



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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City conducts annual homelessness census

Special to the Regional Review

On Thursday night, Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon led more than 250 volunteers, including state and city officials, homelessness service providers, public health representatives, and first responders, in conducting the City of Boston's 45th annual homelessness census. This comprehensive effort is part of Boston's yearly initiative to assess and address homelessness by counting unsheltered individuals and families in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence programs, and those living outdoors.

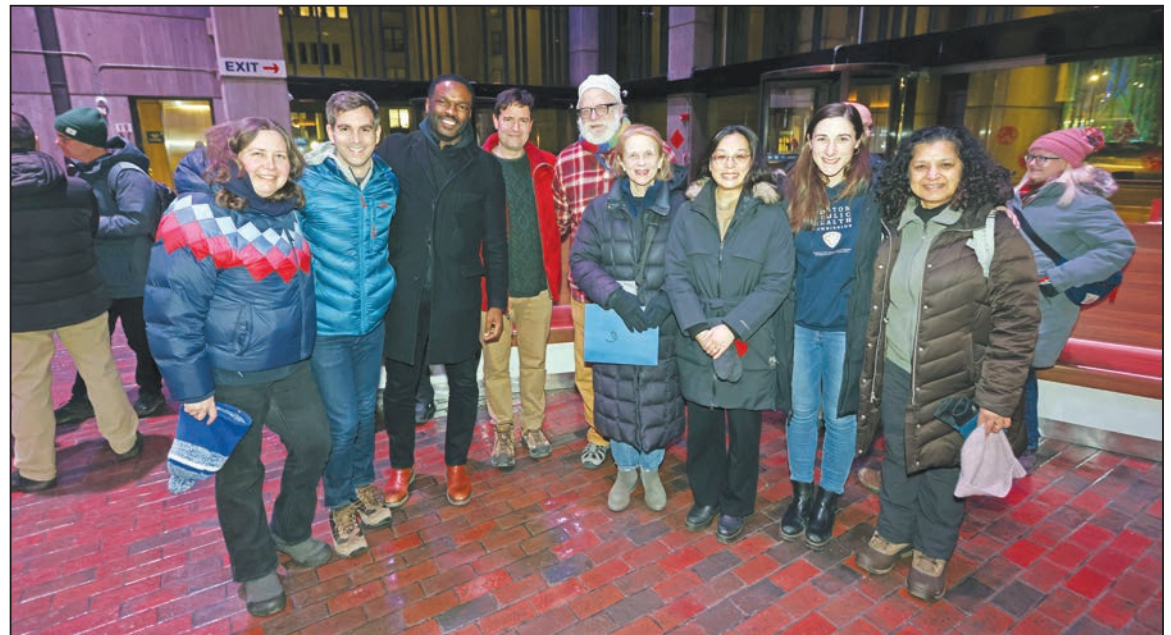
"Boston's annual homelessness census is an opportunity to evaluate the needs of unsheltered Bostonians and connect individuals to services," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The data from the census is crucial for the City as we act with urgency and care to make Boston a city for everyone. We are grateful to our partners and the dedicated volunteers throughout the City for their collaboration in making this year's census possible."

At this year's census, volunteers canvassed 45 areas, including every neighborhood, Logan Airport, and Boston's transit and parks systems, starting just after midnight.

They conducted surveys, identified those sleeping on the streets, and distributed safety information and items to help individuals stay warm. Survey results will be analyzed, cross-checked with shelter data, and used to inform policies and allocate resources. This effort is required annually by HUD.

"The annual homelessness census is more than a count—it's a crucial step in understanding the challenges faced by our most vulnerable residents and shaping our

(CENSUS Pg. 2)



Shown (above and below) are some of the more than 250 volunteers who canvassed every Boston neighborhood conducting the annual homelessness census..



PHOTOS BY MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN WILCOX

NEWRA claims lack of community input on Article 80 Modernization Draft Plan

By Phil Orlandella

The North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) reviewed the Boston Planning Department's (BPD) Article 80 Modernization Draft Action Plan, the neighborhood group, responded with a very lengthy letter expressing many comments and called for presentation and community conversation by the BPD staff to openly discuss the draft

plans, publicly.

While the draft plan thoughtfully presents results of public surveys and workshops the city conducted to understand the problems with the current development review process and identify specifically where modernization is needed, the draft plan does not lay out a clear path to solving the problem, NEWRA contends.

The plan lacks emphasis on the importance of planning and zon-

ing necessary to bring predictability into development and guide Boston's growth, according to NEWRA.

It also lacks important details on how the public and community engagement process will be improved to ensure transparency and responsiveness from initial development concept proposal to City approval, according to the letter.

(NEWRA Pg. 7)

Josh Kraft officially announces candidacy for Mayor of Boston

By Cary Shuman

The great race for mayor is on. And mayoral candidate Josh Kraft, his supporters, and campaign team couldn't have asked for a better kickoff than what transpired Tuesday morning at the historic Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Dorchester.

Kraft walked confidently to the podium and delivered a speech that outlined his vision of Boston.

People from neighborhoods across the city, from the Boys and Girls Club, the Urban League, and the Patriots Foundation stood behind him holding blue and white "Josh Kraft For Mayor" signs.

The media presence was extraordinary and the coverage intense. Following his speech, Kraft answered questions from a swarm of reporters about a variety of subjects. He then walked

(KRAFT Pg. 3)

Coletta Zapata introduces legislation providing tax exemptions to landlords

Special to the Regional Review

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata proposed legislation allowing the City of Boston to opt-in to the "Good Landlord Tax Abatement." The Good Landlord Tax Abatement allows municipalities to offer property tax exemptions for affordable rentals occupied by individuals earn-

ing below a locally determined income threshold. The tax credit, sponsored by State Senator Lydia Edwards and State Representative Andres Vargas, was included in the Massachusetts 2023 tax package.

"Boston is consistently ranked as one of the most expensive cities for renters. The housing crisis

(LANDLORDS Pg. 15)

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EDITORIAL

10 YEARS AGO, WE WERE AMIDST SNOWMAGEDDON

Yes, time does fly, and for those of us who lived through the Snowmageddon, it's hard to believe that 10 years have passed since we were in the middle of that epic winter season of 2015.

Major snowstorms just kept rolling in, week after week, from January through the end of February, eventually burying the Metro Boston area under a record total of 110 inches of snow for the season.

Even for those of us who enjoy a brisk snow-shoveling workout, the non-stop barrage of major snowstorms that barreled through our area at the rate of twice per week was overwhelming. Our driveway resembled a tunnel, with the snow piled 8-9 feet on either side, which made shoveling the snow extra hard because we also had to throw it up high just to clear the wall of snow to get it out of the way.

We also recall clearing our roof of snow (because of warnings that the snow could become too heavy and cause a collapse). We actually fell off the portion of our roof that -- fortunately -- was not too high off the ground. We plunged into a cushion of eight feet of snow that was only a few feet below the roofline and climbed back onto the roof to finish the task. No harm, no foul.

For those who park their cars on the street, the Snowmageddon was sheer torture. No sooner had you shoveled out your space, then another big storm came in and reburied your vehicle. Some folks eventually just gave up and their cars remained entombed for weeks at a time.

Cities and towns were overwhelmed in their efforts to keep up with snow removal. Not only did they exhaust their entire snow removal budgets by mid-January (the state and federal governments eventually reimbursed communities for some of their snow removal costs), but they could not find any place to put the tons of snow that had to be trucked away.

In Revere, National Guard units brought in heavy equipment just to make the city's streets passable. Some communities ended up dumping the snow onto their playing fields. In Winthrop, the mountain of snow that was piled high onto the high school baseball field still obstructed the field into late-April.

There were so many snowstorms and so many declarations of states of emergency by then-Governor Charlie Baker, that it seemed as though we were in one long State of Emergency.

So while we acknowledge the truth of the proverb that all of us tend to look back at the past through rose-colored glasses, we have to admit that we hope the Snowmageddon of 2015 was a one-and-done sort of event that we never will have to deal with again.

CENSUS (from pg. 1)

strategies to meet their needs," said Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing. "With the data we collect on this night, we can continue to guide our efforts to move individuals and families into stable housing with the supportive services they need to succeed. We remain committed to working with our partners to prevent and end homelessness in Boston."

"This annual count helps us assess the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Boston," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "We will continue to work closely with Mayor Wu and City partners to meet these needs through emergency shelter, housing, recovery supports, and other services to care for the health and well-being of our residents."

After years of progress in reducing homelessness, Boston is now facing a rise in households experiencing homelessness, mirroring national trends and highlighting local challenges. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Boston has grown by 10.6%, from 5,202 in 2023 to 5,756 in 2024. Despite this increase, the 2024 figure remained 11.3% lower than the 2015 peak of 6,492 individuals. In December, HUD announced that U.S. homelessness increased by 18% from

2023 to 2024, with over 770,000 people experiencing homelessness nationwide in January 2024.

"The annual census is a critical tool for measuring progress and identifying areas where we can improve," said St. Francis House President and CEO Karen LaFrazia. "Boston's homelessness numbers provide valuable insights that help us deliver services to the city's most vulnerable residents. However, we must remain focused on the ultimate goal: moving individuals off the street and into stable, supportive, permanent housing."

"The annual homeless census is a vital tool for understanding the realities faced by our most vulnerable residents and informing our efforts to address those challenges," said Lyndia Downie, President and Executive Director of Pine Street Inn. "The data gathered through this effort will allow us to better shape our policies, allocate resources, and deliver services that help individuals move into stable, permanent housing. We remain steadfast in our commitment to collaborate with our partners to prevent and ultimately end homelessness in our city."

"The annual census in Boston is an essential resource for understanding the challenges faced by our community's most vulnerable members," said Jennifer Hanlon

Wigon, Chief Executive Officer for the Women's Lunch Place. "By examining Boston's homelessness data, we can better tailor our services to meet the needs of women experiencing homelessness. But our ultimate mission remains clear: ensuring every individual has access to safe, stable, and permanent housing, along with the support they need to thrive."

The results of the 2025 homelessness census will be available in the coming months. The report will inform the public about the City's ongoing efforts to ensure every Boston resident has access to safe and stable housing.

The Mayor's Office of Housing is responsible for housing people experiencing homelessness, creating and preserving affordable housing, and ensuring that renters and homeowners can obtain, maintain, and remain in safe, stable housing. The department develops and implements the City of Boston's housing creation and homelessness prevention plans and collaborates with local and national partners to find new solutions and build more housing affordable to all, particularly those with lower incomes. For more information, please visit the MOH website.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate
And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU25PO228EA
Estate of:
William Gordon
Mills

Also known as:

William Mills

Date of Death:

08/25/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Barry Mills of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Barry Mills of Boston, MA and Karen G. Mills of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to

serve Without Surety on the bond unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/17/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to

this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate

are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 03, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
02/06/25
RR

REGIONAL REVIEW

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PUBLISHER: Debra DiGregorio - deb@thebostonsun.com

REPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

Stephen Quigley and Cary Shuman

PHONE 781-485-0588 - FAX 781-485-1403

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PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

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KRAFT (from Page 1)

over to embrace his daughter, Anna Kraft, who had been sitting proudly in the front row during the event.

Just 15 minutes later, Boston TV stations led their noon broadcasts with live reports from Dorchester and highlights of Kraft's speech.

