



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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NEMPAC Staff Photo (left to right) Jhon Alvarado, Miguel Petris, Genie Alvarado, Pamela Feo, Shannon Fitzgerald, Sherri Snow, Morgan Flynn, Harriet Hung, and Steve Allen.

NEMPAC student performers raise record-breaking funds for community arts

Special to the Regional Review

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) celebrated a record-breaking day of music, community, and giving at its annual Performathon, held on Saturday, April 11 at Urban Wild in Charlestown. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of student performers, faculty, sponsors, and donors, this year's event surpassed our total fundraising goal to support tuition assistance and educational programs.

More than 120 NEMPAC student performers, ranging in age and experience from young beginners to adult learners, took the stage throughout the day-long fundraiser. Representing NEM-



Cast of High School Musical.

PAC's private music instruction programs, dance and musical theater classes, and school partnerships, these artists-in-training showcased the breadth and vibrancy of the organization's programming while raising funds to support their peers.

Proceeds from Performathon directly benefit NEMPAC's tuition assistance and educational

programs and partnerships, which currently provide free or reduced-cost arts education to more than 648 students across 13 program locations in the City of Boston. The event continues to serve as a powerful reflection of NEMPAC's mission: to enrich lives through accessible, exceptional music education and performing arts pro-

(NEMPAC Pg. 4)

Longtime FOCCP President stepping down

Special to the Regional Review

Joanne Hayes Rines was first elected to serve as President of Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) in 2009.

She never imagined she would still be serving all these years later. In 2009, her grandsons were toddlers; they're graduating from high school in June. "They and I certainly have wonderful memories of fun in what they called "Grammie's Park," Rines said.

"Being part of the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park is being part of a family. We may have joined FOCCP as strangers,



Joanne Hayes Rines.

but working together to nourish a stunningly beautiful neighborhood." (FOCCP Pg. 2)

Triangle, Inc. honors State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz for his dedication to the disability community

Special to the Regional Review

Triangle, Inc. presented State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz with its 2026 Public Official of the Year Award. This award recognizes Rep. Michlewitz's support for Triangle and his commitment to prioritizing all state disability services agencies in the Commonwealth's

annual budget process. Triangle is a Malden-based nonprofit that offers innovative and comprehensive programs providing employment and independent living skills for people with disabilities.

"At a time when there are so many needs and competing priorities,

(MICHLEWITZ Pg. 16)



Triangle, Inc. visited State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz on Thursday, April 23, to present the organization's 2026 Public Official of the Year Award in recognition of his efforts to preserve and grow disability services in Massachusetts. (Left to Right) Triangle Senior Residential Manager Gamelin Bernier, Triangle Program participant and resident Dennis, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Triangle CEO Rachel Kaprielian, and Triangle Chief Program Officer Drew Warren

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EDITORIAL

AT LAST, COMMON SENSE REGARDING MARIJUANA, PSYCHEDELICS

The recent actions by the Trump administration to reschedule marijuana and certain psychedelics has brought a measure of common-sense to the regulation of these substances.

Federal policy for more than 50 years has classified marijuana and psychedelics as Schedule I drugs, placing them into the same category as truly-dangerous drugs such as heroin and opioids, which never has made any sense.

Schedule I drugs are defined as substances with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse which have never been applicable to marijuana and psychedelics.

The placement of marijuana and psychedelics into Schedule I occurred during the Nixon administration, which did so with the express intent (as was revealed 10 years ago with the release of Nixon-era documentation) of using the drug laws as a weapon against minority communities and college students who opposed Nixon's policies.

The Nixon-era drug laws led to the "war on drugs," a battle that America has been fighting -- and losing -- for more than five decades.

And as with any war, the war on drugs has had numerous casualties, measured not only in the lives directly lost and the trillions of wasted dollars spent at the federal, state, and local levels on ill-conceived enforcement, but also in the damage to communities, families, and individuals throughout our country, as well as the destabilization our war on drugs wrought in foreign countries.

In addition, the war on drugs has altered the way in which our nation fights crime at a basic level. All too often, the methods employed by authorities in their zeal to enforce the drug laws have conflicted with the Fourth Amendment (which protects citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government) and has led to entrapment.

However, the biggest loss to our nation because of the ill-conceived war on drugs has been the decades lost to the potential for research into these substances. Both marijuana and psychedelics had been used for thousands of years by mankind for the treatment of maladies of all sorts.

