



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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WWW.NORTHENDREGIONALREVIEW.COM

Watch for our
Thanksgiving
issue on
Wednesday,
Nov. 26.

THE FRIENDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK HOST ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL



Courtesy Photos

Attendees don their Halloween beset during the annual Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) Fall Festival. See more photos on Pages 8 and 9.

NEW Health announces new cosmetic services

Special to the Regional Review

Licensed and certified dentists provide Botox and dermal filler treatments designed to refresh appearance and enhance natural beauty. With advanced training and an expert understanding of facial aesthetics, they bring both artistry and precision to every treatment for natural-looking results in a trusted health care environment.

NEW Health dentists, Dr.

Elodia Kore and Dr. Erika Omansky, are highly trained to deliver these cosmetic services with expertise and compassion.

Patients can soften fine lines and wrinkles in common areas such as the forehead, frown lines and crow's feet, revitalize tired features, or restore youthful volume and contour with these quick, non-surgical treatments, with little to no downtime.

"We tell patients that you can experience the perfect blend of

medical expertise and personalized care in a welcoming, professional setting you already know and trust at NEW Health," said Dr. Omansky. "We are excited to expand our offerings with these services that are highly in demand."

The services are open to all – those who are interested do not need to be primary care or dental care patients at NEW Health.

(NEW HEALTH Pg. 2)

Wu announces a one-year contract extension with the BPPA

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that a one-year contract extension has been ratified by the membership of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA), the

union representing the majority of Boston Police officers. This contract embodies further transparency and reform while also ensuring the wellbeing of officers, building on the landmark 2023 police reform contract. The ratifi-

cation vote took place on October 29, 2025. This is the second police reform contract reached between the City of Boston and the BPPA under the leadership of Mayor Wu.

(BPPA EXTENSION Pg. 4)

Coletta Zapata secures votes for Council President

Special to the Review

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata has secured enough support from her colleagues to claim the City Council presidency when the new term begins in January.

"I'm proud to have had the privilege of serving the residents of Boston for eight years with the City Council. I deeply believe in this institution and in the vital role we play in improving the lives of Bostonians every day," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "The strength of this Council lies in our ability to respect one another, even when we disagree, and to work together with purpose and integrity. When we lead with respect and unity, we model the kind of civic leadership our city deserves – and we get more done for the residents who count on us."



City Councilor
Gabriela Coletta Zapata

I'm honored to have earned the respect and support of my colleagues on the Council and I look forward to the work ahead."

Raised by community advocates in East Boston, Gabriela grew up attending civic association meetings, neighborhood events, and even multiple protests against airport runway expansion

(COLETTA-ZAPATA Pg. 10)

2025 VETERANS DAY PARADE



Mayor's Office Photo by Mike Mejia

The city held its annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 8, to honor the service and sacrifices of all who have served and those who continue to serve. This year's parade featured 40 veteran-supporting organizations from across the state and over 1,100 participants. See more photos on page 5.

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EDITORIAL

THE STARK MESSAGE OF A HOUSE OF DYNAMITE

More than 40 years ago, a made-for-TV movie, *The Day After*, shocked Americans of all ages. We were among the 100 million of our fellow Americans in nearly 39 million households (about 62% of the viewing public that night) who watched the film when it first aired on Sunday evening, November 20, 1983, on ABC.

The movie graphically portrayed the hypothetical aftermath of a full-scale nuclear war between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. Unlike so many post-nuclear war movies since then (which invariably depict sci-fi mutant zombies), *The Day After* was a straightforward, no-nonsense dramatization, as seen through the eyes of a family in Lawrence, Kansas (led by the great actor Jason Robards) of the devastating effects of an all-out nuclear exchange between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

The movie so traumatized Americans (and later the Soviet people, who were able watch it a couple of years later) that it is credited with jump-starting the nuclear disarmament talks between then-President Ronald Reagan and his Soviet counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev, a few years later that resulted in the agreement between the two countries to reduce their nuclear arsenals.

However, the world's political landscape has done a proverbial 180-turn over the past 40 years: Russian dictator Vladimir Putin has invaded Ukraine and has threatened to use nuclear weapons if the U.S. and Europe try to thwart his goals, and both Russia and China are developing hypersonic missiles that could reach the U.S. within a few minutes.

In addition, rogue states such as No. Korea and Iran have embarked on nuclear weapons programs that threaten their immediate neighbors.

The new Netflix movie, *A House of Dynamite*, dramatizes how the U.S. government would react to the detection of a potentially nuclear-armed missile that is predicted to strike Chicago. The launch of the missile went undetected by American radar systems -- so no one knows which country, Russia, China, or No. Korea, fired it.

We won't give too much of the plot away, except to say that Idris Elba plays an American president who is much like Barack Obama. In other words, he appears to be smart, rational, and on top of things.

But when confronted with the imminent threat of a nuclear weapon striking Chicago within 19 minutes, even Elba's president (he is not given a name in the movie) is caught like a deer-in-the-headlights. He has not studied the nuclear "playbook" in advance, and he has advisors who are giving him contradictory opinions, much like JFK received during the Cuban missile crisis.

In our view, that's the whole point of a *House of Dynamite*: In a nuclear age where leaders have only minutes to make a decision -- "Do we bomb another country in retaliation? And if so, whom? Or do we wait to see if it was a mistake?" -- even a theoretically-intelligent president has no good choices and at best will be making decisions about possibly annihilating the world based on a hunch.

We are now more than 40 years removed from *The Day After*, but we are living in a world in which there are more nukes in the hands of authoritarian rulers who have no guardrails in their own countries. The only advisors they trust are themselves because they deliberately have installed lackeys in key positions who only tell them what they want to hear.

The message of a *House of Dynamite* is simply this: If our nation's leaders ever have to confront a nuclear crisis, we're doomed -- which means that we must take all means necessary to ensure that we never find ourselves in that situation.

THE SHUTDOWN MADE NO SENSE

As we are writing this earlier in the week, it would appear that the government shutdown is about to end after almost six weeks.

Enough Democratic senators joined with Republicans in the Senate to achieve the 60-vote threshold necessary to overcome a Democratic filibuster.

As we noted at the outset of the filibuster on October 1, we agree with the primary reason why the Democrats refused to go along with the GOP budget proposal: The GOP budget removes the subsidies for health insurance premiums that will make health insurance unaffordable for millions of low- and middle-income Americans, a back-door means of killing Obamacare.

Americans with private health insurance plans not affected by the GOP cuts should not feel smug. The loss of health insurance for millions of poor Americans will mean that emergency rooms in our nation's hospitals, which already are under stress, will become even more overwhelmed because uninsured Americans no longer will have doctors to provide their routine care, leaving hospital ERs as their primary (and only) source of healthcare.

And for senior citizens who think that Medicare provides a safety net for them, our prediction is that Medicare will be next on the GOP chopping block.

However, the Democratic-led government shutdown was not the answer. The disruptions to our economy, air travel, and, especially, SNAP benefits for 42 million food-insecure Americans -- who ultimately were nothing more than pawns for both sides -- far outweighed whatever political points the Democrats were hoping to score via the shutdown.

In our view, the only good thing to have come out of the government shutdown was that it highlighted the ineffective and geriatric leadership of the Democratic party, especially in the Senate, where it is obvious that the Old Guard -- there are more Senate Democrats than Republicans who are 70+ -- must make way for new voices.

NEWS BRIEFS

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER AT THE WEST END MUSEUM

The West End Museum, located at 50 Staniford St., Suite 7, is excited to announce an exciting and varied slate of programming this November.

Attend a walking tour of the West End's Bulfinch Triangle led by Duane Lucia on Saturday, Nov. 15. Explore these curious and storied blocks laid out by America's first native-born architect.

On Sunday Nov. 16, the muse-

um presents 'Free to All: Book Swap and Social.' This free event will be open to book lovers of any age. Take a book, leave a book, and learn about the pioneering West End Branch librarian Fanny Goldstein.

Finally, spend your Friday evening at the West End Museum on Nov. 21 from 8-11 p.m. for Late Night at the Museum. Enjoy games, drinks, and fun while dancing the night away to a silent disco party.

More information and links to purchase tickets can be found at: website www.thewestendmuseum.org/programs/

NEW HEALTH (from Page 1)

Services are available at out-of-pocket costs, but at competitive prices. Free consultations at the North End location (332 Hanover Street in Boston) can be scheduled by calling (617) 643-8070.

As a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) extends its world-renowned healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable, and produces positive outcomes. NEW Health is a 2023 Health

Center Quality Leader (HCQL), the only Massachusetts health center to receive a Gold badge from the Health Resources and Services Administration, among the top 10% of health centers nationwide.

NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971. In addition to primary care services for all patients, many specialty services are also offered including dental, vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at www.newhealthcenter.org, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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**SEND US
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The North End Regional Review encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@reverejournal.com. The North End Regional Review assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.

BPPA EXTENSION *(from Page 1)*

“Every day, our police officers sacrifice so much to serve our communities. Boston wouldn’t be the safest major city in the country without the dedication of our incredible officers,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This contract represents our constant efforts to deepen trust between our police officers and our communities, while also ensuring they are supported to be their very best. I’m so grateful to serve alongside Commissioner Michael Cox every day as he advances a strong vision for the department, and I’m thankful to President Calderone for his partnership with the City of Boston.”

“Our officers do a difficult job. It is important for them to know their work is valued, and for them to continue to embrace their role in building trust and fulfilling our mission of Community Policing,” said Commissioner Michael Cox, Boston Police Department. “The Mayor has repeatedly shown that the City values our officers and their families. This contract contributes to improving officer wellbeing, while also heightening standards for accountability and professionalism. This will continue to make our Department better and our City safer. We are grateful to the Mayor for her ongoing support.”

“This contract represents the shared vision between Mayor Wu and myself: a police department with the necessary supports and resources for our officers and a commitment to the highest standards of policing,” said President of the Boston Police Patrolmen’s Association Larry Calderone. “I’m so grateful to Mayor Wu for her unwavering support for our police officers and for her administration for bargaining in good faith to deliver this contract for my members.”

The new agreement covers the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at a total one-year estimated cost of \$6.7 million. Under the contract, every officer will receive a 2% wage increase and 1% will be added to the hazardous duty differential.

For the first time, requiring patrol officers to wear nametags

Underlining the City’s work to further transparency, the new contract will guarantee that all BPPA officers will now wear nametags, similar to the Superior Officers’ Federation. At a time when federal agents are seen on American streets with masks shielding their identity, Boston Police officers will now wear their names as a part

of their uniform humanizing who they are when interacting with and serving residents and deepening trust with communities.

Ensuring officer wellbeing

All BPPA officers will now have free access to the gyms in Boston Police facilities, including facilities at each police district, headquarters, and the Police Academy. Prior to this contract, officers were required to pay a monthly fee to access the department’s gyms, and the fees would help cover costs associated with equipment and cleaning supplies.

Additionally, this contract allows officers to workout 30 minutes per shift at the Department gyms. Supervisors will only approve workout time when there is an operational ability based on the normal staffing levels. If it is a busy shift and police operations would be affected, supervisors will deny the workout time. This change is important for officers’ physical and mental health, and representative of the City’s investment into officers’ wellbeing.

Overhauling evaluations to create the highest standards for our officers

This contract overhauls the process of evaluating performance of patrol officers. The City has completed its bargaining obligations, which will allow it to roll out a more detailed and thorough system of evaluations. This is a key reform in pursuing accreditation of the Boston Police Department by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the leading national authority on recognized standards for professionalism, performance, and accountability in policing.

Increasing the Field Training Officers program pay

Under this new contract, the Boston Police Academy has revised the Field Training Officer (FTO) program to provide for

better training and accountability of new recruits. Beginning August 1, 2025, designated Field Training Officers will receive \$40 per week in addition to their regular compensation for the duration of each Field Training Officer program, which will run for a minimum of 12 weeks per academy class. Raising this pay from \$10 to \$40 will help to recruit experienced officers to participate in the program, bettering the training for recruits.

Furthering changes to the detail system

Further reforming the detail system for police officers, this new contract makes additional changes to streamline the process and better align detail shifts with regular department shifts. It also further clarifies additional detail types that will now be prioritized for staffing.

Shifting clerical functions of assigning details

This contract shifts the clerical functions of distributing and assigning overtime away from patrol officers. This change is in alignment with the department’s work to shift non-police functions to civilians and use electronic platforms to free up officers so they’re able to perform more traditional policing functions.

Standardizing the start and end of details

The agreement makes changes to the paid detail system by allowing a minimal amount of overlap between an officer’s regularly scheduled shift and a detail.

Five new parking garages will be added to priority details

To ensure public safety around the most dangerous or most trafficked details, the contract adds five new parking garages to highest priority details, or Type 1 Details, as outlined in the 2023 contract. These include garages Downtown and in the Back Bay that can often cause traffic issues, either on the

street or in the garage. Highest priority details, or Type 1 Details, are defined as events and activities that pose a substantial risk to public safety, including major events with anticipated attendance over 5,000 people; utility or construction details at major arteries, in busy intersections, or in areas with heavy traffic; or areas due to an emergency. These types of details are filled first to prioritize public safety of road users, under the 2023 contract.

Creating changes to the summer vacation period

Each year, officers are allowed to schedule two weeks of vacation throughout the summer months during a specific 14 weeks, creating seven two-week vacation periods for officers. The new contract adds an additional two-week vacation period, so that the summer vacation time runs for a total of 16 weeks, broken down into eight two-week periods. Adding another period reduces the number of officers off on any given two week period, increasing staffing levels during the summer months and reducing the need for overtime by other officers.

Increasing sick time buyback

This contract extension allows

patrol officers to buy back an additional 20 days of sick time at retirement. Prior to this extension, patrol officers could sell back the equivalent of 80 days of sick time, but can now sell back 100 days.

Now that the agreement has been ratified by the BPPA membership, Mayor Wu will soon file an appropriation order with the Boston City Council to allocate the funding for the contract.

This one-year contract extension between the City of Boston and the BPPA builds on the major reform contract that was signed, ratified and announced in December 2023. That five-year contract included cost of living adjustments and significant reforms in discipline, paid details, medical leave, union release, officer retention, and educational incentives. Since the beginning of her administration, Mayor Wu has made it a priority to achieve reform within the Boston Police Department (BPD) through contract negotiations, delivering the highest standards of community policing to keep our residents safe and ensuring resources for the health and well-being of police officers and their families.


CHA Cambridge Health Alliance

WE ARE SEEKING

Healthy People or those Currently Receiving Buprenorphine (eg, suboxone, subutex or zubsolv), Methadone or Naltrexone (Vivitrol)

We are seeking participants for a clinical research study about buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone. The study will include both individuals who use these opioids and a control group of individuals who do not. If you are between the ages of 21 and 59, you may qualify for a research study at The Cambridge Health Alliance that focuses on how buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone affect people’s weight, blood sugar and pain.

The study involves:

- One up to 8-hour session
- Weight/height, waist measurement, body fat percent, a diet assessment, measurements of blood sugar and lipids, surveys and urine tests
- Up to \$60 provided for participation

617- 665-1177
delman@challiance.org

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BOSTON ATHENAEUM HOLDS HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Boston Athenaeum held a Halloween party with its members turning the unique private library into a house of mystery and fun. Lectures on Boston’s dark history, mentalists, tarot card readings, trick or treat candy, and more fun events were offered to guests.



Meaghan Michel gave a lecture called “Tituba and the Salem Witch Crisis” that shed light on a central figure on the infamous “Witch Trials” of colonial Salem. This was part of a series of talks on various stories involving Boston’s dark and spooky past.



Asherah Davis and Joey Voivod came as an homage to Edgar Alan Poe’s Masque Of The Red Death and The Dread Pirate Roberts grin The Princess Bride



The winners of the costume contest were Stefan and Eleanor who came dressed as the Celestial Phenomenon Over Nuremberg in 1561.



Harry McNabb was Edgar Adrien Poe, his wife Miram was Leonore, and Kirsten Alexander was an invented character named “Miss-Information.”



Nenette Day came as a pirate.



Andi and Edward were a mermaid and pirate finding common ground in the Deborah Hill Bornheimer Room at the Athenaeum.



Mentalist extraordinaire Rory Raven entertained guests with his uncanny ability to get into their heads.



Boston Athenaeum staff member Emma Bickford was stationed by the library’s statue of Demosthenes.

Discover
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Open House Dec. 5-6
nbss.edu/openhouse



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Guests at the Boston Athenaeum Halloween event socialize in the Henry Long Room.

SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu attended the City's annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 8, to honor the service and sacrifices of all who have served and those who continue to serve. This year's parade featured 40 veteran-supporting organizations from across the state and over 1,100 partici-

pants. The parade began at noon at the intersection of Boylston and Dartmouth streets in Copley Square and end at City Hall Plaza. Following the parade, there was a brief speaking program, flag raising ceremony and free concert headlined by national recording artist Laura Byrna.



Mayor Wu delivers first-ever State of the Schools speech

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu delivered the first ever State of the Schools address on Oct. 28, to showcase the Boston Public School's progress under the leadership of Superintendent Mary Skipper. Mayor Wu made a call to action for every sector of the city to invest in Boston's success by stepping up for our families and our future. Mayor Wu's goal is to connect every resource in the city to create opportunity, support, and accountability for every student to thrive.