Among the many people in the audience were colleagues, former city officials and public safety department leaders, and friends.

Also attending was a contingent from Chelsea, where Josh Kraft was a transformative figure who helped build the largest youth organization in the city and led a fundraising drive for a new state-of-the-art \$11 million youth center, the Jordan Boys and Girls Club, with new leaders now carrying on the remarkable legacy of the club's founder. His positive impact on thousands of lives of Chelsea's youth is truly immeasurable.

I've spent my entire career in the

neighborhoods of Boston

"I am honored to be surrounded by family and so many friends," he began. "My name is Josh Kraft. For those who don't know me, for the past 35 years,

I've been doing community-based work in and around Boston, including twelve years as CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, in my role with the Patriots Foundation, and as volunteer board chair of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

"I've spent my entire career in the neighborhoods of Boston – from Roslindale to East Boston, from Mattapan to Charlestown, from South Boston to Roxbury. From the moment I started working in Boston, I fell in love with this city – its many unique neighborhoods, and its people ... especially its people – hard working, humble... and above all, proud of this city, no matter which neighborhood you come from.

"Serving Boston has been my passion and a great source of joy and purpose in my life. But I also know there's more for me to give to this City.

And that's why, today, because I love this city and its people, I am excited to declare my candidacy to be the next Mayor of Boston."

Kraft acknowledged that he will be "an underdog" in the race for mayor.

"I enter this race as an underdog And I know that this will be an uphill fight," he said. "But I am excited for the challenge. Excited for the opportunity to listen and learn from the people of Boston ... Excited to share my ideas and vision for this great city.

"I am asking the people of Boston to set aside any ideas they

might have about me based on my last name and let me tell you about the path of service I've forged ... the experience I've gained along the way ... and the plans I've developed to make life better for Boston."

In the speech, he criticized the current administration, stating that "we face some serious, serious challenges, challenges that Mayor Wu has not risen to."

"In fact, when it comes to the mayor's big campaign promises—to make the MBTA free for Boston residents ... to put in place a rent control program ... and to launch a Green New Deal for Boston's schools—she is 0 for 3," said Kraft.

"On the number one challenge facing our residents—access to housing that regular people can afford—production under Mayor Wu has ground to a dead halt.

"In fact, among similar sized cities across the nation, we have fallen to the very bottom when it comes to new housing production. As a result, rents are at an all-time high, and so is the median price of a home which is \$950,000.

"Sure, this is a complex problem, but at its core: you can't solve a housing crisis if you're building less of it.

"On schools, we spend more per pupil than any other big city school system in the nation, about \$30,000 per student – all for a school system that regularly fails our kids on virtually every measure, including the ability to provide even the most basic services.

"Can you believe this? Our city spends \$171 million every year to provide bus transportation for about 20,000 students. Eighty-five hundred bucks per student each year for buses that can't even make the opening bell. How can a family trust a school system to educate their kids when they can't get them to school on time? That is unacceptable.

"Meanwhile, our neighborhood streets have become jammed up by poorly conceived, hastily installed bus and bike lanes that all too often have increased congestion and eliminated parking. As a result, moving around has become a burden for families, seniors, and members of the disabled community – and the small businesses who rely on them. It's a mess!

"Don't get me wrong: I'm all for being creative about how we solve our transportation challenges. But our "transportation problem" under this administration has quickly spiraled into a "quality of life problem."

His vision for Boston

"Over the course of this cam-

paign, I will offer my vision for Boston – forged not only by my own experiences, but more importantly, those of the people I've met along the way," said Kraft.

"And it starts with housing, the number one challenge facing our city.

Today, there are projects ready to be built that would result in more than 20,000 units of housing. But they are stuck, stuck due to regulations imposed by the current administration. To jump start new housing construction, I will put in place one-time incentives aimed at projects that are priced for middle-class and first-time homeowners.

"Having all these projects sit on the shelf generates no new housing, no new affordable housing, no new jobs, and no new tax revenue. Getting new construction going again must be a top priority because availability is the path to affordability.

In addition, I will put in place a rent control program that can work for both tenants and building owners.

"So, this is how the plan works. In exchange for capping increases in rents over a 10-year period, the city will provide a cut in real estate taxes to building owners. This program would be targeted at properties that serve middle- and lower-income residents and would exclude luxury rentals. Renters deserve to be protected from massive year-over-year increases and my plan will do that.

"Mayor Wu promised us rent control three years ago, but I will deliver it.

"Finally, I will take the tax revenue generated by jump-starting the 20,000-plus permitted units sitting unbuilt and create an affordable housing fund to help first-time homebuyers and provide rent relief.

Elected members of the School Committee

"To improve our schools, we need a school committee that challenges city leadership and holds BPS accountable. It is time to have elected members along with appointed members on the school committee. And as Mayor, I'll make that happen.

"I will work hand in hand with the community and our partners at the state to bring an end to the human tragedy that is Mass and Cass. Listen, addiction doesn't have to be a life sentence. And among Boston's many prized possessions, is a robust and resilient recovery community who proves that one day at a time.

"I will breathe new life into Operation Exit – a powerful program started by Mayor Marty



Josh Kraft announces his candidacy for Mayor of Boston Tuesday at Prince Hall in Dorchester.

Walsh – and make Boston a national model when it comes to supporting individuals emerging from the criminal justice system and helping them gain skills and employment so they can build a new life and make our communities stronger.

And, I will offer a common-sense transportation plan to deal with the congestion clogging our streets – and that starts with an immediate pause for all new bike lane construction.

"On all of these issues—housing, transportation, schools, city services—this isn't about ideology. It's about results."

Choosing a career in public service

Kraft said he chose a career of community service and he learned some important lessons along the way.

"I've met so many remarkable and resilient people that call Boston home," said Kraft.

"Each of them has taught me some pretty important lessons:

That leadership is not about talking -- but about doing the work and getting results. That it requires bringing people together to solve problems – especially people that might disagree with me. That the teachings of my faith and my family matter.

"My mother, Myra, taught us to always look out for the marginalized groups – the ones that are overlooked and don't have access to opportunities.

"And, lastly, you can learn from anyone, and that everyone has something to share, everyone has something to contribute.

"Perhaps the most important learning experience I've ever had was during my second semester in graduate school while I was volunteering at a methadone clinic. I met a man in his late 30s who was struggling with substance abuse

and was also HIV positive.

He asked me if I could help him with something: --- would I teach him how to read?

"Over the course of several months, I sat with him twice a week for an hour and did my best to teach him the basics of reading.

"Now, looking back, I guess I did help this man learn to read. But he taught me something just as valuable: about pressing forward with your life even in the face of almost unspeakable adversity and obstacles.

"Over the past 35 years, I have had the opportunity to meet so many different people – single parents and their kids. Police officers. Non-profit leaders. Community leaders. Teachers and advocates. People returning from incarceration. People fighting addiction.

And let me tell you: Every single one of them has something to teach us about how to press forward. Every single one.

"Here in Boston, we are fortunate to be the home of so much history and so many firsts, but what has always defined us is our focus on the future – on our relentless desire to adapt and grow and innovate and lead.

And today, when the future is uncertain, and the challenges are real – a healthy and vibrant Boston has never been more important to our citizens and our region.

"Yes, we have a lot to be proud of. But for me, I want to be more than proud of what we've already done – I want to be proud of where we're going. I want us to take these challenges head on no matter how hard they are.

"That's why I want to be your next Mayor – and that's what this campaign is going to be about. And I ask you to join me. Thank you!"

A voyage to Boston

41° 43'7" N 49° 56'9" W

TITANIC

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

Now on display
at Park Plaza

Special to the Regional Review

TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition has brought nearly 250 authentic artifacts from the wreck site of Titanic by RMS Titanic, Inc. to The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza in Boston, where they will remain on display until May 29, 2025. Presented by The Gold Group in Boston and viewed by more than 35 million people worldwide, TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition is one of the highest attended in history and is coming to Boston for the first time. E/M Group and RMS Titanic, Inc., have curated an incredible collection of authentic Titanic artifacts that will allow guests to experience the real stories of Titanic passengers and crew. These items have been honorably conserved and presented to the public to help educate and tell the story of Titanic. Visitors can also explore meticulously re-created

rooms, including the opulent Grand Staircase.

"Boston eagerly awaits our Exhibition, which continues to set record-breaking attendance figures," said Gautam Chandna, Director of Business Development at E/M Group. "The Exhibition's continued success, as demonstrated in city after city, speaks to its broad appeal and exceptional quality."

For decades, Titanic has had a hold on people immersing themselves in the real stories of heroism, love, fear, and impossible decisions in the face of the "unsinkable" ocean liner meeting its fate. It was a watershed moment in world history and has made an indelible mark on history.

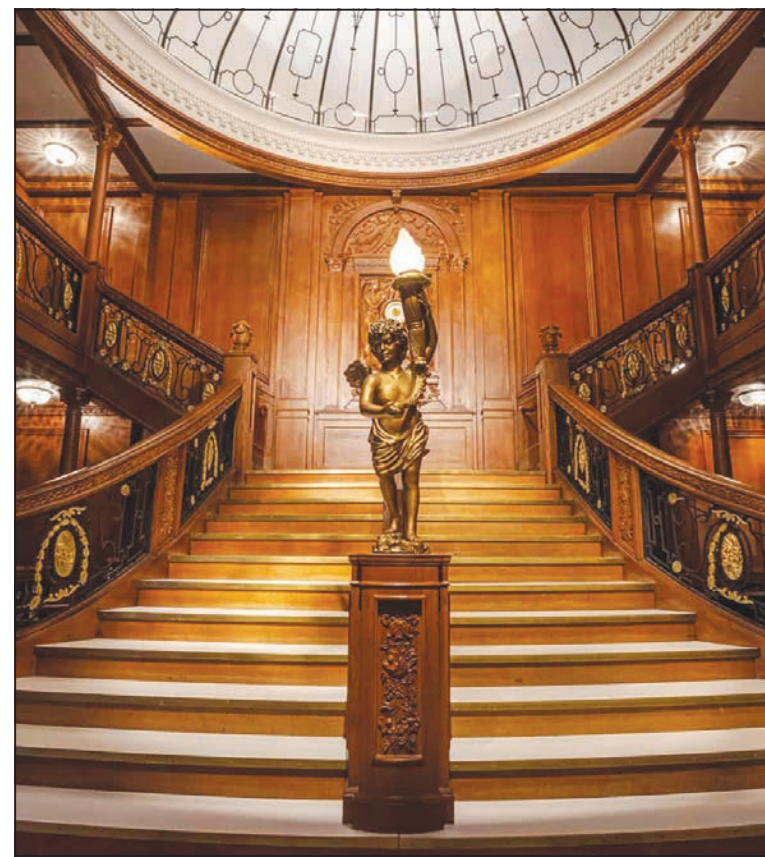
Upon entering TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition guests are drawn back in time to April 1912, when the Ship embarked on its first and final journey. Guests receive a replica boarding pass, assume the role of a passenger, and follow a journey through life on Titanic—from the Ship's construction to life

on board, to the infamous sinking. Also covered is the contemporary effort to recover artifacts and conserve the wreck site for scientific analysis, historical preservation, and to ensure future generations can admire, contemplate, and learn from Titanic.

Located in the Back Bay, The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza is a former armory and is a designated National Historic Landmark. For tickets and more information, please visit <http://www.castleboston.com/>.

