	1395-1405 Washington St #Ph603	$1,370,000
Lefkowski, Justin	Alok Sharma & A Bhne Ret	285 Columbus Ave #805	$2,200,000
R & O Cinco Ranch Properti	34 Up LLC	34 Union Pk	$6,500,000

Attention to Detail

Photos and Text By Penny Cherubino

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on the Saint James side of the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. This building received landmark status this year. Henry Janeway Hardenbergh designed it. Today's answer is from a photo from 1912, the year it opened.

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



TBC to host second annual award celebration honoring Boston Housing Chief Sheila Dillon; unveils inaugural award recognizing the Legacy of Ken Guscott

Special to the Sun

The Builder Coalition (TBC) will hold its 2nd Annual Award Celebration on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at the Lenox Hotel in Boston, bringing together leaders from across the real estate, civic and business communities to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to inclusive development and economic opportunity.

The evening will honor Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing for the City of Boston, and her team at the Mayor's Office of Housing with the 2026 Gregory P. Bialecki Award for Leadership in Inclusive Development. TBC will also launch the Kenneth I. Guscott Award for Leadership in Community Wealth Building, a new honor recognizing the legacy of the pioneering Boston developer and civil rights leader.

Established in 2025, the Gregory P. Bialecki Award recognizes leaders who share his vision that building a diverse bench of real estate and community developers is critical to a healthy, vital economy and society. TBC is recognizing Dillon and her team for "Welcome Home, Boston," a program that transforms vacant and underutilized city-owned land into affordable homeownership opportunities for first-time buyers while creating opportunities for emerging development firms. Across the program's first two phases, 28 parcels are being developed into 144 new homes in Dorchester and Mattapan, with an additional 11 parcels included in a third phase now underway.



Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing for the City of Boston

Dillon has served as Boston's Chief of Housing since 2012, first appointed by Mayor Tom Menino to lead what was then the Department of Neighborhood Development, and continuing in the role across four mayoral administrations. She is a member of Mayor Michelle Wu's cabinet and directs the Mayor's Office of Housing, which oversees the Boston Home Center, the Office of Housing Stability, Neighborhood Housing and Development, Supportive Housing, Real Estate Management and Sales, and GrowBoston.

"The Builder Coalition's work sits on the shoulders of the leaders who have come before us. Our awards ceremony is our opportunity to honor them, and to reignite what we've inherited and carry forward," said Dave Madan, Founder & Executive Director of The Builder Coalition. "Greg Bialecki's and Ken Guscott's legacies are visible all around us, in the buildings they built, but even more so in the community wealth they created, and in the generations of leaders they cultivated. Sheila Dillon's service to Boston exemplifies their values, and the Welcome Home, Boston program proves that investing in people is central to solving any of our challenges."

In addition, The Builder Coalition will introduce the Kenneth I. Guscott Award for Leadership in Community Wealth Building at this year's celebration, honoring the legacy of Guscott, a Roxbury-born civil rights leader and real estate developer who helped expand opportunities for Black professionals, workers and businesses in Boston's built environment.

Guscott founded Long Bay Management with his brothers in 1969, growing the company from a single 17-unit building into a portfolio of approximately 3,000 units across Roxbury. Throughout his career, he emphasized opportunities for minority workers and businesses and mentored employees who would go on to carry his work forward. The new award recognizes that lasting legacy of creating community wealth and developing future leaders.

A plaque will be presented to a member of the Guscott family during the celebration, followed by a fireside conversation featuring community leaders Richard Taylor, Joseph Feaster and Charlotte Nelson.

For more information on The Builder Coalition and their upcoming events, seminars, or presentations, please visit www.buildercoalition.com.

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Verify Publication: Once the ad runs, you'll bring the full printed page to court on your hearing date. E-tearsheets available for your personal records upon request.

Have an order to publish outside of Boston?

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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Lynn – legals@lynnjournal.com
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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.

Bank of America gives $200,000 Neighborhood Builder grants to Camp Harbor View, Urban Edge

Special to the Sun

Two Boston non-profits, Camp Harbor View and Urban Edge, were each awarded $200,000 over a two year period through Bank of America's 2026 Neighborhood Builders program. Bank of America provided the grants to support year-round operations and leadership development initiatives, recognizing those organizations' impact on the community.

The grant will help Camp Harbor View -- which offers a unique summer camp for thousands of city youth on Long Island in Boston Harbor and provides comprehensive family services, all at no cost -- expand its year-round programming model, leveraging its newly expanded facility to deepen engagement with children and families beyond the summer months through workforce development, postsecondary planning, financial coaching and economic mobility programming. The funding will also support Camp Harbor View's dual-generation approach to economic mobility, providing paid employment and career readiness opportunities for youth while helping families build financial resilience through coaching, navigation services and emergency assistance.