Under Superintendent Skipper's leadership, BPS has made substantial progress for our students. This includes implementing the inclusive education plan, expanding Boston Pre-K, driving down chronic absenteeism across every grade level and student group, launching 16 new bilingual education programs, expanding early college and career pathways, and carrying out the long term facilities plan.

During the speech, Mayor Wu announced a citywide goal to provide quality, enriching before- and after-school programming at every BPS school. The district is starting with new afterschool programs at each of the 20 community hub schools, in partnership with the BTU, YMCA, United Way, and the Lubin Family Foundation. Ensuring every school has before and after programming is critical for working parents to guarantee there is no gap in care between the end of the student's school day and the end of the parent's work day. Currently, 83% of schools offer before or after school programs.

Additionally, building on an announcement from the 2025 State of the City Address, Mayor Wu tonight announced the launch of Wicked Math, a new partnership with EdVestors, The Young People's Project, and The Calculus Project to start advanced math clubs, strengthen math pathways, and train juniors and seniors to tutor middle school students. Wicked Math aims to address the shortage of opportunities for Boston Public School students who enjoy math or have demonstrated a high aptitude for it by providing opportunities for them to engage with math inside and outside of the classroom. These programs launched this school year.

Wicked Math is currently offered across 20 schools in three ways:

- Math Clubs led by teachers provides students with the opportunity to participate in math leagues and math olympiad competitions while refining their math skills.
- Young People's Project (YPP) builds a culture of math and mentoring throughout a school commu-

nity by hiring juniors and seniors to tutor 7th & 8th graders.

- The Calculus Project uses research-supported strategies to increase the representation and success of minority and low-income students in advanced mathematics.

Telescope Network will work with The Young People Project, and The Calculus Project to provide a professional development learning lab for teachers to support expansion of this programming.

Lastly, Mayor Wu announced the expansion of Great Starts, allowing parents and families to register online for Boston Public Schools in 10 languages for the first time ever. With Great Starts, families no longer need to visit a BPS Welcome Center. Great Starts is a citywide enrollment platform co-created by the Office of Early Childhood and Boston Public Schools in partnership with a number of state agencies and community-based partners. This platform offers families a streamlined, simplified dashboard of their school options in the City of Boston, including childcare, preschool, and Boston Public Schools. Through Great Starts, families can explore programs based on what matters most to their family: the size of the program/school, location, hours that match your work schedule, and the activities that will help your child thrive.

Mayor Wu's first ever State of the Schools address showcased progress made by the district, while emphasizing there is more work to be done. In a moment when public education is being undermined by the federal administration, Mayor Wu is focused on making the oldest public school district in the country the first choice for families in Boston.

Fact sheet

The district is making progress under the leadership of Superintendent Mary Skipper.

- Every spring, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) publishes an accountability percentile for every district in the Commonwealth. The percentile takes into account both MCAS performance and growth. Districts in the bottom 10% may be designated as chronically underperforming and placed into receivership.
- From 2015-2023, Boston ranged from the 5th to 8th percentile. (Aspects of the accountability system were suspended in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.) In 2024, Boston jumped to the 20th percentile.
- In its District Analysis and Review Tools (DART), DESE compares Boston to 10 comparable districts based on grades span, total enrollment, and special populations. Boston's accountability percentile is

higher than all 10 of its peers.

Getting the operational details right so students can thrive in classrooms.

Transportation

- More buses arrived on time in September and October of this year than ever before, with yesterday morning, October 27, day 37 of the school year, having the best on time performance (OTP) of the year at 96%.
- Last year, BPS Transportation did not see 96% OTP until day 58.
- By the end of 2025, BPS Transportation's school bus fleet will include 94 electric school buses.

Food

- Since 2022, BPS has overhauled its meals program, and is now serving fresh meals cooked on-site in 107 school buildings. Today, 96% of meals are being made freshly in house by BPS kitchen staff.
- Previously, many schools — because they lacked the kitchen facilities and/or the food service staff — served vended meals, preventing students from accessing the culturally diverse menus designed by BPS staff, in partnership with students and families.
- More than 15% of school meal ingredients are locally sourced, and BPS is on track to meet its goal of 30%.
- Sixteen school buildings do not have either the kitchen facilities or enough student demand to cook meals from scratch on-site, but through targeted renovations of the BPS Central Kitchen facility in Dorchester, Food and Nutrition Services will soon begin cooking and packaging meals in-house and delivering to these locations.
- The Central Kitchen is expected to re-launch its food preparation operations by the end of 2025, gradually scaling up to produce 1,000 meals per day. Centralizing food production will also bring about substantial cost savings.

Air conditioning

- In 2021, only 32% of BPS schools had working air conditioning, primarily in newer buildings with central HVAC systems. Now, 92% of BPS schools have air conditioning, as the District continues to work on the remaining, with several schools currently in design for HVAC systems.

Historic investments in school facilities

In the last four years, Mayor Wu and Superintendent Skipper launched more major school building projects than Boston has had in the previous 40 years, combined.

Launched prior to 2021, but completed during Mayor Wu's administration:

- Boston Arts Academy (2022)
- Josiah Quincy Upper School (2024)

- Carter School (2025)
- Launched under Mayor Wu's administration:

- Horace Mann School (2024)
- PJ Kennedy Elementary School (2025)
- Sarah Roberts Elementary (2025)
- Shaw-Taylor Elementary School (invited into MSBA Core program in 2023)
- Ruth Batson Academy (invited into MSBA Core program in 2024)
- Boston Adult Technical Academy-East (2025)
- Navigating Employment and Transition (NExT) program (2025)
- White Stadium
- Madison Park Technical Vocational High School (begun design, submitted to MSBA Core program in 2025)
- Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (renovations to temporary home completed in 2025; active RFP process underway for new permanent site)
- Former South Boston High School building (decarbonization and renovation work currently being scoped by PFD through the Renew Boston Trust program; won grant from MassCEC in 2025)

- Frederick (renovation to convert to preK-6; estimated completion in 2026)

In addition, BPS has also ramped up its investment in state-of-good-repair projects, including through a strengthened partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) through its Accelerated Repair Program (ARP):

- Dr. Albert D. Holland High School of Technology - boiler
- English High School - windows/doors
- Henderson Upper School - roof
- Haley Elementary School - boiler
- Kenny Elementary School - roof
- O'Donnell Elementary School - roof
- Adams Elementary School - windows/doors
- Murphy K-8 School - windows/doors
- Chittick Elementary School - windows/doors
- Gardner Pilot Academy - windows/doors
- Everett Elementary School - windows/doors
- Lyndon K-8 School - windows/doors

Partnerships that educate our students beyond the classroom

- Boston Family Days has grown to include 23 of Boston's world-class cultural institutions.

To date, 14 museums have welcomed over 65,000 students and families.

- This fall, the City launched the inaugural season of Boston Family Day performances at the American Repertory Theater, ArtsEmerson, Berklee, Boch Center, Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Huntington Theatre, and Wheelock Family Theatre. Thank you to Amazon, Barr Foundation, Barbara and Amos Hostetter, Jim and Cathy Stone, and Michelle and Bob Atchinson for their support.
- This year, more than 10,500 young people worked paid summer jobs, which is the most in the City's history. Additionally, the City has launched a youth jobs program to run during the school year. Thank you to Mass General Brigham, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, State Street Corporation, Boston Children's Hospital, John Hancock, Bank of America, and Liberty Mutual Insurance and all our employer partners for helping us achieve this historic milestone.
- The City has expanded Boston Pre-K to serve more than 5,000 families, and added programming for our littlest learners, such as music lessons from the New England Conservatory. Over the last four years, City programs and partnerships helped almost 9,000 kids learn to ride bikes, taught nearly 12,000 more how to swim, and expanded youth sports access across every neighborhood.
- This year, in partnership with Boston After School and Beyond, the City set a new record of more than 18,000 students taking part in the 5th Quarter summer learning program.
- Starting this fall, the WPS Institute is partnering with BPS to help reimagine 7th and 8th grade as an engaging launchpad into secondary school. Charlestown High Schools's Dream Academy is piloting a model that focuses on creating a strong foundation experience for students in 7-12 schools where every student feels engaged, connected and prepared for college, career and life readiness.
- Last year, colleges and universities funded \$72 million in scholarships for Boston students. Thank you to Boston University, Northeastern University, Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Wentworth University, Boston College, Fisher College, Berklee College of Music, Emerson College, Emmanuel College, Simmons University, Suffolk University, New England Conservatory, Harvard University, and Tufts

BPHC encourages residents to apply for health insurance during open enrollment

Special to the Regional Review

Federal changes are threatening access to health care nationally and in Boston. For many residents, it is already challenging to navigate the health insurance system and maintain coverage, but federal decisions to increase premiums, limit insurance eligibility, and decrease funding only deepen inequities in health access and create more barriers to keeping families healthy. While these changes are confusing and frightening, Mayor Michelle Wu, the City of Boston, and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) strongly encourage residents to take advantage of the numerous coverage options available in Massachusetts and apply for health insurance, including MassHealth, through the Massachusetts Health Connector Marketplace during the upcoming Open Enrollment period from

November 1, 2025-January 23, 2026. For those who need assistance navigating the State's application process, BPHC's Mayor's Health Line can provide assistance.