Tickets to the exhibition are now on sale www.titanicboston.us, tickets start at \$39.50

Experiential Media Group, LLC (E/M Group), located in Atlanta, GA, is a world leader in



The foyer.

the development and display of exhibitions that educate, entertain, and inspire audiences of all ages.

RMS Titanic, Inc.'s (RMST) mission is to preserve the legacy of Titanic's maiden voyage, subsequent sinking, and the memory of her passengers and crew through

comprehensive educational programs, innovative exhibitions, research and recovery initiatives, wreck site imaging and analysis, and ongoing Titanic collaborations. RMST was granted sal-

(TITANIC, PG. 9)



A young historian examines a Boarding Pass used on the Titanic.



Visitors can sit and examine a manifest of all the passengers onboard the ship when it sank in 1912.

TITANIC FACTS & TRIVIA

On Board Titanic

- The cost of an average first-class ticket on Titanic from Southampton to New York was \$450, although prices varied based on cabin size and amenities.
- A first-class suite cost \$2,500, or approximately \$73,000 in 2022.
- However, the most luxurious suites with a private promenade deck cost \$4,500 in 1912, or approximately \$131,400 in 2022.
- A third-class ticket on Titanic cost \$40, or approximately \$1,170 in 2022. Up to 10 people resided in each third-class room. "
- First-class passengers had the luxury of paying for their leisure while on board: a ticket to the swimming pools cost 25¢, while a ticket for the squash court (as well as the services of

a professional player) cost 50¢.

- Sixty cooks and assistants worked in Titanic's five kitchens. They ranged from soup and roast cooks to pastry and vegetable cooks. There was also a cook who prepared kosher meals for the Jewish passengers.
- There were only two bathtubs for the more than 700 third-class passengers aboard the Ship.
- The forward part of the Boat Deck was a promenade space for first-class passengers and the rear part was for second-class passengers. Passengers from these classes thus had the best chance of getting into a lifeboat simply because they could get to them quickly and easily.

Disaster Strikes

- Even if all 20 lifeboats had been filled, there would only have been enough room to save

1,178 people.

- At first, most of the passengers did not believe that Titanic was really sinking, hence the low number of 28 aboard the first lifeboat even though it could have carried 65.
- Titanic was one of the first ships in distress to send out an "SOS" signal. The radio officer used "SOS" after using the traditional code of "CQD" followed by the Ship's call letters.
- Dorothy Gibson, a 28-year-old silent screen actress, was an established movie star who, along with her mother, survived the sinking. Gibson would later star in Saved from the Titanic, a film released one month after the disaster. The costume that she wore in the film was the same dress, sweater, and coat that she wore on the night of the sinking.

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Group for TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition Website: www.emgroup.com Email: marketing@emgroup.com

- Tennis player R. Norris Williams and his father, Charles, felt it was too cold to remain out on deck as the Ship went down so they went into the Gymnasium to ride the exercise bicycles.
- At the time of Titanic's destruction, the water temperature was 28°F (-2°C). Most of those struggling in the water in their life jackets would have succumbed to hypothermia, while others may have had heart attacks.

The Aftermath

- Initial headlines of the Titanic disaster claimed all passengers survived and the Ship was being towed to land.
- No skeletons remain at the

wreck site. Any bodies that were carried to the seabed with the wreck were consumed by fish and crustaceans. With the currents, and the difference in weight of the ship, it is unlikely that the remains of those who perished at the surface sank to the wreck site.

• In the 1898 novel Futility, written 14 years before the sailing and sinking of Titanic, author Morgan Robertson penned a fictitious tale about a ship named Titan that collides with an iceberg. Some of the uncanny similarities between the book and the Titanic disaster include:

- the month (April)
- the length of the ships (Titanic was 882.9 feet; Titan was 800 feet), and
- the number of passengers on board (Titanic had approximately 2,200; Titan had 2,000).

TITANIC (from Page 8)

vor-in-possession rights to the wreck of Titanic and is the only company permitted by law to recover artifacts from the wreck

site. RMST has recovered and conserved more than 5,500 artifacts since 1987 and is an affiliate of E/M Group.



Some surviving items and memorabilia from the Titanic on display at the exhibition.

Bring Your Bestie!

Galentine's Wedding Gala

**Wednesday, February 12th
6:00-8:00 PM**

Tulle Bridal
47 High St., North Andover, MA

Visit www.northendregional.com

The 'Quin House Impact Fund announces new director

Special to the Regional Review

The 'Quin Impact Fund announced the appointment of Michelle Perez Vichot, an accomplished leader of nonprofit and social service organizations, as Director. The appointment comes on the heels of a monumental year of impact, with the organization having contributed over \$3.3MM to Boston area non-profits since its inception, including over \$900k in the past year.

Vichot brings more than 25 years of experience in social services and organizational leadership to The 'Quin House Impact Fund. Most recently, she served as Chief Executive Officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Billerica and has also held leadership roles at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, where she advanced from Executive Director to Executive Vice President of Operations. Vichot also has served on the Board of the Children's Room, a nonprofit that offers grief support services for children and families.

"I look forward to bringing my experience to this new role at The 'Quin House," Vichot said. "I have a long career history of not only driving organizational growth, but also cultivating relationships with local businesses, government entities, and community stakeholders, which will be key as we continue to build upon the good work that the Impact Fund does in Greater Boston through both fundraising and volunteer service. I am so proud to be a part of this team as we kick off 2025."

A licensed independent clinical social worker, Vichot holds a Master of Social Work from New York University and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership. She was named Executive Director of the Year by the New England Yankee Chapter last year and the Community Social Capitalist Award from Social Capital Inc., in 2012. She lives in Boston.

The 'Quin Impact Fund serves

as a financial resource for local philanthropic organizations that make positive contributions to the Greater Boston community. The 'Quin House, a private social club in Boston's Back Bay that is committed to affecting change in the local community, is a space for members to not only further their education on important issues but also provides avenues for them to make a difference for the better on those issues. The Impact Fund was launched in 2019, a year prior to the opening of The 'Quin House, and is now the foundation of the club's philanthropy and the vehicle through which members can have a collective positive impact.

The Impact Fund supports six pillars throughout the year in Arts and Culture, Innovation and Discovery, Equity and Opportunity, Health and Wellness, Youth and Education, and Earth 360°. The Fund is hosted by The Boston Foundation and, thanks to the generosity of The 'Quin House member community's contributions along with an anonymous

donor's matching funds, has awarded more than \$3.1MM in grants to over 150 Greater Boston organizations.

The Fund has also hosted numerous volunteer opportunities for The 'Quin House members and staff since 2021. Volunteer efforts in 2024 included participation in Boston's annual Winter Walk, clothing sorting and toiletry kit packing for Cradles to Crayons, preparation of apartments for the homeless at the Pine Street Inn, riding in the Pan-Mass Challenge for cancer research and treatment, multi-day efforts at The Greater Boston Food Bank, and most recently, the collection of more than 300 gifts for Department of Children and Families children through the Wonderfund. Since inception, The 'Quin House Impact Fund has also sponsored over 100 programming events designed to showcase the important and meaningful solutions local non-profits are providing to challenging problems.

"After this very successful



Michelle Perez Vichot.

year of community engagement, inspirational programming, and financial investment in high-impact, non-profit organizations, through The 'Quin Impact Fund, we are excited for what is to come in 2025 and beyond under the continued leadership of co-chairs, Linda Whitlock and Kanna Kunchala, and new Director Michelle Perez Vichot," said Sandy Edgerley, 'Quin co-founder.

NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER By Phil Orlandella

NORTH END RESTAURANT HOSTS NEMPAC CONCERT

The successful and highly entertaining North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) annual Concert "Amore: Love Songs Through the Ages: returned to Ristorante Lucia in the North End.

NEMPAC's concert is a celebration of love for all people that encompasses music from the Baroque era to the music of today, that will resonate with audiences no matter their age or background.

Handel, Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars music were featured.

Tickets included a three-course prix fixe gourmet Italian meal, an appetizer, entrée and dessert and soft drinks. Cash bar.

OLD NORTH DIGITAL SPEAKER SERIES

Old North Church and Historical Site has scheduled a compelling virtual book chat with award winning journalist and historian Colin Woodard on Wednesday, February 12 at 7pm.

Woodward will discuss his acclaimed book American Nations: A History of the Eleven Regional Cultures of North America.

The virtual event is accessible with a donation of any amount to support Old North Illuminated, the steward of Old North Church.

To register, visit www.oldnorth.com/events.

TWO SOCCER CLUBS MEET

Interclub Boston, a North End soccer fan club recently met up with another soccer fan club Gizio, sharing the location they both use on North Street, to enjoy an international soccer game on a wide screen digital setup.

"We had a nice turnout, ending up sharing the spot with the other club," Interclub President Gianfranco Iaia said.

"We used the time to meet and get to know each other and we added members of the Gizio Club as Interclub members," he added.

FONEL HOLDS FIRST BOARD MEETING OF 2025

Friends of the North End Library (FONEL) held its first board meeting of the year at the library on Parmenter Street.

The board meets on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss upcoming programs and plans for new ones.

Reportedly, the board is excited to make 2025 their best year ever and welcomes input from members and new members to continue to make the library the beacon of the community that it is.

FONEL welcomes new memberships to help staff and board

members continue to provide fun-filled and educational programs for the community to enjoy.

EARLY REGISTRATION FOR NEAA BASEBALL

In an effort to get an early start on the 2025 North End Athletic Association (NEAA) baseball season, registration is already underway.

Once again, Baseball Coordinator John Romano is leading the move to get the baseball program ready to go as he has done so many times in the past.

Registration for boys and girls 4 to 12 is available for Little League, Minor League, T-Ball and an Instructional Clinic.

"Last year's baseball program was a huge success, maybe the best ever," Romano said. "Early registration helps the NEAA to once again provide successful baseball programs for the youth of the community."

Registration for the NEAA Baseball Traveling team (13-18) and Girls Softball Program (13-16) is also taking place. Dodgers and Executive teams.

Schedules

Clinic Saturdays 9:30-10:30am, T-Ball Saturdays 10:30-11:30am, Majors Monday-Thursday 6-8pm, Minors Monday-Thursday 5:30-7:15pm. Traveling baseball and LaCross TBA.

Registration is \$65 for players 4-12, softball and traveling base-

ball \$75.

Anyone that needs financial assistance should contact John Romano at 617-750-9749 or email jromano45@gmail.com.

The season begins April 26 with all baseball programs participating.

NEAA LACROSSE REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Registration for the third season of North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Lacrosse is currently underway.

Starting in March, the program under the name of Midnight Riders, teams will compete in the Mass Youth Lacrosse (MYL) League once again.

Teams will play home games at Puopolo Park and away games in the Greater Boston Metro area.

Both boys and girls teams will be registered with MYL at the first and second grade levels and the third and fourth grade level, playing a total of eight games on Saturday mornings starting March 30 and running through June 1.

The NEAA will also be conducting its traditional fundamentals clinic on Sunday afternoons. To register visit www.neasports.org/register2./form/221093232.

FOCCP TUNNEL OF LOVE/FIRST MEETING

Friends of Christopher Colum-

bus Park (FOCCP) will bring a host of activities and events to the park in 2025.