The award will support Urban Edge's merger with the organization Nuestra Comunidad, who together are working to expand access to housing stability, financial resilience, economic mobility and homeownership programs for urban Boston residents. The funding will also help the combined organization strengthen its long-term operations, preserve affordable housing, expand community wealth-building programs and position its affordable-housing and homeownership pipeline for future growth.

"Congratulations to two truly remarkable organizations, Urban Edge and Camp Harbor View, on being selected as Bank of America Neighborhood Builders. Both organizations are making a lasting impact on our communities by creating greater opportunities and helping families to thrive," said Miceal Chamberlain, president, Bank of America Greater Boston. "We are proud to support their important work and look forward to seeing all that they accomplish through this well-deserved recognition."



COURTESY PHOTO

Bank of America Worcester President Michael Garand (back row, left) and Bank of America Boston President Miceal Chamberlain (back row, right) stand with representatives of Camp Harbor View, Urban Edge, and Habitat for Humanity at the Sept. 20 announcement of grant awards to all three organizations. The awards were announced before the Patriots-Steelers game at Gillette Stadium.

Michael Garand, president of Bank of America Worcester, added, "Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester has demonstrated an incredible commitment to strengthening neighborhoods by creating safe and affordable housing and giving families the opportunity to build brighter futures. It is a privilege to honor their hard work, and I congratulate the entire team on being recognized into the Neighborhood Builders program."

Neighborhood Builders is part of the bank's longstanding efforts to build thriving communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic opportunity. Since the program's inception in 2004, 69 nonprofits have been selected as Neighborhood Builders in Massachusetts, with the Bank investing over $10 million into these nonprofits.

"What started as a summer camp nearly 20 years ago has blossomed into a robust year-round program that has served thousands of young people across Boston," said Camp Harbor View CEO Sharon McNally. "An integral part of that growth was recognizing that our youth can truly thrive when the entire family is supported. Thanks to the Neighborhood Builders Program, we will continue partnering with our families to build financial resiliency, economic mobility, and a connected community. We are so grateful to Bank of America for this support."

Added Urban Edge CEO Emilo Dorcely: "Being named a Bank of America Neighborhood Builder is a recognition of the people we serve as much as it is of Urban Edge. For more than 50 years, our neighbors have made clear what they need: homes they can afford, a real stake in the decisions that shape their communities, and the chance to build wealth where they already live. This investment tells us that Bank of America sees that work and is willing to stand behind it at a moment when the pressure on families across Greater Boston has never been greater."

Bank of America also announced a third Neighborhood Builder award, $100,000 over two years, to Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester. The announcements were made at Gillette Stadium during the Patriots game on Sunday, Sept. 20. In total, Bank of America is investing $500,000 across the three organizations. In addition to the funding, each organization's executive director and a selected emerging leader will participate in a leadership development program.

The grant will help Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester serve more families by launching its FY2027–FY2029 strategic plan and invest in new leadership positions. These investments are intended to help the organization scale its operations, grow its housing pipeline and reach a goal of improving housing conditions for more than 20 families annually by the strategy's third year. The funding will also help Habitat sustain its increased pace of home construction and repair, develop new revenue sources and expand its ReStore operation, with a goal of generating more than $1 million in annual net revenue by FY2029 to support its mission.

"We are incredibly honored to be selected as a Bank of America Neighborhood Builder," Habitat MetroWest/Greater Worcester CEO Debbie Maruca Hoak said. "This investment comes at an important moment as we work to expand the number of families we serve across our communities. The flexible funding and leadership development will strengthen our capacity to create more opportunities for families to achieve the stability and security of a safe, affordable home. We are deeply grateful to Bank of America for investing not only in the homes we build, but in Habitat's ability to serve more families for years to come."

Bank of America is one of the world's leading financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States, serving more than 69 million clients with approximately 3,500 retail financial centers, approximately 15,000 ATMs (automated teller machines) and award-winning digital banking with approximately 60 million verified digital users. Bank of America is a global leader in wealth management, corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes, serving corporations, governments, institutions and individuals around the world. As the #1 small business lender in the United States (FDIC), Bank of America offers industry-leading support to approximately 4 million small business households through a suite of innovative, easy-to-use online products and services. The company serves clients through operations across the United States, its territories and more than 35 countries and/or jurisdictions. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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