"Health insurance is the most powerful tool that we have to ensure access to primary care, emergency care, and treatment for chronic diseases," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "Massachusetts has long led the nation in expanding access to affordable health insurance coverage. Here in Boston, we want to ensure that residents know that there are resources available to navigate the system and secure affordable coverage."

Residents looking for coverage can find options on the Massachusetts Health Connector, a state-based health insurance Marketplace that makes shopping for affordable

health and dental coverage easier for individuals, families, and small businesses. People can compare and purchase plans, apply for subsidies to lower premiums, review eligibility for State programs like MassHealth (Medicaid) and the Health Safety Net, and manage existing coverage. Individuals and families can secure coverage during the Open Enrollment period or within 60 days of a qualifying life event, such as losing job-based coverage or the birth of a child.

For those who need additional help applying for health insurance, the Mayor's Health Line (MHL) is a free, confidential, health information and referral service operated by the Boston Public Health Commission. It helps all residents regardless of immigration status. Residents can call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050 Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Help is available in all lan-

guages through multilingual staff who speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Cape Verdean Creole and through a language line service.

"The Health Connector and great Navigator organizations like the Boston Public Health Commission are ready to help members and new applicants find coverage that affordably delivers access to services," said Audrey Morse Gasteier, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Connector. "Having health insurance means the ability to put the health and financial security of yourself and your family first. It means you can take care of annual physicals, screenings, prescriptions for chronic disease, and other ways of staying healthy without worrying about costly trade-offs."

In addition to the Mayor's Health Line, assistance is also available for patients at their local

community health centers, hospitals, community-based organizations, and walk-in Enrollment Centers. People can locate a nearby enrollment location on the Health Connector's website.

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15, 2025 to December 7, 2025, and residents who are 65+ or have qualifying disabilities can sign up for coverage directly from the federal government-run marketplace at [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). For those who need assistance navigating Medicare, MHL and the City of Boston's Age Strong Commission has trained SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselors who can help. The Age Strong Commission is hosting over 20 free in-person Medicare Open Enrollment clinics across Boston, and residents can call Age Strong at 617-635-4366 to make an appointment.

COLETTA-ZAPATA (from Page 1)

with her mom, Nina. Gabriela has dedicated her entire life working in public service to others and giving back to the beautiful, diverse neighborhood that has given her so much.

Gabriela was elected in a special election on May 3, 2022, to replace then-Councilor Edwards. She was re-elected in 2023 and again in 2025.

Since her election to represent District 1—East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, and the Wharf District—Councilor Coletta Zapata has built on that foundation with a record of tangible results. As Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, she plays a central role in the City Council's legislative process—overseeing the review, analysis, and negotiation

of all ordinances, home rule petitions, and special laws before they advance to the full Council or the Mayor's desk. This position serves as the final checkpoint for accountability, legal precision, and policy alignment across all city departments, ensuring that every law enacted reflects both community needs and sound governance.

In her additional role as Chair of the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency & Parks, she has led the Council's efforts to advance local climate resilience, promote sustainability, and expand Boston's parks network and urban tree canopy—strengthening the city's commitment to equity and environmental stewardship.

Before her election to the Boston

City Council in 2022, Gabriela built a deep record of community service and progressive leadership. She served as Chief of Staff to then-Councilor Lydia Edwards, where she amplified the lived experiences of her neighbors, and worked across the neighborhoods of Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End to address housing affordability, inequities in public education, and the climate threats facing Boston's coastline. She later led the New England Aquarium's external relations work, advancing a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible downtown waterfront.

Her dedication to empowering women in politics has been a consistent throughline. As Associate Director of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, she helped recruit and train women to run for office and manage cam-

paigns, while building statewide strategies to elect endorsed candidates. She served as a frequent Emerge Massachusetts trainer, mentoring women entering public service. Her early political organizing includes managing Lydia Edwards's groundbreaking 2017 campaign and serving as community liaison to State Representative Adrian Madaro, roles that cemented her reputation as a collaborative, grassroots leader.

Councilor Coletta Zapata is a proud product of Boston Public Schools and graduated from Boston Latin Academy. She received a degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Boston as well as a minor in Human Rights. She currently lives in East Boston with her husband, Sebastian Zapata.

Councilor At-large Henry

Santana will serve as Vice President. "I'm deeply honored to serve as Vice President alongside Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. Gabriela and I first met when we were both staffers on the City Council, and from day one I've watched her grow, lead, and deliver for our City," said Councilor Santana. "It's been a privilege to partner with her in District 1—working shoulder-to-shoulder, listening to residents, and achieving real results in East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, and the Wharf District. I know she will be an exceptional President—thoughtful, committed, and determined to unite our Council and move Boston forward for every neighborhood. I look forward to the work ahead together."

STATE OF SCHOOLS (from Page 6)

University.

Setting strong expectations for our students when it comes to learning.

- Since the implementation of the BPS Equitable Literacy strategy, every student is expected to do what educators call "heavy lifting." This includes students reading aloud and writing down reflections on the content they're learning; solving math problems together and discussing the material with each other.

- The shift to hands-on, active learning with high-quality instructional materials is guided by measurement, alignment, and accountability. Teachers and school leaders meet regularly to review effective teaching strategies, and district leaders and coaches con-

duct classroom observations to give teachers feedback.

- In 2022, just 179 BPS high schoolers took college courses. Last year, the City more than quadrupled that number to 790 students. This year, more than 1,000 students are taking college courses at schools including Roxbury Community College, Bunker Hill Community College, Franklin Cummings Tech, and UMass Boston.

- Nearly all (26 out of 32) high schools offer either AP or IB courses. The six schools that do not are either specialized schools or alternative education high schools. The District has recently significantly expanded AP course offerings, including by piloting AP Seminar at 5 secondary schools and

AP African American Studies at 15 secondary schools as part of a College Board pilot. BPS has also created new professional development for AP teachers focused on AP curriculum and instruction for multilingual learners to ensure learners with varying levels of English proficiency are encouraged and able to access AP courses.

- Finally, BPS also redesigned course sequences, including embedding Pre-AP frameworks in core courses and expanding courses such as AP Seminar, AP Pre-Calculus, and AP Computer Science Principles. These courses are designed to support students in learning the skills necessary to be successful in AP and college classes.

- In 2025, BPS students took nearly 7,500 AP exams, more

than two thirds of which received a score of three or higher. That's a nine-percentage point jump in just one year, and the best performance on AP exams in our city's history. For example, today, every ninth grader at the Dearborn STEM Academy takes AP Biology.

Student involvement in State of the Schools

- Several Josiah Quincy Upper School (JQUS) students are participating in the event. This includes the six JQUS students who are delivering the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the program: Joseph Kasongo, 12th; Lucas Brent Huyghebaert, 11th; Ethan Jordan Funches, 7th; Maliyah Aylani Roberts, 7th; Cameron Gabriel Williams, 7th; and Elliot Grace Lee, 6th. Additionally, representing the student body, 12th grad-

er Omar Ramadan is the student speaker introducing Chair of the Boston School Committee Jeri Robinson. There are also four JQUS students serving as ushers, helping guests to find a seat.

- In addition to JQUS, other schools are a part of the production for the event. Students in Madison Park Technical Vocational High School's Graphic Communications program printed the programs and students in the Culinary Arts program baked the chocolate chip cookies that will be served at the end of the program.

- Student journalists from Brighton High School, John D. O'Bryant High School, Charlestown High School, and Boston Latin School are in the media section covering the event tonight.

SCENES FROM THE FRIENDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK FALL FESTIVAL

By Phil Orlandella

As usual, the annual Friends of Christopher Columbus Park was a huge success as many North End/Waterfront families made their way to the park for the popular event.

Everyone had a fun-filled time at the well-planned, free community event that began with a costume parade.

Dressed in Halloween costumes, children enjoyed an exciting day that had Fall arts and

crafts, pumpkin painting and other interesting activities.

The Fall Festival seems to be getting bigger and bigger each year through the efforts of several FOCCP members.