The first event began February 1 with the 8th Tunnel of Love that transformed the Trellis with festive lights and romantic music and two new ten-foot-tall illuminated hearts.

Created by FOCCP Art Curator Robyn Reed with the help of FOCCP members.

The guest speaker for the FOCCP first meeting of the year on February 11, 6:30-7:30pm, at the Mariners House, 11 North Square, will be Ciara D'Amico, Neighborhood Services Liaison.

Ciara will speak on plans for the neighborhood, listen to concerns and suggestions and answer questions.

Other quarterly meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays, May 13, August 12 and November 11.

BPD HOSTS SCHOOL VACATION ACTIVITIES

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPD) will provide February school vacation week activities for children, parents and caregivers.

Events include sports clinics to the annual Children's Festival and nature exploration with Park Rangers, free and open to the public.

To register, visit www.boston.gov/parks.

Healey proposes significant changes to Right to Shelter law

Special to the Regional Review

Governor Maura Healey proposed significant new changes to the state's Right to Shelter law, including imposing a statutory residency requirement for families and strengthening criminal background checks. The Governor submitted the recommendations in a letter to the Senate President, Speaker, and House and Senate Ways and Means Chairs, urging the changes to be in the Emergency Assistance (EA) Supplemental Budget.

The latest problem for the Right to Shelter Law occurred at the Quality Inn in Revere on December 27 where an illegal immigrant was arrested for having more than \$2M in fentanyl and carrying an unregistered rifle.

"I have evaluated the Right to Shelter Law and regulations as well as the operational burdens on the system. Based on that review, and in the face of continued inaction by Congress and no assistance from the federal government, I believe these changes are appropriate and needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the state shelter system in a way that aligns with the original intent of the law," said

Governor Maura Healey. "In addition, these proposed changes will allow us to continue to ensure the safety of our system, support cities and towns in addressing the needs of unhoused families in their communities and put us on the path toward a more fiscally sustainable shelter system."

"Our administration has made progress in making the shelter system more fiscally and operationally sustainable," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're now seeing unprecedented numbers of families exiting shelter for permanent housing because of the work we've done, including a more effective use of housing stabilization programs, workforce training, and job placements."

Among the proposed changes to the Right to Shelter law include:

- Strengthening criminal background checks. Governor Healey's proposal would require all applicants to disclose criminal convictions in Massachusetts or elsewhere. It will also codify the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' policy of conducting a CORI check prior to placement.
- Implementing a statutory

requirement of residency and intent to remain. Currently, any intent to remain in Massachusetts may be proven solely through self attestation. This change would require that anyone receiving EA show an intent to remain in Massachusetts, either through independent documentary verification or through three months of physical presence in the state.

- Eliminating presumptive eligibility. Under existing law, shelter applicants are presumed to be eligible for shelter and receive shelter benefits prior to producing the necessary documentation. Under Governor Healey's proposals, shelter applicants would be required to verify their identity, residency, and status prior to placement.

- Changes to eviction eligibility criteria. Currently, families may be eligible for shelter based on several types of no-fault eviction, but without geographic limitation. As a result, people who have been evicted in other states may come to Massachusetts for shelter. The administration proposes requiring evictions to occur in Massachusetts to support eligibility, eliminating the scenario where a neighboring

state eviction leads to an individual coming to Massachusetts to seek EA shelter benefits.

- Requiring lawful status for all members of families with rare exceptions. Governor Healey's proposal would require all family members to show they are U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the U.S., with the rare exception for those households that include a child who is a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident.

Massachusetts became the only state in the country to adopt a Right to Shelter law 40 years ago, which was designed to provide housing for families in need, specifically pregnant women and children experiencing homelessness. For the past three years, thousands of families have been arriving in Massachusetts from other states and other countries seeking shelter. Since taking office in 2023, Governor Healey has implemented a series of reforms to manage the size and cost of the system, including setting a cap of 7,500 families and implementing length of stay requirements. She recently announced that the administration will phase out the use of hotels and

motels as shelters by the end of 2025.

These proposed changes follow Governor Healey's recent announcement requiring CORI checks on all EA applicants in addition to background checks already occurring, conducting inspections at all shelter sites, and hiring former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis to lead an independent, outside review of security at EA shelters. The supplemental budget she filed earlier this month also proposed reducing the length of stay at EA shelters from nine months to six months.

Since November 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has helped more than 6,000 shelter residents get work authorizations and secured thousands of job placements. These efforts have helped more than 4,500 families exit shelter in the past year, and 430 families have successfully exited temporary respite centers (TRCs) since August 1. In addition to exits, more than 700 families have been diverted from EA shelter in the past year due to investment in services that help families avoid shelter and quickly get back on their feet.

Parks Department hosts February School Vacation Week activities

Children, parents, and caregivers are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for February school vacation week. From sports clinics, to our annual Children's Festival, and nature exploration with the Park Rangers, these activities are FREE and open to all. To learn more and register, visit boston.gov/parks.

Franklin Park Snowshoeing Safari with the Boston Park Rangers

Monday, February 16th
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Franklin Park, 1 Circuit Drive - Meet in the William J. Devine Golf Course parking lot

Join us for an hour snowshoeing tour (weather dependent) around Boston's historic Franklin Park. A limited supply of snowshoes will

be available for use during the event. Please dress accordingly. For ages 12+.

boston.gov/park-rangers

Horse-of-Course at Jamaica Pond

Wednesday, February 18th
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Jamaica Pond, 507 Jamaicaway - Meet outside the Jamaica Pond boathouse

Join the Boston Park Rangers for a 30-minute meet-and-greet with one of our equine partners and learn how they're fed, groomed, tacked up, and ready for their patrol in your parks.

boston.gov/park-rangers

Softball Hitting and Fielding Clinics

Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 19

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Bubble at Carter Field, 709 Columbus Avenue

The program features UMass Boston softball players and coaches and is open to teams and individual players of all skill levels.

Pre-registration required
Ages 10 and up

boston.gov/parks-sports
Children's Winter Festival
Wednesday, February 19

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Boston Common (corner of Beacon and Charles Streets)

This beloved annual festival offers winter-themed activities, inflatable attractions, and fun giveaways.

All ages

boston.gov/winterfest

Baseball Hitting and Fielding Clinics

Thursday, February 20 and Friday, February 21

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Bubble at Carter Field, 709 Columbus Avenue

The program features UMass Boston baseball players and coaches and is open to teams and individual players of all skill levels.

Pre-registration required
Ages 10-14

boston.gov/parks-sports

Horse-of-Course at Boston Common

Friday, February 20, 2025
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Boston Common, 139 Tremont St - Meet near the Tadpole Playground by the Frog Pond

Join the Boston Park Rangers for a 30-minute meet-and-greet with one of our equine partners and learn how they're fed, groomed, tacked up, and ready for their patrol in your parks.

boston.gov/park-rangers

Open Gym

Thursday, February 20 and Friday, February 21

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Bubble at Carter Field, 709 Columbus Avenue

Open Gym is available to students, families, and community members to play pick-up sports such as kickball, wiffleball, soccer, football, run laps, and more.

boston.gov/parks-sports

Jamaica Pond Nature Center Open Schedule

The JP Nature Center will be open on select dates throughout February, including during the following February Vacation dates:

Saturday, February 15 - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, February 21 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Jamaica Pond, 507 Jamaicaway - Meet at Nature Center

Discover the forgotten past of JP's ice industry, view our natural history collection, or check in with a Boston Park Ranger as we open up the Nature Center for a limited schedule. boston.gov/park-rangers

Call (617) 635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Facebook, Instagram, X, and Bluesky.

NEWRA (from pg. 1)

NEWRA feels the shift influence from public and affected communities to the city is a continuation of shifting influence that began with the establishment of IAGs many years ago.

The plan also lacks guidelines and procedures by which the planning department and other city staff will give community residents and other stakeholders an interactive role throughout the review and decision-making process,

NEWRA said in its letter.

The group feels the plan appears to push established neighborhoods and other civic organizations aside for what the draft plan calls "new leadership" under the control of the City and Planning Department.

NEWRA notes the need for early public notification and public input on initial project concept proposals and a greater level, of opportunities for, and responsive-

ness to community engagement.

They also suggested a clear system for documenting key questions and concerns raised in public comments and responding to public input with appropriate project changes.

NEWRA expressed many points of concerns in the rest of the letter, especially community input into process and decision-making.



Richard LaRoche, *Old Westford Road*.

For art lovers, summer is just around the corner

Special to the Regional Review

Looking for a cure for the winter blahs? If you like art, February could be your lucky month.

Most art galleries display works by a handful of notable artists, allowing viewers and browsers, if they're so inclined, to home in on a desirable painting. But at some galleries a curious art lover encounters an embarrassment of riches. The Signature Members Show by the New England Watercolor Society, now at the elegant Guild of Boston Artists gallery on Newbury Street, offers paintings by 75 noted artists, all of whom have had work repeatedly judged to be exceptional.

Distinguished though they may be, the artists clearly vary widely in their technique and choice of subject matter. Some celebrate color, painting tulips, tangerines, or turtles with a vibrancy and panache that gladdens the heart. Others use a more muted palette but pay careful attention to form and composition, producing work – a courtyard, a pantry, or the weathered side of a house – with a calm and deeply satisfying balance. A few pull off both feats at once: viewers will be arrested by a soft-toned amber and russet fall landscape framing a startling bright barn as red as a stoplight.

All these paintings are for sale at affordable prices. Kristin Stashenko, chair of this year's show, voiced the enthusiasm of her colleagues: "In viewing the paintings in this show I was struck by the interesting perspective and the vastly different points of view that artists

chose to explore in their paintings. The first word that comes to mind is diversity – of media, technique, and painting surface. This show encompasses the finest watercolors in New England and offers a window into the creative process of art. It is a show you should not miss!"

This year's exhibition juror, who chose the paintings for the Society's prestigious awards, is Jean-François Arnaud, born in Toulouse, in the south of France. For him, painting "is about capturing the atmosphere, the play of light, and the large shapes that evoke a scene." That aesthetic is evidently shared by most of the painters represented in this show. The exhibition runs until March 2, with a reception and awards presentation February 8. As part of the Society's commitment to education, award-winning member artists will

give free painting demonstrations on weekends.

The society, which traces its history to 1885 and numbers such figures as John Singer Sargent, Childe Hassam, Andrew Wyeth, and Ruth Wynn among its past luminaries, today claims nearly 150 signature members and an overall membership of over 400.

New England Watercolor Society Signature Members Show, Guild of Boston Artists, 162 Newbury Street, Boston, February 4 to March 2, 2025, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm, Sundays 12–4 pm. Closed Mondays. Reception and awards Saturday, February 8, 2–4 pm. Painting demonstrations Sundays 2–4 pm February 16 (Robert O'Brien), February 23 (Dylan McKnight), and March 2 (Carolyn Latanision).

www.newenglandwatercolorociety.org.