Recently, psilocybin has been shown to be of benefit to veterans suffering from PTSD and marijuana has benefited patients undergoing cancer treatment. In addition, studies have shown that patients using marijuana for the treatment of pain have reduced their use of opioids significantly.

But the placement of these substances into Schedule I in the early 1970s effectively eliminated research into their potential uses for most of the past 50 years.

The recent actions by the Trump administration bring us a step closer to a day when these substances can be studied thoroughly and then regulated at the federal level (similar to alcohol), eventually allowing medical providers at long last to prescribe them to treat patients safely.

TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY

To the Editor,

Dear President Garber and Provost Manning,

We, the undersigned political leaders of Massachusetts, call on the Harvard administration to bargain in good faith to come to fair agreements with the Harvard Academic Workers-UAW (HAW-UAW), the union of non-tenured teaching faculty and researchers at Harvard University, and the Harvard Graduate Student Union-UAW (HGSU-UAW), the union of graduate and undergraduate student workers, that sufficiently address their workplace concerns

LETTER to the Editor

and attend to the high cost of living in the region.

Unions everywhere fight for safe working conditions, and HAW and HGSU members deserve the industry standard protections of grievance and arbitration procedures for issues of discrimination and harassment in the workplace, as well as codified protections for their international workers. It is also crucial that the democratic rights of members are respected and that these workers are not arbitrarily carved out or excluded from participation in their union.

We understand that both unions have been negotiating a contract with Harvard University for 20 months and 13 months, respectively, and have each called for a strike authorization vote and

potential strike action in the event a resolution to negotiations cannot be found. As one of the largest private employers in the region, Harvard has a responsibility to the workers in Massachusetts to treat them with respect and dignity. These workers are the backbone of education and research at Harvard, and they deserve fair recognition of their work that sustains the critical mission of the University.

We urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that these workers receive the contract that they deserve.

Sincerely,

State Senator
Lydia M. Edwards
State Representative
Marjorie C. Decker

Babbitt and O'Reilly leaving FOCCP

Special to the Regional Review

Ann Babbitt and John O'Reilly have been vital and creative FOCCP board members for many years. They are stepping down from the board effective May 5, 2026.

Ann has been an FOCCP member for 13 years and was elected to the board as vice president in 2013. She is the magic behind the Independence Day Celebration and the Fall Festival. She leads the committee that creates joyous and smile-filled events for all who attend. No detail is too small for Ann. Her magic begins up to a year beforehand with securing the entertainers and gathering her committee to make sure each event is special. Ann will continue to serve as an advisor to the board for which we are very grateful.



Ann Babbitt.



John O'Reilly.

John joined FOCCP in 2021 and has served as clerk for five years. After joining FOCCP, he created a new ad hoc committee, The Cleaner Uppers. Every Monday morning, volunteers meet John at the shed at 10 a.m. They're soon armed with pick-up sticks and a trash bag to scour the

park for litter.

He is stepping down from the board because he and his wife, Joanne, are moving to France in September. Ann and John have made a difference in the park and the organization with their caring and can-do attitudes and friendliness. They will be missed!

FOCCP (from Page 1)

hood city park morphs strangers into friends and much more," she added.

"The sense of responsibility we all have for the park and its value to the neighborhood is strong and over the years that sense has deepened. I've often said, 'It's really not our park.' But we treat it as ours with wonderful support from the City Parks and Recreation Department," she added.

"Creativity, caring and execution are the hallmarks of FOCCP,

which is evident from the winter blue lights to the Tunnel of Love, gorgeous rose and crescent gardens, summer and fall festivals, loving care of trees, and more. NONE of these projects could have been done without member and business financial support. Thank you to each of you who have joined as a member and to each and every business that supports us," Rines said.

"I'll begin my 17th year as president in the year we celebrate

FOCCP'S 25 Anniversary! It's a truly significant achievement for an organization with no paid employees. We are all volunteers," she added.

"We'll celebrate FOCCP's first 25 years in style aboard the Odyssey on July 28. It will be an evening to remember! Hope you can join me in raising a glass to toast a wonderful organization and a gem of a park and a very, very special neighborhood," she noted.