COURTESY PHOTOS



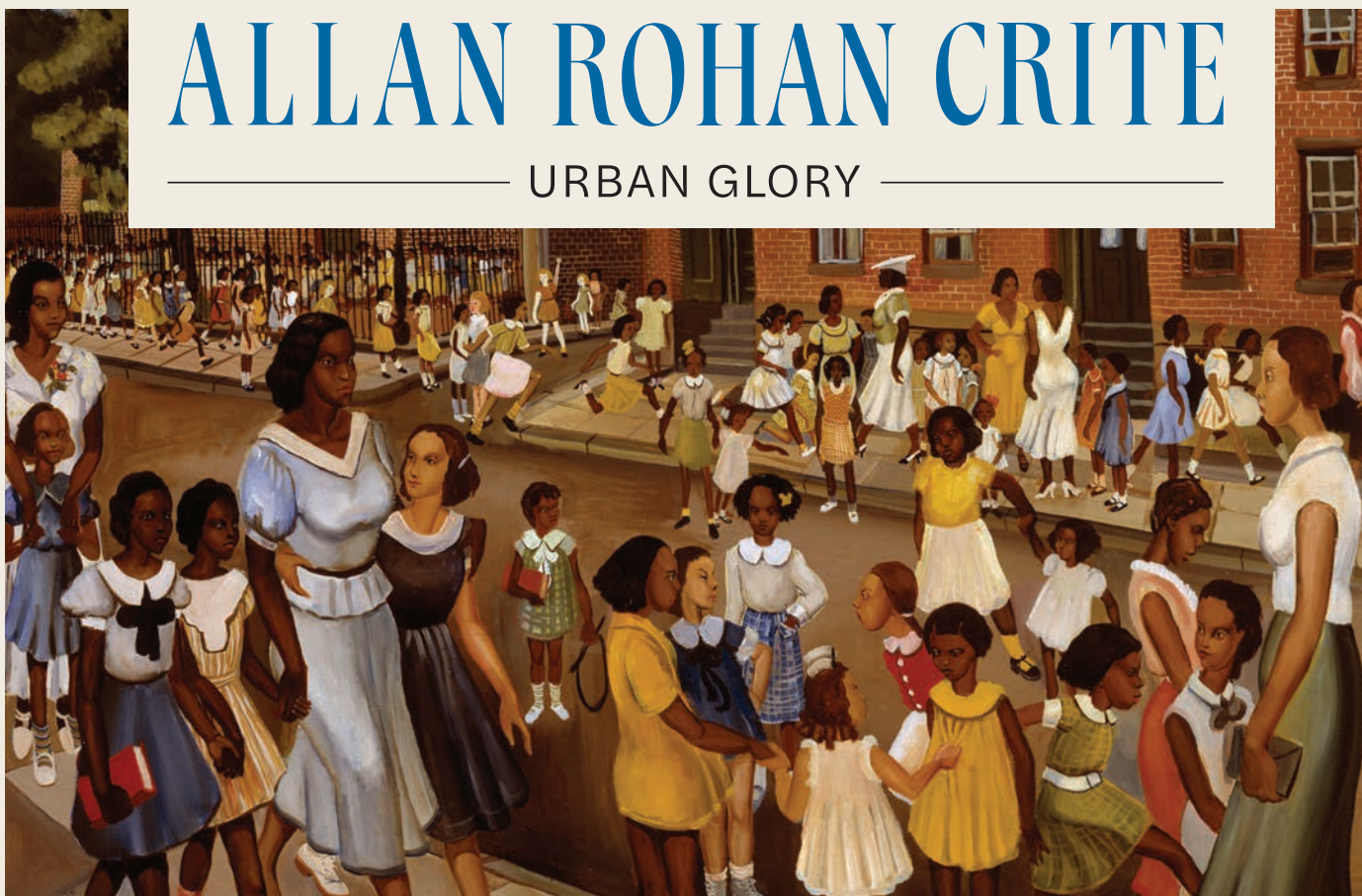
SCENES FROM THE NORTH END'S 74TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE

COURTESY PHOTOS



ALLAN ROHAN CRITE

URBAN GLORY



a tribute to
Boston's communities
and the divine hidden
in the everyday

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Allan Rohan Crite (American, 1910–2007), *School's Out* (detail), 1936. Oil on canvas. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Transfer from General Services Administration. Courtesy of the Allan Rohan Crite Research Institute and Library

Wu announces new Boston Energy Saver program to help Boston residents upgrade their buildings and lower energy costs

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the Boston Energy Saver program, a new City service helping Boston renters, homeowners, and small businesses upgrade their buildings and lower their energy bills. Starting today, residents can visit boston.gov/save or call 617-635-SAVE (7283) for a 1-on-1 consultation about available discounts and building upgrade options to save money on energy costs. This service is available at no cost to Boston residents and small business owners. Mayor Wu first announced the Boston Energy Saver program at her 2025 State of the City address.

"As winter approaches, energy costs to keep families warm become even more of a financial burden," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm proud to launch the Boston Energy Saver Program — a one-stop shop for residents, families, and small businesses to unlock resources to lower their costs with energy efficiency upgrades. Through our partnership with Eversource and National Grid, we are cutting energy costs and reducing reliance on fossil fuels for a more affordable and resilient future."

Currently, there are many energy programs available to consumers, but it can be difficult to understand where to start. Boston Energy Saver is a resource developed in partnership with Eversource, National Grid, and

local nonprofits to connect Boston residents with discounts and building upgrades that work best for their home or small business. These potential upgrades include rebates and low-cost financing for energy upgrades, building weatherization, heat pumps, induction stoves, energy bill check-ups to make sure residents are not being overcharged, among others. Energy bill savings will be dependent on the size of the building, its current fuel source, as well as the selected discounts and incentives. For example, residents can save up to \$10,000 or more on the installation of a heat pump heating and cooling system with a Mass Save rebate. Through weatherization upgrades, residents who use oil heating could expect savings between 10 and 20 percent on their energy bill, or up to \$380 annually. These savings will provide critical support to small businesses, homeowners, and renters during the current affordability crisis.

"Programs like Boston Energy Saver make it easier for residents and small businesses to take real, affordable steps toward a greener future," said City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "By helping people lower their utility bills and make their buildings more efficient, we're advancing climate action in a way that centers equity and everyday Bostonians."

"Buildings are the source of 70% of Boston's carbon emissions," said Brian Swett, Chief

Climate Officer for the City of Boston. "Making your home or business more energy efficient is a win-win: you stay comfortable indoors, you save money, and you are doing your part to reduce the carbon emissions that cause air pollution and global warming."

By 2027, the City plans to deliver \$300 million in total benefits through Boston Energy Saver to homes and businesses, including installing 5,000 heat pumps and weatherizing 10,000 buildings. Notably, Boston Energy Saver also provides support to renters and property owners of smaller buildings, who have historically faced barriers to accessing energy efficiency programs. The City of Boston is also conducting targeted outreach to low-income families in partnership with community-based organizations so that residents hit hardest by high energy bills can get assistance.

Residents and small businesses who currently use oil or electric resistance heating are strongly encouraged to contact Boston Energy Saver because there are many options to substantially reduce energy costs. For example, Boston Energy Saver's help desk can connect residents with benefits through Mass Save® programs, which now cover 100% of the costs for approved weatherization, electrical upgrades, and heat pumps for rental buildings in Boston's Designated Equity Community neighborhoods: Allston, Brighton, Dorchester, East Boston,

Fenway, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Mission Hill, and Roxbury.

"With Boston Energy Saver, the City and our partners have built a program that's just right for this time: trusted, accessible advice on the best energy incentives we've ever had in Boston," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Boston's Environment Commissioner and Green New Deal Director. "We are here to help Boston residents pick the building upgrades and cost-saving strategies that are best for them."

"We're proud to partner with the City of Boston to bring energy efficiency solutions within reach for more residents and businesses to help lower their bills," said Kate Peters, Director of Energy Efficiency at Eversource. "This collaboration is about making energy solutions more accessible and affordable for customers, leveraging existing funding in the state's three-year plan to break down barriers and deliver real impact to our communities."

"National Grid is proud to partner with the City of Boston on this important initiative to help educate customers and connect them with solutions to save money on energy bills," said Bill Malee, Chief Customer Officer at National Grid. "The City's coordinated approach will enhance access to energy-saving resources and is especially important as we head into the winter season to help residents and small businesses manage energy costs."

"The Boston Community Land

Trust recently connected with the emerging Boston Energy Saver program, a gem of a resource for a small organization like ours committed to weatherization and energy retrofits for our portfolio of small, scattered site affordable buildings in Dorchester," said Meridith Levy, Executive Director of the Boston Community Land Trust. "There is no way we would be able to accomplish our energy efficiency goals for our community without having access to the myriad funding programs and resources, which can be complicated to navigate. Climate resilient buildings should be accessible to people of all income levels-- the Boston Energy Saver program will help us get there faster."