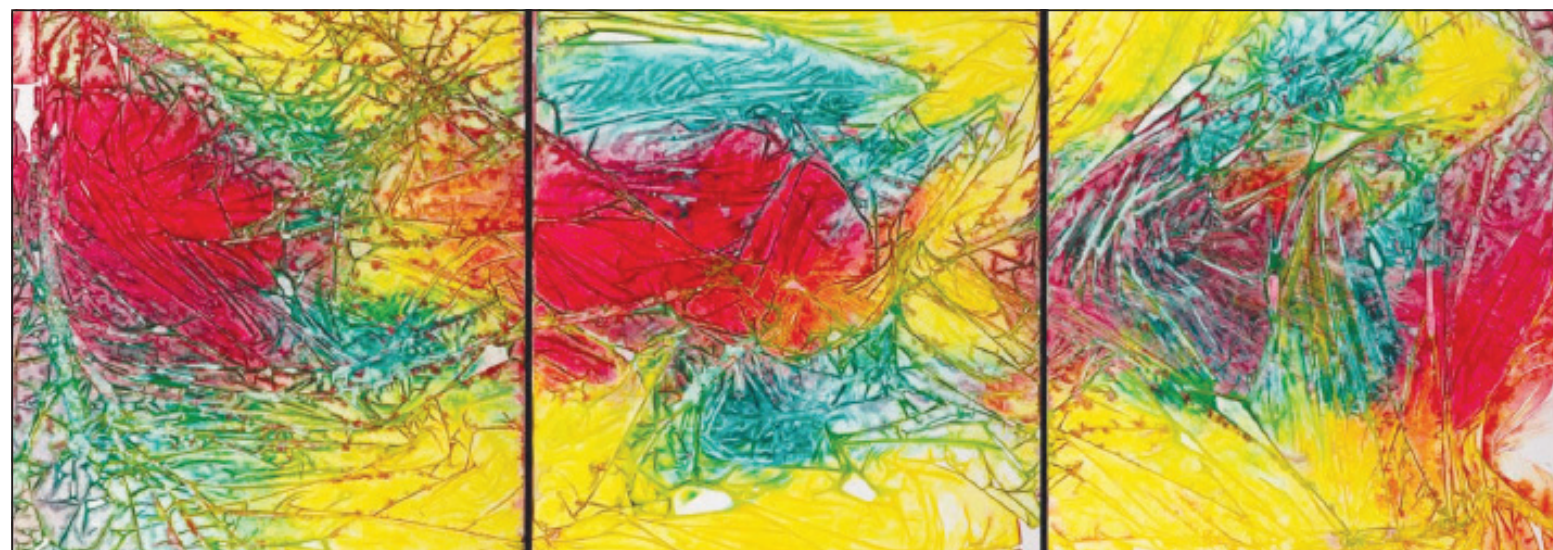
Ann Hart, *Crazy for Tulips*.



Carol Latanision, *In the Pantry, Olson House*.



Alonzo Clarke, *Centaur*.



James Varnum, *CORE Triptych*.

Wu announces City Hall as the newest historic landmark in Boston

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Landmarks Commission announced the official designation of Boston City Hall as a local Landmark. The designation recognizes Boston City Hall's architectural, cultural, and civic significance, ensuring the preservation of its unique character and historical identity for future generations.

"For more than five decades, Boston City Hall has served as a hub where residents come together to shape our city's future, and has become a symbol of our city's resilience, innovation, and commitment to our constituents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we officially designate Boston City Hall a Landmark, we honor its deep historical and cultural significance. This milestone serves as an affirmation of our commitment to preserving this space as a vital symbol of our democracy and a center for civic engagement. Our administration is proud to help the building evolve into a space that is accessible to the community while maintaining its historic character."

Completed in 1968 in the former Scollay Square neighborhood, which was demolished as part of urban renewal of the mid-twentieth century, Boston City Hall stands as an iconic example of Brutalist architecture. The building was designed by Kallmann McKinnell and Knowles in response to a Boston Redevelopment Authority architectural competition in 1961. The building was conceived as a symbol of democratic governance and accessibility, fostering transparency and civic engagement. Its bold design marked a departure from Boston's traditional architectural vernacular of brick and brownstone, redefining the city's architectural identity and the nature of public space.

"As Chair of Planning, Development, and Transportation, I am proud to celebrate the designation of Boston City Hall as a Boston Landmark," said City Councilor Sharon Durkan. "Since 1968, this building has stood as a bold architectural statement and a living symbol of transparency, innovation, and civic identity. This milestone honors not just its iconic design but the community it serves while challenging us to preserve its legacy and reimagine its role for future generations. I extend my gratitude to Commissioner Eamon Shelton, Commissioner Kristen McCosh, and the teams whose stewardship and advocacy have ensured this designation reflects both our history and our commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Boston City Hall is more than a

building—it's a catalyst for civic engagement and a home for those who serve our great city."

Boston City Hall's significance extends beyond its striking design, reflecting broader trends in 20th-century urban planning. It introduced principles of integrated civic and public space that have influenced urban design across the United States. As both a product of Boston's urban renewal era and a focal point for public gatherings and civic dialogue, the building has become a lasting cultural and civic symbol.

Boston Landmark designation follows the completion of a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in 2021, funded by the Getty Foundation. The CMP provides a roadmap for maintaining and managing the building while addressing functional updates needed to ensure its continued use. Landmark designation aligns with the CMP's recommendations to protect the building's architectural integrity while guiding future changes. The designation also includes commitments to enhancing accessibility measures within the building, ensuring that it remains inclusive and welcoming for all members of the public.

"This landmark designation affirms Boston City Hall's place as a cornerstone of our city's architectural and civic heritage," said Kathy Kottaridis, Director of the Office of Historic Preservation. "This decision ensures that the building will continue to inspire and serve future generations while adapting to meet the needs of a modern, vibrant Boston."

While Boston City Hall has faced criticism and calls for demolition in the past, it has also inspired a dedicated community of advocates who recognize its architectural and cultural value. Landmark designation ensures that any proposed changes to key features of the building will undergo review by the Boston Landmarks Commission to maintain its integrity.

"I am grateful that City Hall is being celebrated and protected for its architectural, cultural, and historical significance," remarked



Boston City Hall.

Eamon Shelton, Commissioner of Property Management. "Of course it is not a perfect building, so I am thankful that the Study Report, which serves as a roadmap for future decisions, both acknowledges the significant architectural features and memorializes the ongoing projects and necessary future changes. Only through growth and thoughtful adaptation can the 'People's Building' be fully accessible and inclusive for all, now and into the future."

"I appreciate that this landmark designation will not prevent necessary upgrades to improve access for people with disabilities. City Hall was constructed with architectural barriers that would not be present if it were built today, so accessibility upgrades will remain a key priority moving forward," said Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh.

An upcoming historic preservation conference will take place in Boston, providing a timely opportunity to celebrate the Landmark designation of Boston City Hall. Organized by the Historic Preservation Education Foundation and the Boston Architectural College, the Preserving the Recent Past 4 conference will take place from March 19-22, 2025, with a focus on the challenges and opportunities of preserving postwar architecture. The opening reception for the conference will be held at Boston City Hall.

Throughout Mayor Wu's first term in office, the City has designated 25 landmarks in Boston in addition to the Highland Park District, more than twice the number of historic designations that occurred in the decade prior. There are over 8,000 properties designated as individual Landmarks or located within Boston's local historic districts. Any 10 registered Boston voters can petition the Boston Landmarks Commission to designate a historic neighborhood, building, landscape, or object as a protected Boston

Landmark or District. Local historic districts carry the ability to regulate change in historic neighborhoods, unlike National Register districts, which advocate for their protection. Residents can learn more about designating a landmark in Boston by emailing BLC@boston.gov. The Office of Historic Preservation, established in 2022, continues to support the preservation of the city's historic assets as part of Boston's commitment to carbon neutrality, sustainability, and inclusivity.

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Uber Eats DOORDASH GRUBHUB

MEP raise awareness campaign for new boater education law

Special to the Regional Review

In an effort to boost boating safety and responsibility, the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) is informing the public about the Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, which was recently signed into law by Governor Maura Healey. This law, set to take effect on April 1, 2026, introduces a mandatory boater education program for all motorized vessel operators. The new program aligns Massachusetts' boating regulations with federal U.S. Coast Guard safety standards and aims to ensure that every boater is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely navigate the state's waterways. MEP is now working to raise awareness and provide resources to help boaters prepare for the changes ahead.

"Boating is an important part of life in Massachusetts, and this new law ensures that everyone on the water is properly prepared," said Interim MEP Colonel Chris

Mason. "Whether you're an experienced boater or just starting out, the knowledge gained from this course will help keep you, your passengers, and our waterways safe. Our goal is simple—make boating safer for everyone."

"I am so proud to see the Hanson-Milone Act finally become law. Massachusetts is home to some of the most beautiful waterways in the world, but too often, a day of fun on the water ends in tragedy because someone operates a boat without proper safety training," said State Representative Kathy LaNatra (D-Kingston). "This legislation establishes a straightforward program to make sure anyone operating a boat in the Commonwealth has the necessary safety knowledge to keep themselves and others safe. I want to thank Governor Healey for her signature, as well as Speaker Mariano, Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Straus and my Senate colleagues for their support

of this legislation. Most importantly, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Hanson and Milone families for their relentless dedication and advocacy for this life-saving legislation."

What Does This Mean for Boaters?

Starting April 1, 2026, anyone wishing to operate a motorized vessel in Massachusetts will be required to complete an approved boating safety education course.

The goal is to ensure that every boater has the skills and knowledge needed to operate their vessel safely, reducing accidents and ensuring a more enjoyable experience for all. The education program will cover important topics such as:

- **Navigation Rules:** Understand how to safely maneuver on the water and avoid collisions.
- **Emergency Procedures:** Learn what to do in case of an emergency to protect yourself and your

passengers.

- **Environmental Protections:** Gain awareness of practices that protect Massachusetts' treasured natural resources.

Who Needs to Enroll?

- If you were born after January 1, 1989, you must complete the course by April 1, 2026, with no penalties assessed until September 1, 2026.

- If you were born on or before January 1, 1989, you'll have until April 1, 2028, to complete the course.

The program will be available through a variety of convenient platforms, including online courses, in-person classes, and partnerships with local organizations.

Why This Is Great for Boaters

This new law not only enhances safety, but it also empowers boaters with the knowledge they need to navigate Massachusetts' vast and beautiful waterways with

confidence.

With thousands of miles of coastline and numerous lakes and rivers, Massachusetts is a haven for boating enthusiasts.

Simplified Access to Education

MEP will manage the implementation of the new law and ensure boaters have easy access to education. Proof of education will be required while boating on Massachusetts waters, so getting your certificate is simple and convenient.

To get started, boaters can visit the official Massachusetts Boater Education website at www.mass.gov/how-to/boat-safety-certificate-course

For additional information on the new law, including frequently asked questions and course details, please visit the Massachusetts Environmental Police website www.mass.gov/OLE or contact the Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau at (508) 564-4961.

A WHOLE LOTTA LOVE + STUFF

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Healey signs cat declaw ban into law

Special to the Regional Review

On January 9, Governor Maura Healey signed An Act Prohibiting Inhumane Feline Declawing (S.2552) into law. The law bans cat declawing in Massachusetts, except in rare situations of medical necessity, such as a cancer in the nail bed or other conditions that jeopardize the cat's health. Cat declawing is an invasive surgical operation that is akin to amputating the last knuckle of a human finger. Declawing can cause lifelong medical issues for cats, including permanent disability, nerve damage, chronic back pain, and lameness.