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- FOUNDED IN 1967 -

PUBLISHER: Debra DiGregorio

deb@reverejournal.com

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

editor@beaconhilltimes.com

REPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

Stephen Quigley | Phil Orlandella | Cary Shuman

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

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Cary Shuman Photo

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu joins State Sen. Lydia Edwards, City Council Vice President Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Tree Eastie Executive Director Bill Masterson (far right) city officials, and East Boston High School students for a photo following the announcement of Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan Monday at LoPresti Park.

Wu releases 2030 Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen Boston's climate resilience

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced this week the release of Boston's landmark 2030 Climate Action Plan alongside dozens of community and institutional partners at LoPresti Park in East Boston. This implementation plan provides a roadmap for how the City will achieve its carbon emissions reduction and climate resilience goals, including reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

"Fighting climate change provides a generational opportunity to create good-paying jobs, more affordable energy, cleaner air, and safer streets," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The 2030 Climate Action Plan outlines Boston's determination to deliver on our brightest future through citywide action. This year's update represents a clear transition from vision to implementation, and from a focus on city government goals to city-wide coordinated action. I am grateful for all the dedicated community partners whose years of collaboration set the foundation to make this plan possible."

Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan marks a shift in focus from planning into the implementation phase of the City's climate action strategy, bringing City departments, local institutions, and community partners together to ensure that Boston can thrive for generations to come. The Plan provides concrete metrics and goals across key areas of climate action, including buildings, transportation,

energy, workforce development, coastal resilience, and protection from extreme weather. Climate justice is a key component of this initiative, as underserved communities will disproportionately experience the greatest impacts of climate change. The City of Boston prioritized community engagement in its environmental justice communities, designed the Plan incorporating their current and future needs, and will implement strategies to ensure that every neighborhood receives the public health, economic, and resilience benefits of climate action.

Highlights of the Plan include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions: Boston is on track to reduce emissions by 48% by 2030 through full implementation of its existing programs and policies. The Plan builds on this trajectory, outlining additional actions needed to reach the City's 50% by 2030 reduction target while simultaneously reducing energy costs for Boston residents and businesses.

- Protecting Boston from sea-level rise and extreme weather: New England's regional prosperity depends on Boston's critical infrastructure, including world-class hospitals and universities, its highway and rail network, and local food systems. The Plan includes strategies to protect these regional assets and vulnerable neighborhoods alike, outlining steps to screen City capital projects for future climate risk; protect residents from flood pathways; reduce heat-related injuries; and ensure that every Boston neigh-

borhood has certified Community Emergency Response Teams.

- Building a green workforce: The strategies outlined in this Plan are expected to support approximately 67,000 full-time jobs annually. The City will work to strengthen training pipelines and expand access to high-quality green jobs through leveraging City procurement policies, Project Labor Agreements, and programs like PowerCorps Boston.

- Tracking Boston's progress: The Plan includes 22 metrics that the City will track over the next five years through the Climate Action Plan Implementation Dashboard. These metrics measure progress towards the City's goals and how residents and businesses benefit from climate action. As implementation progresses and more data becomes available, additional metrics will be incorporated over time. These metrics include monitoring:

- Buildings that meet Net Zero Carbon Zoning, Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District, and Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) standards.

- Heat pumps installed and weatherization projects completed;

- Energy cost savings from residents and businesses enrolled in Boston Community Choice Electricity.

- Street and park tree plantings to provide cooling benefits;

- Public transit and Bluebikes ridership.

- Number of residents graduated from the City's climate job

(CLIMATE PLAN Pg. 6)

NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER

By Phil Orlandella

NEMPAC ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Two of three newly North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) are North End residents.

Jesse St. Louis and Karen Frost join Bruce Rosendahl on the very active volunteer community group that was founded in 2021 to expand access to high quality arts education in the North End and beyond.

Over the years, NEMPAC has produced many quality activities and events for the community to enjoy.

NEWNC SUPPORTS FOR LIQUOR LICENSE UPGRADES

Four North End restaurants seeking to update their current liquor licenses to a full liquor license received the support of the North End / Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) at their April monthly meeting.

Filing for upgrades were: Table by Jen Royle, dba Table, 445 Hanover Street, Libertine, 125 Hanover Street, Al Dente, 109 Salem Street and Benevenuto's, 111 Salem Street.

If approved these licenses cannot be transferred or sold. If they become available, they must be returned to the state.