The Boston Energy Saver Help Desk is available from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, in English, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese, Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese. Boston Energy Saver offers residents and small businesses answers and advice on a wide range of topics, and even has a technical assistance contractor to answer specialized questions about specific projects and buildings. Residents can schedule a one-on-one consultation with our Help Desk here.

Visit boston.gov/save, email energysaver@boston.gov or call 617-635-SAVE (7283) to learn more.

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Women's Lunch Place receives \$7,500 Community Credits donation from DoorDash

DoorDash announced a \$7,500 Community Credits donation to Women's Lunch Place, a day shelter and advocacy center that provides meals, essentials, and other services to women experiencing homelessness, hunger and poverty in the Greater Boston area.

DoorDash's Community Credits program provides gift cards to local organizations to help expand access to meals and essentials in the communities they serve. The \$7,500 donation will support Women's Lunch Place's programs and help guests facing food insecurity access healthy food and other critical resources.

This latest contribution is part of DoorDash's ongoing commitment to fight hunger and empower local communities by supporting

nonprofits with tools to reach the people who need them most.

Women's Lunch Place (WLP) supports and empowers women experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty. Each year, more than 2,300 Boston women come to WLP for meals and essential services within an atmosphere of healing, dignity, and hope.

"At Women's Lunch Place, we know that access to healthy food is not only a necessity, but also a foundation for dignity, safety, and opportunity," said Allegra Marra, Director of Corporate & Volunteer Engagement of Women's Lunch Place. "This support from DoorDash gives us additional resources to meet growing demand for our services, while also giving our guests the flexibil-

ity to meet their individual needs. We are grateful for this partnership and the impact it will have on the women who rely on us every day."

"DoorDash is proud to stand alongside Women's Lunch Place as it uplifts women and addresses food insecurity across Boston," said Daniela Michanie, Head of Northeast Public Engagement at DoorDash. "Through our Community Credits program, we're providing resources that allow local organizations to respond directly to the needs of the communities they serve. We know that when these organizations have additional support, they can make an even greater impact in the fight against hunger."

NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER By Phil Orlandella

RUFF President/Co-founder Honored

Leslie Horn Mallas, President/Co-founder of Responsible Urbanites For Fido (RUFF) was recently recognized and honored by the Neighborhood Group for her dedicated work in the North End for her love for dogs.

The tribute to Leslie was made at the very successful RUFF Annual Fundraiser held at the dog park in DeFilippo Playground on Prince Street.

Over many years and counting, Leslie has helped make RUFF a valuable community group that cares for the dog park in the North End and the dog park that will be refurbished on Richmond Street.

Leslie is also committed to RUFF events, community events and supporting other neighborhood organization's programs.

A plaque will be installed with the dog park in loving memory of Leslie's English Bulldogs, Trot and Oz.

Christmas Program for North End Children Only Benefit

North End families have time to register for the 36th annual St. Agrippina DiMino Society's 30th Christmas Program for North End Children only.

Sunday, December 14th (12-2pm) Santa Claus will be visiting St. Agrippina's Chapel, 459 Hanover Street, with gifts for all the local boys and girls.

Calls are being accepted for registration at 617-363-2678. Child's name, age, gender, address and phone number are required.

Children 10 and under will receive a picture with Santa and a gift. They must be present and accompanied by an adult.

The Holiday event will include: face-painting, balloons and a gift bag. Several characters will entertain everyone at the event.

Greenway Night of Events and Vision

A fun and entertaining night to share visions for The Greenway was recently held at Atlantic Wharf.

The public meeting featured activity stations, presentations, music, refreshments, games, giveaways, and the opportunity to express vision for the active park.

Potluck/Recipe at Library

An Italian American Heritage Month of potluck and recipe swapping recently took place at the North End Library.

Recipes and the stories that go with them were shared including the ingredients.

NEWRA Supports Zoning Variance

A request for a zoning variance for a change of occupancy to convert the first-floor commercial unit on Endicott Street into residential and renovations for the exist-

ing three units was supported by NEWRA at their last public meeting.

The community group also listened to a presentation of the endeavor to renovate the N.E. Library and to secure modern equipment.

North End Italian Heritage Parade and Celebration Held

The North End Italian Heritage Parade and Celebration started with a parade beginning at Christopher Columbus Park on Atlantic Avenue featuring marching bands, drum corps, cultural and local organizations making their way up Commercial, Hanover and Salem Streets.

Following the parade the Italian Heritage Celebration was held in Paul Revere Park Prado with music, food and fun for kids.

At the celebration, the 2025 Michael A. Nazzaro, Jr. Public Service Award was presented to Robert "Bobby" Dello Russo, Sr. of the North End.

Holiday Trellis Lighting

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) invites everyone to join them on Monday, November 24 at 5pm for the annual lighting of the gorgeous, blue lights on the Trellis in the park.

The special event will include speakers, refreshments, entertainment and a visit from Santa.

The event is free and a great way to bring in the Holiday spirit provided by the Boston Park Department.

Halloween Folktales at Library

Big Joe the Storyteller was the special Halloween guest at the North End Library.

Big Joe shared some of his favorite Fall and Halloween folktales in a fun and entertaining performance.

Community Center News

The Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs has issued a Certificate requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed North End Community Center.

Coming Together at Armenian Park

A giving thanks coming together event was held at the Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway.

Participants viewed the abstract sculpture's new shape, met with new and old friends and enjoyed tea and sweets provided by Modern Pastry.

Attendees were asked to bring winter hats, scarfs, or gloves for the ABCD Winter Drive.

Best Holiday Traditions

A candlelight labyrinth walk will be held at the Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway on Sunday, December 7th at 4:55pm.

Besides the walk, people can write a wish or a ribbon for The Wishing Tree, enjoy hot chocolate and sweet treats and receive a card with doves to decorate the park.

NEWHealth Food Drive/ Thanksgiving Meals

Through the month of November, NEWHealth is conducting a food drive to ensure everyone in need in the communities they serve have food for the Holidays.

In addition, on Thursday, November 20th, NEWHealth will be giving out Thanksgiving meals to go.

Volunteers are needed. If interested, email dfcoakley@mgb.org

Downtown Boston Public Safety/ Health Summit Held

A major Downtown Boston Public Safety Summit was recently held with elected officials and leaders to discuss ongoing efforts related to public safety and public health challenges in and around Downtown Boston.

The summit was hosted by the Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association that provided an opportunity for the One Downtown Task Force to report on the progress, to highlight key public safety initiative underway and to discuss and debate the work that remains to ensure residents, workers, students and visitors are safe in and around the area.

Catholic Charities Boston launches holiday giving drive with M&T Bank to support food for families

M&T Bank is joining Catholic Charities Boston (CCAB) in providing Hope for the Holidays to those in need. M&T Bank is collecting non-perishable food items at all Greater Boston branch locations through the end of November. The donations will benefit Catholic Charities Boston's food pantries, which served 69,441 people across Eastern Massachusetts this past year.

This holiday season, the need for donations is dire as policy changes, funding cuts, and high grocery costs further strain struggling households. One in three Massachusetts families faces food insecurity. One in six Massachusetts families rely on SNAP benefits to feed their families. Catholic Charities Boston operates four food pantries in Dorchester, Brockton, Lynn and Lowell, distributing approximately 2.4 million meals annually. The agency is

a key provider of meals to those in need at Thanksgiving and other holidays, assists families with applying for SNAP benefits, and provides assistance for those struggling with high food costs.

"We are distributing bags of groceries at our pantries faster than we can pack them, and for many families, one bag of food per week is simply not enough," said Kelley Tuthill, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Boston. "Many of the clients we serve tell us they don't know how they would feed their families if they did not have our food pantries as a resource. We are incredibly grateful to M&T Bank for their support in helping us ensure that our most vulnerable community members don't go hungry."

"M&T Bank is proud to support Catholic Charities Boston in its Hope for the Holidays food drive – an initiative that helps

stock local food pantries and ensures families across Massachusetts have nourishing meals during this critical time. As more families face food insecurity, we believe no child or parent should have to worry about their next meal," said Jeff Carpenter, M&T Bank's Interim Regional President in Massachusetts.

"Our commitment to community runs deep. Through collaborations like this, we strive to break down barriers and meet essential needs—bringing comfort, stability, and hope to the communities we serve."

Donations can be brought to M&T branches and placed in designated cardboard boxes. The most urgent items needed are canned protein (tuna, chicken), canned vegetables, grains (pasta, mac & cheese, etc.) and canned soup. Items will be distributed at Catholic Charities Boston's pan-

tries in Eastern Massachusetts. On Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2, M&T employee volunteers will stock shelves at the Catholic Charities Lynn Food Pantry. Last year, the M&T Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of M&T Bank, presented Catholic Charities Boston with a \$20,000 grant to fight food insecurity.