"This law will protect countless cats in the Commonwealth from a painful and unnecessary surgical procedure that is typically performed for human convenience rather than the cat's well-being," said Animal Legal Defense Fund Senior Legislative Affairs Manager Stephanie Harris. "Massachusetts joins other states that have effective declaw bans, alongside the many local laws that have been passed in cities of all sizes. We hope to build on this momentum in 2025 as we continue to advocate for cat declaw bills nationwide, including in neighboring Rhode Island."

"As a leader in animal protection, Rhode Island should follow the precedent already set in our state and ban cruel and unnecessary cat declawing. Our humane state already prohibits landlords from requiring tenants' cats to be declawed, and passing this bill is the next logical step," said Rep.

William O'Brien (D-Dist. 54). "It's time for Rhode Island to join Massachusetts, New York, and Maryland in protecting cats from this unnecessary cruelty."

"Declawing is an abhorrent practice that most veterinarians view as inhumane, but it is also a procedure that is widely misunderstood and requested by owners," said Sen. Mark Montigny (D-Second Bristol and Plymouth). "By passing this law, veterinarians will no longer have to weigh the choice knowing that if they don't provide the procedure an owner is likely to just look for someone who will. This is another step in my commitment to protect animals in the Commonwealth."

"Cats' claws are integral to their natural behaviors, including stretching and playing," said Senate bill sponsor Sen. Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24). "Declawing is an amputation surgery with serious and often life-long consequences. Declawed cats often become fear biters and carpet wetters, putting them at greater risk for surrender or abandonment; many suffer from crippling arthritis in old age. Declawing has no place in our society. I appreciate my colleagues' support for the Declaw Bill in 2025."

The declaw bill passed on the last day of the two-year legislative session, capping off a successful session for animals in Massachusetts that included the passage of laws protecting wild animals used in circuses, dogs entrusted to day-care or boarding facilities, puppies and kittens too young to be

separated from their mothers, as well as human and animal victims trapped in violent situations using coercive control.

Declawing can cause many adverse behavioral effects in cats because it removes their ability to use their claws to scratch, stretch, and mark territory. Issues with litterbox use and inappropriate marking are common in declawed cats, and some declawed cats resort to biting — which can lead to infection in humans — to defend themselves because they no longer can with their claws. All of these behavioral issues can make it more likely for cats to be surrendered to shelters. There are many humane alternatives to control scratching behavior, including regular nail trims, scratching posts, and behavioral training.

In June 2024, the Animal Legal Defense Legislative Fund released poll results revealing 70 percent of veterinary professionals oppose cat declawing. The poll also found that half of the veterinarians interviewed reported that their practice does not perform any declawing procedures due to policy or no veterinarians willing to perform the procedure.

Besides Massachusetts, currently New York and Maryland have banned the procedure, as well as jurisdictions including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Madison, West Hollywood, Austin, Denver, Beverly Hills, Berkeley, and Washington, D.C. Virginia has also banned the procedure with limited exemptions.

National Grid encourages customers to take advantage of energy programs that can help manage energy bills

In preparation for colder temperatures, National Grid encourages its Massachusetts customers to take advantage of energy programs that can help manage their energy bills and keep their homes comfortable.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), commonly referred to as Fuel Assistance, provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills. Enrollment for LIHEAP is free and open through April 30, 2025.

LIHEAP is open to homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in rent. Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member 18 or older. Household income cannot exceed 60% of the estimated state median income. The program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat, which includes, but is not limited to, electricity, oil, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood, and coal.

“National Grid recognizes that energy bills can be a real challenge for many customers – especially in the colder winter months,” said Bill Malee, Chief Customer Officer at National Grid. “The LIHEAP program can provide much-needed assistance for customers struggling to keep up with their energy costs and helps cover energy usage dating back to November 1, 2024. We also encourage customers to visit us at one of our Customer Assistance Events, where attendees

can meet with National Grid assistance program experts in person and explore options to manage their energy bills and ways to save money.”

To apply for LIHEAP:

- Apply online at <https://www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP>

- Visit and apply at an agency in your area.

For more information concerning LIHEAP:

- Visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap>.

- Customers may also call the Cold Relief Heatline at (800) 632-8175.

LIHEAP is funded by an annual federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, and administered by a network of local agencies, in many areas the same agency that administers the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP or fuel assistance).

“Thousands of families across Massachusetts depend on LIHEAP assistance to keep their homes warm during the winter,” said U.S. Representative Lori Trahan of Massachusetts. “That’s why I’ve always encouraged anyone in need of help to check their eligibility, connect with their local community action agency or National Grid, and apply for home heating assistance as soon as possible.”

Along with LIHEAP, National Grid customers have access to several programs designed to help reduce energy use and lower energy costs, manage their energy bills and payments, and help them secure available energy assistance.

Programs include but are not limited to:

- Discount Rates where qualifying income-eligible customers may receive a discounted rate on electric and gas service, as well as no-cost energy efficiency upgrades.

- The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to income eligible Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month’s energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.

- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months. HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by

paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies.

- Customers may enroll in programs such as the Budget Billing Plan, which spreads monthly payments out more evenly throughout the year to offset periods of high energy usage.

- Through a No-Cost Home Energy Assessment, National Grid sets customers up with an energy specialist who will walk through the home, create a customized energy report, and provide no-cost energy-saving products, such as advanced power strips, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and programmable thermostats for installation in a home. Interested Massachusetts customers can call 1-866-527-SAVE (7283). More information is available at: ngrid.com/assessment.

Customers are encouraged to visit ngrid.com/heretohelp to explore assistance options and learn more.

National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on building a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy future — transforming our networks with more reliable and resilient energy solutions to meet state climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information, please visit our website, follow us on X (formerly Twitter), watch us on YouTube, like us on Facebook and find us on Instagram.

Federal funds to help mitigate Blue Line flooding

Special to the Regional Review

Massachusetts has secured more than \$9.9 million in federal funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. The funding, administered by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), will support the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in preventing flooding impacts, strengthening the administration’s efforts to mitigate climate change effects, and build a more climate resilient transit system.

“Protecting our infrastructure and implementing new and innovative ways to mitigate and respond to the ever-changing effects of climate change is crucial to providing safe, and reliable public transportation,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We know that Blue Line riders have had to endure frequent flooding for years, and these funds will help put a stop to those service disruptions. We’re grateful to FEMA for recognizing the significance of this work and congratulate MEMA and the MBTA for their efforts to secure this funding.”

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll said these infrastructure upgrades will improve flood resilience and help prevent water leaks and corrosion to protect this route for years to come.

The project will fund a series of improvements to the Blue Line Tunnel portal, which connects the tunnel to the airport, to protect the transit line from flooding impacts.

Much of the MBTA’s Blue Line is below sea level and at increas-

ing risk of coastal and stormwater flooding. Portals like the Airport Tunnel Portal are large entry points for flood waters, which can then damage the Blue Line and connecting subway tunnel systems and disrupt service while repairs are made. The Blue Line Tunnel runs underneath the Boston Harbor from East Boston to downtown, carrying thousands of passengers each day and serving communities in the East Boston area.

Specifically, the project will include the installation of flood doors that will close off the two tunnel portal openings during a flood event. Work will include updates on the track, traction power, signal and pump rooms to accommodate the new flood doors. The project proposal accounts for increased flooding events related to climate change and is designed to provide protection against impacts as far out as 2070.

“The Healey-Driscoll administration has been proactive in taking steps to address the challenges of climate change, and this federal funding will position the Blue Line to withstand some of the worst weather that leads to flooding in the corridor area,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. “Our vision for the MBTA is to build infrastructure that supports reliable and resilient service, and this grant will help us protect assets, safeguard the fleet, and keep service running for customers.”

The funding will not only help us protect the Blue Line Tunnel, a vital corridor connecting East Boston to downtown and Logan

Airport, but it will also strengthen long-term efforts to create a safer, more sustainable transit network, said General Manager Phillip Eng.

“As the state agency charged with administering BRIC grants, MEMA recognizes the importance of utilizing these funds to help cities, towns and the state mitigate risks to community lifelines such as transportation,” said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley. “The technical assistance and guidance that MEMA’s Mitigation Unit provides for these grant applications has been instrumental in successfully moving these grant projects forward in a nationally-competitive selection process. The team managed more than \$300 million in hazard mitigation grant projects during 2024, which represents a single-year record for the agency.”

As detailed in the state’s hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plan, ResilientMass, the MBTA has completed climate change vulnerability assessments and flood screening reports of its entire operations to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities to natural disasters and take measures to increase resilience. This project advances implementation of one of MBTA’s priority actions in the ResilientMass Plan, the Tunnel Flood Mitigation program.

The cost for construction of the Blue Line Tunnel project is estimated at \$13.4 million. The BRIC grant will cover approximately 75% and the state will contribute \$3.3 million. The total project cost is \$20.7 million. The project has also received a \$1 million grant for design through EEA’s Resilient-Mass Implementation Funding.

Ferguson appointment First Assistant U.S. Attorney

Special to the Regional Review

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley has announced that Katherine Ferguson has been appointed to serve as First Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Ms. Ferguson, a career prosecutor, has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for more than a decade.

“Ms. Ferguson’s leadership, dedication, and prosecutorial excellence have earned her widespread respect within our office and beyond,” said U.S. Attorney Foley. “Her deep understanding of federal law enforcement and her commitment to upholding the rule of law make her an invaluable asset. I am confident that she will bring the same integrity and vision to her new role as First Assistant U.S. Attorney as she has through-

out her career.”

Ms. Ferguson has served as Deputy Chief of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit for the U.S. Attorney’s Office since 2017 and Lead Task Force Attorney for the District’s Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force since 2021. As Deputy Chief of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit, Ms. Ferguson was responsible for overseeing federal narcotics and money laundering investigations and prosecutions. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney for 15 years, she has extensive experience working collaboratively with other federal, state and local partners to dismantle multi-jurisdictional and international drug trafficking and money laundering organizations.

(FOLEY Pg. 13)

FRIENDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK PLAN A YEAR FULL OF EVENTS



TUNNEL OF LOVE

This year marks the 8th year that the trellis has been transformed into the Tunnel of Love to warm up cold winter nights! Created by FOCCP Art Curator Robyn Reed with the help of volunteer members, the Tunnel of Love begins on February 1 with festive lights and romantic music.

Be sure to stop by and see the addition of two new ten-foot-tall illuminated hearts and more romantic photo ops!

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park is thrilled to bring a host of activities and events to the park in 2025! Thank you for your support that makes these events possible and gathers our community together. Be sure to mark your calendar!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL AT TIA'S IN MAY

You won't want to miss our yearly Membership Social where members, prospective members, sponsors, and volunteers come together for a fun night at Tia's!



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 28, The annual Independence Day celebration in the park has become a summer tradition! We kick off the event with a parade through the park followed by numerous activities to keep little ones busy. Don't miss this magical day! More details to come.

Date and details to come. We look forward to seeing you there!

FALL FESTIVAL:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Our Fall Festival is another long-honored tradition that brings families and neighbors together to get into the fall spirit! You'll enjoy fall arts and crafts, pumpkins, and fun activities. Costumes encouraged! Stay tuned for more details.

GUEST SPEAKER CIARA D'AMICO

Tuesday, February 11 • 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mariners House, 11 North Square

We're honored to have Ciara D'Amico, our Neighborhood Services Liaison, join us for our first meeting of 2025. For the past three years,



Ciara has been the "go to" person for residents who've needed help solving problems in their neighborhood.