For more information visit: <https://www.ccab.org>

For over a century, Catholic Charities Boston has served vulnerable individuals and families of all faiths and backgrounds. One of the most comprehensive non-profit providers of social services in Massachusetts, we offer programs across more than 20 locations throughout Greater Boston, with 450 employees serving thousands of individuals and families annually within the four core areas of Basic Needs, Family & Youth Services, Refugee & Immigrant

Services, and Adult Education & Workforce Development. Rooted in our faith mission, we address critical social justice issues with compassion and aim to break the cycles of poverty in our communities by providing life's necessities, education, and advocacy to move families toward self-sufficiency.

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ANNUAL PEACE GARDEN FUNDRAISER HELD AT UMBRIA RESTAURANT

The Peace Garden at St Leonard’s Church is a cornerstone of the North End neighborhood. The Annual Peace Garden Fund is a fundraising event that was held at Umbria Restaurant on Hanover

Street. Silent auction items, raffle prizes, and goodwill in the community brought people together to celebrate the small but tranquil patch of serenity in he heart of the North End.



Paul, Cecily, and Alexandra Foster with Dan Nuzzo (second from left).



Olivia Scmecca sells raffle tickets.



Pasquale Trotta, Frankie DePasquale, and Bill Ferullo.



Olivia Scmecca sells raffle tickets.



Angelica Aquilino, Sheri Souther, and Alexandra Foster.



Adam Haddad and Sara Rosati.



Volunteers Norma Reppucci and Doreen Merola.



Nancy Merideth and Kristen Simonelli from New Health.



Umbria was filled with people looking to support maintaining the Peace Garden at St Leonard’s Church.

ANNUAL PEACE GARDEN FUNDRAISER HELD AT UMBRIA RESTAURANT

DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS



Michael Salvati, Toni Gilardi, and Josh Kraft.



Arthur Choo and Tom Cipolla from the Ancient Honorable Artillery Company.



Josh Kraft watching the silent auction results.



St. Leonard's pastor Father Michael Della Penna speaks thanking everyone for their support of the Peace Garden and the community.



Edward and Quinn Amaral with Gerry Levins and St. Leonard's pastor Father Michael Della Penna.



Vittorio Wurzburger and Gwen Weitz.



Toni Gilardi makes announcements regarding the silent auction.



St. Leonard's pastor Father Michael Della Penna speaks thanking everyone for their support of the Peace Garden and the community.

Important Information About LEAD in Your Drinking Water



Quabbin Reservoir

Boston's drinking water is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority from the Quabbin Reservoir and is distributed lead-free to homes and businesses. However, some older properties in Boston may have a lead water service line. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups.



FREE Lead Replacement Incentive Program

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) is offering Boston property owners a free inspection - and free replacement of their building's water service pipe if we determine it is lead.

Take advantage of the No Cost Lead Replacement Program now. Please contact BWSC's Lead Hotline for additional program information.

Lead Hotline: (617) 989-7888
www.bwsc.org



Boston Water and Sewer Commission



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO ABOUT LEAD



NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through November 22 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- FRP fascia screening installation

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: Nov. 16 at 3:30 p.m., and Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m.
- Other events: Nov. 15 at 7 p.m., Nov. 18 at 6 p.m., and Nov. 22 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://www.mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement)

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

Freedom Trail commemorates the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's historic ride

Boston continues to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride, a momentous event in American history that alerted colonists to British plans and ignited the Revolutionary War. In honor of this milestone, on Thursday, November 13 at 7 pm, "A Revolutionary Concert: Paul Revere. The Man, the Myth, and the Legacy" will be hosted by the Paul Revere Memorial Association at Boston's historic Converse Hall. Sponsored by the Freedom Trail® Foundation, the special engaging and immersive free program will feature Massachusetts Poet Laureate Regie Gibson and Paul Revere.

From loyalist anthems of Tories, to the fiery songs of Revolutionaries, and original 19th-century compositions written to further Revere's legacy, the event brings

18th- and 19th-century America to life through the music of the times. The evening will include performances by some of Boston's finest musicians. Blending rich narration, historical images, and live music, it will offer a fresh, moving, and insightful take on one of the Revolution's most misunderstood heroes. Far more than just a messenger on horseback, Paul Revere was a devoted family man, savvy businessman, and respected civil servant. All are invited to this powerful journey through sound and story, which will separate fact from folklore while painting a vivid portrait of one of America's most iconic patriots.

Historic Converse Hall is located at 88 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Event goers may register to

attend for FREE via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/48jRUw9>

One of the 16 official Freedom Trail historic sites, the Paul Revere House, located in Boston's historic North End, was home to patriot and silversmith Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800. Revere left from the house in 1775 to begin the ride that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow immortalized in the poem, "Paul Revere's Ride." Built c. 1680, the Revere House is the oldest building in downtown Boston. Opened as a museum in 1908, the house now offers self-guided tours that serve over 250,000 visitors a year.

For more information about the 250th anniversary concert event, please visit www.paulrevere-house.org or call (617) 523-2338.

SoWa: the creative enclave thriving just off Boston's grid

By Arielle Appleby

An artist takes the long way to her studio, passing through a tranquil park bathed in morning light. She is alone, save a few squirrels and a grandmotherly figure thumbing pages of an old book on a nearby bench. She stops to admire a grand fountain and the crystalline droplets dancing in the morning light.

She may have slept through her alarm this morning, and a considerable queue of emails is waiting at the office, but there is no firm timeline in her work routine. She lives the inspired life of many who work in the creative enclave known as the SoWa Art and Design District, a neighborhood that runs on its own clock, just two miles from Boston's briefcase-carrying crowd, and a place many consider the city's artistic epicenter.

SoWa, short for South of Washington Street, was populated by squatters and abandoned buildings until about 20 years ago, when GTI Properties, the real estate managers of the SoWa Art and Design District, began reimagining the area. During the intervening years, many artists who initially worked in studios on Newbury Street and in the South End Artists Association packed up their paintbrushes and relocated to the hot-ticket studio at 450 Harrison Street – the SoWa Artists Guild.

On the first Friday of each month, and every Sunday of the year, the guild opens its doors to the public, allowing pedestrians to weave through four stories of about 100 studios and peek into a vintage market on the building's basement level.

"The arts, I think people think of it as like an afterthought and forget the way in which we are all called to be creative," said Christine O'Donnell, founder and executive director of ShowUp, a non-profit contemporary art venue in Boston, and a SoWa resident. "It

kind of feeds our souls. By supporting the creative community, we really are supporting ... all of Boston."

Debby Krim, a SoWa Artists Guild founder, photographer and artist, said the neighborhood is now more than a promenade of art galleries and studios. It has evolved into a home. "The bigger thing that happened as a result of the guild was this incredible community developed," she said. "All that mattered was that you had

(SoWa Pg. 16)

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.
SU25P2419EA
Estate of:
Paul K. Kennedy
Date of Death:
07/16/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Edmund J. Corcoran, III of Wilmington, MA and Gloria Corcoran of Wilmington, 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: Edmund J. Corcoran, III of Wilmington, MA and Gloria Corcoran of Wilmington, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in 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 12/10/2025. 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 (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. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 29, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

11/13/25
RR

DO YOU NEED TO RUN A LEGAL NOTICE?
DON'T FORGET TO CHECK WITH THE COURTS
TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER



SoWa Artists Guild founder Stephen Silver and studio partner Beverly Woods have resided in the Guild for over 20 years. They are located in studio 211, pictured here on an Open Sunday.

The Salvation Army calls for Red Kettle volunteers

With the holiday season approaching, The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division is kicking off its annual Red Kettle Campaign across the Commonwealth, and volunteers are urgently needed in nearly every region.

As more families across Massachusetts face economic hardship, inflation and housing costs heading into the holidays, the need for The Salvation Army's services continues to grow. The organization serves as a critical safety net, providing Christmas gifts and food, offering emergency assistance with bills, and providing shelter to those without a home. All Red Kettle proceeds support The Salvation Army's work with individuals and families right in the communities where donations are collected. On average, volunteer bell ringers raise enough money to provide nearly 250 meals to children and families in their respective towns. The theme of this year's campaign is "Give With JOY."

"Each act of generosity, large or small, helps The Salvation Army make the season brighter for families across Massachusetts," said Major Elijah Kahn, General Secretary of The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division. "Our volunteers and donors embody the spirit of the holidays and make it possible for us to bring joy where it's needed most."

The first local Red Kettle campaigns of 2025 kick off across the state in November. Areas with upcoming campaign launches that are in need of volunteers and support include: the Merrimack Valley, Cape Cod and South-

eastern Massachusetts (Hyannis, Fall River, and New Bedford), the North Shore (Newburyport, Salem, and Lynn), MetroWest, Mass Bay/Boston, the Route 2 area (Athol, Greenfield, and Fitchburg), as well as Western (Springfield and Pittsfield) and Central Massachusetts (Milford and Worcester).