"I hear from residents about a wide range of issues, from ongoing rodent problems to street and sidewalk safety, bike lanes, and much more," Ciara said. "I've loved every aspect of this job, but one thing I didn't anticipate was being on 'Emergency Coverage' from time to time. This means that when emergencies occur, such as a fire, gas leak, or any other incident that may displace residents, we step in as liaisons on behalf of the City to ensure those displaced are provided housing for the night. We work closely with the fire department and affected residents to gather their information and ensure they can return home safely when the situation permits."

Ciara is also the City's liaison for both the West End and the Wharf District.

Join us on February 11 to welcome Ciara, share your concerns and suggestions, and learn what's planned for our neighborhood.

Ciara is a third generation North End resident. She attended Eliot School and Boston Latin Academy. She received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Communications with a minor in Social Work from Saint Anselm College.

2025 MEETINGS

Please Join Us for Our Quarterly Meetings!

FOCCP meetings are open to the public. They're a great opportunity to learn about upcoming events, find out how to get involved, and meet up with friends, old and new.

2025 Meeting Dates - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11
Tuesday, May 13
Tuesday, August 12
Tuesday, November 11

Location
Mariners House

11 North Square, just steps away from the Paul Revere House Meetings will be on the 2nd floor (there is an elevator)

LITTLE LIBRARY COMING TO THE PARK

This Spring, there will be more than just flowers in Columbus Park! We're in the process of creating our very own Free Little Library.



Take a book, share a book.

According to LittleFreeLibrary.org, 98% of people say their neighborhood feels like a friendlier place because of a Little Free Library.

Stay tuned for details and a fun unveiling event!



PHOTO-OP FROSTY

Our second-annual Photo-Op Frosty on New Year's Eve was a fan favorite! Long lines were seen filled with adults and children, waiting to take their photo with Frosty. The ice sculpture is part of the annual Harborwalk Ice Sculpture Stroll that is organized by Boston Harbor Now.

NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through February 15 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- West sidewalk concrete placements
- Marine fender pile sand fill
- Lovejoy walkway pile cap formwork, concrete placements

Work Hours

- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe

work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and

manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- Celtics: February 6 at 7:30 p.m. and 2/12 at 7 p.m.
- Other events: February 10 at 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., February 13 at 7 p.m., and February 14 at 8 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed

by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: [Mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement](https://mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement)

Project email: NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us

Mass. leaders launch first EV catering truck in North America to serve Logan Airport

Special to the Regional Review

Cargo Ventures, a developer and property manager of state-of-the-art logistics facilities in key transportation markets, hosted the launch of the first electric catering truck in North America specifically designed for the aviation industry.

The launch is the result of a collaboration between Mallaghan, a leading manufacturer of Ground Support Equipment (GSE) for the aviation industry and International Motors, LLC (International), a global leader in the commercial transportation industry. The electric vehicle (EV) will be operated by DO & CO, an international catering business and will support Delta Air Lines' Onboard Dining services, operating out of Cargo Venture's Logan Cargo Park on McClellan Highway in East Boston.

The launch featured remarks from: Governor Maura Healey; Massport CEO Rich Davey; Ash Dhokte, VP Onboard Services, Delta Air Lines; Ronan Mallaghan, CEO, Mallaghan; and Debbie Shust, VP, Customer Insights and Experience, International. Additional guests included State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Representative Adrian Madaro, and Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta-Zapata.

"We made a significant investment in our property specifically to support electrification of industrial vehicles," said Jake Citrin, CEO of Cargo Ventures. "We're thrilled to have partners, from Massport to DO&CO and of course Mallaghan and International, who are committed to increasing sustainability in airport and airline support services. We couldn't be prouder that this first-of-its-kind EV will be based on our property."

"We're proud to host the first EV catering truck in North America here in Massachusetts and continue our leadership in building a clean energy economy," said Governor Healey. "This will also deliver immediate benefits for our



Massport Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs Alaina Travaglini Coppola and Pat Capogreco.

residents, including cleaner air across East Boston. We congratulate Delta and Cargo Ventures on this major accomplishment."

"Massport is excited to welcome the first EV catering truck at Boston Logan, marking another step forward in our commitment to environmental stewardship and aligning with our overarching Net Zero goals," said Massport CEO Rich Davey. "We are grateful for the partnerships that made this possible and look forward to seeing more of these innovative EVs in the future."

The collaboration between Mallaghan and International has been a years-long effort in which each partner contributed its deep expertise resulting in this vehicle, which will serve as a model for continued production.

Combining technical expertise with a deep understanding of customer requirements, Mallaghan designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of specialist products, including hi-lifts, aircraft maintenance, stairs, and deicers, tailored to the needs of our international partners. Headquartered in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, and with a manufacturing facility in Newnan, Georgia, Mallaghan employs a team of more than 400 people.

Ronan Mallaghan, CEO of



A photo of the new full electric catering truck, the first of its kind in North America.

Mallaghan, shared: "At Mallaghan, our goal is to continuously push the boundaries of innovation, providing our customers with cutting-edge, sustainable solutions that reduce environmental impact. As the industry evolves, we remain dedicated to meeting the growing demand for eco-friendly equipment and look forward to continuing to work with our partners to deliver market-leading products."

Based in Lisle, Illinois, International Motors, LLC* creates solutions that deliver greater uptime and productivity to our customers throughout the full operation of our commercial vehicles. We build International® trucks and engines and IC Bus® school and commercial buses that are as tough and as smart as the people who drive them. We also develop Fleetrite® aftermarket parts. In everything we do, our vision is to accelerate the impact of sustainable mobility to create the cleaner, safer world we all deserve. As of 2021, we joined Scania, MAN and Volkswagen Truck & Bus in TRATON GROUP, a global champion of the truck and transport services indus-

try. To learn more, visit www.international.com.

"At International, our customers are at the heart of everything we do," said Debbie Shust, VP, Customer Insights and Experience. "We are committed to delivering solutions that help our customers achieve their goals, both operationally and environmentally. This electric catering truck

is a perfect example of that commitment. Our shared vision led us to collaborate with Mallaghan to develop and deploy a zero emissions solution that not only meets their operational needs but also continues to accelerate the impact of sustainability. We are proud to have been a part of this project and look forward to working on many more together."

FOLEY (from Page 11)

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Ferguson served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. There, she handled over 600 cases in Boston Municipal Court from arraignment to disposition and oversaw the prosecution of child abuse and narcotics offenses in Superior

Court. From 2006-2007, Ms. Ferguson served as a law clerk for the Honorable Sandra L. Lynch with the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Ferguson graduated from Princeton University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics with Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa. While at Princeton, Ms. Ferguson earned

Certificates in Political Economy and French Language & Culture. She also received a Masters in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government and graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was an Executive Editor for the Harvard Law Review.

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<p>Frank and Nick's The Italian Experience 857-770-3483</p>	<p>Encore BOSTON HARBOR 1 Broadway, Everett</p> <p>Fratelli Italian Fine Dining 617-420-8833</p>	<p>Giardino Breakfast & Lunch 857-770-3360</p>

Wu announces more than \$64 million in Affordable Housing funding awards

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced \$64.2 million in new, recommended funding from the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT) to create and preserve income-restricted units of housing in eight Boston neighborhoods. This ambitious portfolio of projects consists of 12 projects with a total of 637 units of mixed-income housing that includes both rental and homeownership units for families, housing for older adults and housing for those experiencing homelessness. These proposed projects meet the Mayor's Office of Housing standards for zero-emissions buildings and represent transit-oriented, green development. This announcement was made today at the Harvard Ed Portal in Allston, with city leadership, local elected officials, affordable housing developers, and community organizations.

"Collaborating closely with communities across neighborhoods, we're urgently working to create and preserve more than 600 income-restricted housing units across the city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These housing awards will strengthen our communities, enhance affordability, and continue making progress for Boston as a home for everyone. I'm grateful to the Neighborhood Housing Trust and the Community Preservation Committee for their continued partnership as we continue our efforts to address affordability across Boston's neighborhoods."

These awards have been funded by federal programs such as HOME Investment Partnership and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), as well as local programs like Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) funds, Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, and Linkage contributions from large commercial developments. These projects will advance City goals to affirmatively further fair housing, and will efficiently utilize City resources and land to increase the supply of housing available to residents across Boston neighborhoods.

"This funding represents another important step in making Boston a city where everyone can find a place to call home," said Chief of Housing Sheila A. Dillon. "By supporting these 12 developments, we are not just creating housing—we are strengthening neighborhoods, preventing displacement, and ensuring that residents have the stability they need to thrive. These funds build on the historic investments in housing made by the Wu



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJA

Shown are some of the local officials who participated in the Affordable Housing funding awards.

administration over the last three years, reflecting our continued commitment to addressing Boston's housing challenges head-on."

Proposals for these funding awards were evaluated by the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT), and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The funding award recommendations stem from a review process following a Request for Proposals issued by MOH in the fall of 2024. Each proposal was evaluated by teams of senior leadership, underwriters, and architects using criteria such as financial feasibility, team capacity, community support, design quality, and alignment with market needs. Of the 21 projects submitted, 12 were selected to receive funding. MOH will work with the remaining project teams to strengthen their proposals for future funding opportunities.

"The Community Preservation Committee acknowledges the crucial role that affordable housing plays in the lives of our residents and is steadfast in its dedication to building more inclusive and resilient communities," said Thadine Brown, Director of the Community Preservation Act Office. "Through the Community Preservation Fund, we are proud to support the creation of new affordable housing units in Boston. These proposed projects not only offer homeownership and rental opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents but also help prevent the displacement of long-term residents, providing them with a sense of security, stability, and improved health outcomes."

"As Boston grows, ensuring access to affordable housing is vital to maintaining Boston's diverse neighborhoods," said Catherine

Hardaway, chair of the Neighborhood Housing Trust. "Affordable housing isn't just about providing homes, it's about fostering stable neighborhoods and driving economic development. The Neighborhood Housing Trust remains committed to partnering with developers, community organizations, and residents to champion innovative, sustainable housing solutions. I want to thank my colleagues who serve on the Neighborhood Housing Trust for their commitment to affordable housing in Boston. Together, we can create resilient neighborhoods where every Bostonian has the opportunity to thrive."

"The Neighborhood Housing Trust and Community Preservation Fund are valuable tools we have to continue to support affordable housing development in the City," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "I am happy that the various large scale development projects which went through our development review process and paid into Linkage were able to support the NHT in making this round of funding possible."

"We are honored to be a recipient of this year's City of Boston's affordable housing funding awards, which strengthens our mission to deliver inclusive and accessible housing solutions in Allston Brighton. The Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation is proud to support Mayor Michelle Wu's vision of creating more equitable sustainable housing for all," said John Woods, Executive Director of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation. "We deeply appreciate the support and dedication of our Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Neighborhood Housing Trust, the

Community Preservation Committee, the North Allston residents, Councilor Liz Breadon, and Harvard University for helping us create new sustainable inclusive housing in our city."

All the new construction projects funded in this round will be required to follow the Zero Emissions Building (ZEB) requirements outlined in the MOH Design Standards. New developments will use electricity and on-site solar panels as their sole fuel source.

Chinatown/South End

- 50 Herald Street, a project led by Beacon Communities Services LLC and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, will create 117 affordable rental units, including 22 Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) off-site units. All units will be affordable between 30-60% of AMI. The project will also include a sizable ground-floor retail space capable of locating an Asian market.