The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division is working to raise more than \$2.3 million through this year's Red Kettle Campaign to support critical year-round social services. Donations can be made in person at a Red Kettle or virtually.

To volunteer at a Red Kettle or donate online, visit salvationarmy-ma.org/redkettle.

The Salvation Army helps more than 28 million people in nearly every zip code in America overcome poverty, addiction, and economic hardships through a range of social services. By providing food for the hungry, emergency relief for disaster survivors, rehabilitation for those suffering from substance abuse, and clothing and shelter for people in need, The Salvation Army is doing the most good at our more than 7,400 centers of operation around the country. In 2024, Forbes ranked The Salvation Army 6th in its list of America's Top 100 Charities. And in 2021, The Chronicle of Philanthropy ranked The Salvation Army 2nd on its list of "America's Favorite Charities." For more information about supporting The Salvation Army or your local service centers, visit salvationarmyma.org. Follow us on X @SalvationArmyMA and #DoingTheMost-Good.



PHOTOS COURTESY JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

Left to right, State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid; Dr. John E. McDonough, T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Chinese Progressive Association President Emeritus Suzanne Lee; State Rep. John Moran.

BSHC honors community and health leaders at Legacy of Leading Gala

Special to the Regional Review

Nearly 300 business and community leaders, policymakers, advocates, and supporters gathered to honor leaders who are improving healthcare access and advancing immigrant rights at this year's Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC) Legacy of Leading Gala: Transforming Communities through Service celebration in Boston on October 16, 2025. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Madam Speaker Pro Tempore Kate Hogan, and State Representatives Brandy Fluker-Reid and John Moran were among those in attendance.

Boston Senior Home Care is expanding strategic collaborations to further its mission of serving older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers. Through its partnership with

Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc. (PLAN of MA & RI), this year's Diamond Sponsor, Boston Senior Home Care continues to strengthen connections within the caregiving community and ensure that older adults and people with disabilities have access to essential resources and supportive services.

"The Legacy of Leading Gala is an opportunity for Boston Senior Home Care to pay tribute to those who share our vision of creating a more dynamic, inclusive, and resilient community, for everyone," said Boston Senior Home Care CEO Meg Hogan. "We are proud to touch the lives of thousands of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers, and look forward to continuing to build on this life-changing work to ensure vulnerable individuals receive the

comprehensive support they need to thrive."

Mayor Michelle Wu presented Suzanne Lee, President Emeritus of the Chinese Progressive Association, with the Community Advocacy Award in recognition of her five decades of unwavering service promoting community development, educational access, and advocacy for Boston's most vulnerable residents.

Dr. Paul Hattis, physician-attorney and health care policy expert, presented Dr. John E. McDonough, Professor of Public Health Practice in the Department of Health Policy & Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and key architect of state and national health care reform legislation, with the Patricia A. Lynch Excellence in Public Service Award for his lifelong commitment to improving health care access for vulnerable populations. Hattis and McDonough co-host the Health or Consequences podcast, which explores Massachusetts public health and health care policy issues under the sponsorship of Commonwealth Magazine.

The evening's emcee was award-winning broadcaster and podcaster Candy O'Terry, who guided the celebration with warmth and enthusiasm as guests reflected on the organization's impact across Boston's diverse neighborhoods.

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC) is a private, nonprofit human services agency based in Boston. BSHC also provides support and guidance to caregivers by helping them care for their loved ones while focusing on their self-care needs. For more information, visit bshcinfo.org.

City offering incentives for landlords who rent to individuals transitioning out of homelessness

By Dan Murphy

The city is now offering two programs that give significant incentives for landlords of Boston properties who rent to individuals transitioning out of homelessness.

The city's Home for the Holidays campaign is seeking to support landlords who rent to individuals moving out of homelessness by matching households who have rental assistance vouchers with available units.

The program provides landlords with signing bonuses, up to two-months' rent, and also offers stability to prospective tenants with rental subsidies and supportive services. For more information on this campaign, call 857-323-6303, or visit bit.ly/landlord_incentive_intake to fill out the intake form.

Also, the city's Landlord Incentive Program is providing financial incentives, such as lease-signing bonuses, retention

bonuses, broker fees, and repair costs, to property owners who sign leases with individuals experiencing homelessness in Boston.

Landlords can use the unit retention bonuses and incentives to make necessary repairs to their units. This program will also help landlords quickly and easily market their units to participating households.

Tenants will receive ongoing staffing support as needed. Landlords will have direct access

to a customer service provider to resolve any tenancy issues. The program is part of the city's larger effort to end homelessness and housing instability in Boston.

This program is operated by New Lease for Homeless Families, in partnership with the city and Boston-area service providers.

Visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/housing/landlord-incentive-program> for more information.

CITY COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE JULIA MEJIA ENGAGES WITH RESIDENTS AT ABCD NE/WE NSC

Special to the Review

City Councilor-at-Large Julia Mejia recently visited the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC) to support the center’s Star Market food distributions at both the North End site and the new West End location at 75 Blossom Court. She spent time listening to constituents, learning more about their concerns, and sharing news from City Hall related to resources

and supports available to Boston residents. Her visit was meaningful for the seniors and other neighborhood participants who rely on the food distributions each week. Councilor Mejia greeted attendees, thanked staff, and helped bag produce and groceries. The NE/WE NSC is grateful for her ongoing interest in food access and senior supports and looks forward to continued collaboration in service to the community.



City Councilor-at-Large Julia Mejia speaks with constituents at the ABCD NE/WE Neighborhood Service Center.



City Councilor-at-Large Julia Mejia with ABCD North End/West End NSC Director Julia Power and North End constituents

Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s Winter Clothing Drive now underway

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s 2025 Winter Clothing Drive to benefit Action for Boston Community Development - a nonprofit that supports more than 100,000 low-income Greater Boston residents each year – is now underway. Until Nov. 20, donate your new or lightly used winter clothing for

all ages to: Shattuck Visitor Center, 125 The Fenway, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; James Michael Curley House, 350 Jamacaway, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; REI, 401 Park Drive, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday; City Feed & Supply, 66

Boylston St., 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday; and City Feed & Supply, 672 Centre St., 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Items to donate include coats/jackets, sweaters, boots, hats, mittens/gloves, scarves, blankets, snow-pants/snow bibs, and warm socks.

SoWa (from Page 14)

this shared passion to create.” Whether it’s still-life photography, charcoal sketches, intricate jewelry, landscape paintings or porcelain vases, there is a home for most forms of artistry in this area of Boston. “What’s amazing about SoWa and the huge number of artists is that everyone is doing something different, and everybody is good at what they do,” said Stephen Silver, a painter and founder of the SoWa Artists Guild. The SoWa Open Farmer’s Market on Sundays has brought a new attraction to the area as the much-needed third space. Rows upon rows of white tents line the Artists Guild parking lot alongside local food trucks, art vendors, vintage clothing stalls and everything in between. Dozens of dogs and children weave through the legs of Sunday strollers as a local rock band strums a quintessential Sunday tune. The Open Market and the Artists Guild have a symbiotic relationship, where they both benefit from each other’s influence in the community. People can not go to one without noticing the other.

SoWa, like most neighborhoods, is not without challenges. The closest MBTA station is about a 20-minute walk away, and locals say buses are less plentiful and reliable in this quarter of town. “Maybe that’s what makes us a little bit special, though,” said Krim, who has been a resident artist of the SoWa Artists Guild for more than 40 years. “You have to walk here or drive here, and we are off the beaten path,” she said. The next challenge, according to O’Donnell, of ShowUp, is to help people discover the neighborhood. With redevelopment and an influx of new residents, she said, many people lack a basic understanding of Boston’s geography. “People don’t understand that South Boston and South End are two different things,” she said. “And a lot of people kind of don’t go beyond Back Bay.” Even so, she suspects SoWa has plenty of room to grow as people seek experiences that generate popular social media posts. In an increasingly digital world, each potential visitor has a personalized social media algorithm

and the freedom to choose a news outlet that caters to their interests and opinions. However, it wasn’t always like that. “In the old days, we all looked at the same newspaper, and we all watched the 5 o’clock news,” Krim said. “There were some things that universally we were all doing the same thing at the same time, and we just don’t live our lives like that anymore.” Due to a fragmented media landscape, some people may miss SoWa, but others may be drawn to the niche and expressive opportunities of social media, which unite people who are passionate about the arts. Krim says the essence of SoWa is rare due to its deep-rooted and involved community, a positive gallery-studio relationship, and an air of positivity that fills each corner of the space. Arielle Appleby is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between the Charlestown Patriot-Bridge and the Boston University Journalism program.

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