Fenway

- 112 Queensberry, developed by the Fenway Community Development Corporation, will transform this under-utilized urban infill site into a six-story building with 24 units of affordable transit-oriented rental housing. These units will serve individuals earning 30-60% of AMI.

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill

- Envision Hotel, located at 81 South Huntington Avenue, will be acquired and rehabilitated by Victory Programs. The hotel, currently operating as an emergency shelter, will transition into 41 deeply affordable permanent supportive housing units for individuals experiencing homelessness

Mission Hill

- ODJ Development LLC will build 48 affordable homeownership units serving households earning 80-100% of AMI on City-owned land. The development will include open space and urban farming opportunities.

This announcement of a \$64 million City investment to create and preserve 637 units of affordable housing continues the Wu Administration's historic investment in affordable housing production. The Wu administration, in its first three years, has created more affordable housing than at any other three-year period dating back to 1998. In addition to increasing the supply of affordable housing, the Mayor has worked urgently to unlock market-rate development through a new \$110 million Housing Accelerator Fund aimed at closing financing gaps for approved projects. Under her leadership, the City has launched zoning and programs aimed at fostering a wider variety of housing for all Bostonians, including accessory dwelling units, housing with public assets like libraries, office-to-residential conversions Downtown, and more mid-size multifamily housing in walkable and transit-oriented areas. Mayor Wu and her administration have also helped more families become homeowners than in any other three-year period since 1998 and adopted new policies and programs to reduce the cost of utility bills for homeowners. Mayor Wu continues to fight for residential tax relief legislation for Boston residents impacted by sharp increases in their Fiscal Year 2025 third-quarter property tax bills. This refiled tax proposal expands on Mayor Wu's relief package that passed the City Council and House of Representatives last year.

Boston Athenaeum's 'Visionary Projects' exhibition to showcase legendary Boston architectural illustrator Frank M. Costantino's work

Special to the Regional Review

The Boston Athenaeum has launched its newest exhibition, Frank M. Costantino: Visionary Projects, presenting the drawings of eminent Boston-based architectural illustrator Frank M. Costantino. Featuring graphite process sketches, watercolor illustrations, and finished colored pencil renderings of some of Boston's most iconic buildings, the exhibition reveals the evolution of human-centered design associated with Costantino's artistic approach across fifty years of architectural illustration.

On display at the Boston Athenaeum from February 3 – May 3, 2025, Visionary Projects will exhibit the creative process behind one of the world's most respected practitioners in the field of architectural illustration. Focused on Boston and New England projects, the exhibition showcases key landmarks such as the Hynes Convention Center, Esplanade 2020 Vision, the Old State House renovation, Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tangle-

wood, and Copley Place.

"Visionary Projects is the first solo exhibition to display Frank M. Costantino's masterful talents outside of the drafting studio. This exhibition reveals the process of architectural illustration, materializing a process that is often purposely hidden and celebrating the handmade quality of Costantino's work," said Lauren Graves, Assistant Curator at the Boston Athenaeum. "Frank is one of the last illustrators to do this work by hand, with most of the field now opting to digitally render designs. Visionary Projects displays his mastery of this art, celebrating Frank's unparalleled skill and highlighting the Athenaeum's dedication to Boston's artists and architects."

Based in the Boston area, Frank M. Costantino has collaborated with leading architectural, design, and development firms throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. Costantino's meticulous detail and vibrant depictions,

from preparatory sketches to finished renderings, reveal his collaborative process and vision of how a project promotes a more livable and sustainable Boston. Viewers will experience how Costantino's use of colors, shadows, and figures throughout his illustrative process situates his buildings within the context of the expanding city, reflecting their relationship to the future of Boston and its residents.

Visionary Projects was made possible through a gift of over 200 drawings by Costantino to the Boston Athenaeum in January 2024. The exhibition builds on themes of architecture and urban space central to other recent exhibitions at the Athenaeum, such as Revisiting the Ruins: The Great Boston Fire of 1872 and Developing Boston: Berenice Abbott & Irene Shwachman Photograph a Changing City; and demonstrates the Athenaeum's investment in both historical and contemporary art and culture, as well as the institution's commitment to highlight-

ing local artists and stories.

"We are honored to add Frank M. Costantino's work to the Athenaeum's collection of architectural materials. This exhibition is a testament to the ways in which his talents have shaped Boston's skyline," said Leah Rosovsky, Stanford Calderwood Director at the Boston Athenaeum. "As a library, museum, cultural institution, and historic landmark with a deep interest in Boston's architectural history, the Athenaeum is honored to showcase the work behind these projects and the talent and impact of Frank M. Costantino in particular."

Visionary Projects will be the crux of several exhibition-focused programs, including curator-led exhibition talks, lessons on perspective architectural drawing, tours for architectural college students, and author talks. On March 11, 2025, Costantino will join Athenaeum members and guests for a keynote lecture, "From Sketch to Skyline: Frank M. Costantino

Reflects on Fifty Years of Architectural Illustration in Boston." The event is open to the public, with tickets free for members and \$20 for nonmembers. More information will be available at bostonathenaeum.org/events.

Founded in 1807, the Boston Athenaeum is a unique combination of library, museum and cultural 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 significant works of art and extensive research holdings of rare books, manuscripts, maps, prints, and photographs.

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 bostonathenaeum.org.

LANDLORDS (from Page 1)

continues to displace our neighbors, force families out of their communities, and leave countless residents on the brink of homelessness. Adopting the "Good Landlord Tax Abatement" will allow the City of Boston to deliver more housing to renters at affordable rates by incentivizing landlords to provide truly affordable housing opportunities," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "I look forward to the discussion with my Council colleagues to provide both immediate relief and long-term opportunities for Boston's residents and property owners."

To qualify for the exemption, the property must be rented at an affordable rate set by the City of Boston per United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines, have a yearly lease, and be occupied year-round by households

earning no more than 200% of the area median income.

Coletta Zapata's ordinance comes as Boston's housing crisis continues to worsen, with many residents being pushed out of their neighborhoods due to rising rent costs and rental availability, though expanded in recent years, remaining limited. As of January 2025, Boston's average rent is \$3,393 per month, more than double the national average. Rising maintenance costs for small landlords frequently drive up rents, further limiting affordable housing options for residents.

"I am so excited to see Boston leading the way. I am particularly proud of Councilor Coletta's leadership. If passed we will be helping small property owners that are already doing the right thing. I hope more cities and towns will use this special power to keep rents

low and while helping landlords," said State Senator Lydia Edwards.

This docket was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means chaired by Councilor Brian Worrell (District 4). A hearing will be scheduled in the upcoming months and posted on the Councilor's social media channels. This proposal was co-sponsored by Councilors Brian Worrell (District 4) and At-Large Councilor Henry Santana.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Snip, snip...

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

As we enjoy more foods from other cultures, we adopt the techniques and utensils used to make or enjoy them. One of the latest trends is the adoption of scissors, which are used in Korean homes and restaurants.

Our Scissor Collection

We find scissors safer and more sensible for specific kitchen tasks. We keep four different types in the kitchen. The most used is a pair of inexpensive kitchen scissors that stay in our dish drainer. (We use them so often that we don't bother to put them away.) These cut open food packages, snip herbs or

scallions, and complete other jobs that require a way to separate and clean the blades after use.

We have heavy-duty poultry shears for jobs like spatchcocking chicken or cutting the fins, head, and tail off whole fish. Again, these come apart for cleaning but can cut through bones, so be careful!

Our Korean scissors, with their longer blades and serrated edges, are great for cooking. If you've enjoyed Korean barbecue, you may have seen them paired with tongs to turn and cut meat or whole kimchi into bite-size pieces. These scissors also make trimming excess fat off poultry and meat easier.

This set is also used for chopped salads and cutting leafy greens for sautéing or sandwiches.

Since we don't believe that cutting noodles is bad luck, we also use these to cut very long noodles to make them easier to eat.

We recently watched a video from a small taverna in Greece where the cook tossed a whole blanched octopus in a hot pan, cut it, and tossed it with scissors until he had perfectly grilled bite-size bits for service.

Finally, we have first responder trauma shears for the jobs where these shine. Designed to cut off clothes and bandages in emergencies, these can be sterilized or cleaned in your dishwasher.

We use these to cut through plastic containers and packaging. They are inexpensive and very good at cutting flatbreads or pizza. We keep an extra pair in our picnic kit.

Experiment with Scissors

You may find different uses for scissors than we have. If you don't have a set, we suggest you try something like our utility scissors first. How a tool feels in your hand is a significant factor in how much you like it, so be sure the pair you buy is comfortable. Consider how



We use four types of scissors in our kitchen. Top to bottom, they are Korean scissors, heavy-duty poultry shears, utility scissors, and first-responder trauma shears.

they would work for a big job, like separating two pounds of chicken wings into drumsticks and flats.

Your kitchen scissors should be extremely sharp and have easy-to-grip, non-slip handles. While you may not want blades as long as those in our Korean example, a longer blade can be helpful for some tasks.

Finally, ease of cleaning is vital to preventing cross-contamination and food-borne illnesses. We prefer sets with removable blades for cleaning or dishwasher-safe materials.

Some shears offer little extras like a screw cap or bottle opener built in. Some trauma shears have

a carabiner built into the handle and can hang from an apron.

Think about how and what type of meals you cook and choose the best option for your kitchen. You probably don't need heavy-duty poultry shears if you don't work with whole chickens or fish. If grilling and Korean food are not your thing, skip that pair. But we recommend a basic pair of kitchen scissors, and every home should have trauma shears for food or for other emergencies.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

Report SSOs

A Sanitary Sewer Overflow is an unintentional discharge of untreated sewage into the environment or onto property.



If you encounter a sewer overflow, call **BWSC 24 Hour Emergency Service Line 617-989-7000.**



 **Boston Water and Sewer Commission**

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www.bwsc.org

Winter Walk is an organization raising awareness and funds towards an end to homelessness

This year, Harvest on Vine Food Pantry, Charlestown invites all interested to join the HOV team of walkers from last year. The HOV group of walkers found this experience to be such a rewarding and inspiring event that they knew this was a yearly walk that they didn't want to ever miss. Participants will walk through the streets of Boston during the cold winter season, starting and ending on the Boston Common. At the end, both housed and unhoused participants, will share a meal together and hear true stories from those who have experienced homelessness.

The housing crisis persists. Massachusetts has reached a devastating milestone: a 74% increase in family homelessness from 2023 to 2024. This is not just a statistic—it is childhoods interrupted, dreams deferred, and futures at risk.

All profits, 100%, from Winter Walk go directly to organizations



Some of the walkers gather before starting on their walk.

working to end homelessness and to care for and support our homeless community.

If interested, and we hope you are, please register online, on the Winter Walk website, under the Harvest on Vine Food Pantry, Charlestown. We will meet at the open field at the corner of Beacon and Charles street that day.

Those unable to walk, are still encouraged to donate to this worthy cause.

Date: Sunday, February 9

Place: Boston Common at the corner of Beacon and Charles Street

Time: Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.-

Walk is 9-11 a.m.

Distance: 2 miles

If you have questions or would like ride, please call Donna LeCam (978-621.6829) or Peter LeCam (978-621-6829).