NEMPAC PERFORMATHON RAISES RECORD BREAKING FUNDS

This year's North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) Performathon raised record breaking funds to support tuition assistance and educational

programs.

More than 120 NEMPAC students performed at the Urban Wild in Charlestown which surpassed the total fundraising goal.

FOCCP VOLUNTEERS LINE TRELLIS WITH DAFFODILS

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park during Marathon Day placed daffodils along the trellis in the park honoring the victims and survivors of the 2013 bombing in Boston.

The 26.2-mile route was also lined with daffodils. FOCCP put more than 200 plotted plants along the trellis.

After 3pm FOCCP volunteers took some plotted to a local nursing home and also offer them to people passing by.

FOCCP ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park will hold their annual election of officers and two Directors at Large at the May 5th meeting at the Mariners House, 2nd floor at 6:30pm. Open to the public.

FOCCP ANNUAL SOCIAL

The Friends of Christopher Columbus (FOCCP) will hold its annual social at Tia's on Wednesday May 20th from 6-8pm to celebrate 25 years of caring for the park.

The gathering is a chance to connect with neighbors, meet the volunteers, and learn how membership keep this space thriving.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, no RSVP required.

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NEMPAC *(from Page 1)*

grams that embrace our vibrant, inclusive, and diverse communities.

Hosted this year at the dynamic venue Urban Wild, Performathon offered a festive, family-friendly atmosphere with activities for all ages, including an instrument petting zoo, arts and crafts, and a photo booth. Audience members enjoyed food and beverage offerings on site while supporting performers throughout the afternoon.

The 2026 Performathon also recognized longtime NEMPAC faculty member Shawn Meehan for his dedication and impact as a percussion and piano instructor for 12 years, with a citation from the Boston City Council. Shawn performed as part of our Faculty All Star Band, along with fellow

NEMPAC faculty members, Bailey Kolapudi, Steve Allen, Jack Byrne, and Dan Raney. Shawn's commitment to students and the broader NEMPAC community reflects the spirit of excellence and mentorship that defines the organization.

This event was made possible through the generous support of lead sponsors Seven Hills Farmstead, Urban Wild Boston, and Hood Park, with additional sponsor support from the North End Athletic Association, Representative and Chair of House Ways and Means Aaron Michlewitz, Rita Pagliuca, and Andrea Waldstein; and in collaboration with Falcetti Music, The Loop Lab, Henry Bear's Park Toy Store, and the Charlestown Mothers Association.

To learn more about the Performathon, watch the recorded live stream, and to donate, please visit: <https://nempacboston.org/support/performathon/>.

NEMPAC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community music school and performing arts center, founded in 2001 to expand access to high-quality arts education. Each year, NEMPAC serves over 2,900 students and community members through regular lessons, classes, and partnerships with Boston schools. Through its concerts and professional productions—including many free programs such as Jazz in the Park and Opera on the Prado—NEMPAC advances equitable access to the arts while supporting a vibrant network of local artists.



Families and students attending Performathon.



Madelyn Litofsky - Vocal Student



Faculty Honoree Shawn Meehan.



Stella Ferralis - Vocal Student.



Student Awardee Arlo Balsam.



Faculty All Star Band - Bailey Kolapudi and Jack Byrne.



Proud parent in the audience.

Coletta Zapata calls for workforce pipeline between Wentworth Institute of Technology and City

Special to the Regional Review

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) introduced a hearing to discuss establishing workforce pipeline opportunities between Wentworth Institute of Technology and the City of Boston but specifically the Inspectional Services Department (ISD). Currently, ISD plans examiner positions require a specialized combination of technical training and knowledge of building codes and regulatory standards that

is not easily acquired outside of formal academic or professional preparation. The City of Boston has long faced difficulties attracting and retaining qualified candidates due to technical requirements and less competitive compensation compared to the private sector.

“The capacity of our plans examiners directly impacts how quickly housing, commercial, and institutional projects can move forward in Boston, making these roles critical to our development

pipeline and housing production goals. These positions require highly specialized technical training and expertise that isn’t easily developed without intentional investment and preparation. We must ensure the City is equipped to meet this demand by strengthening recruitment and fostering a clear pipeline that develops and retains talent right here in Boston,” said Councilor Coletta Zapata. “This hearing will allow us to explore the feasibility and design of a workforce pipeline

between Wentworth Institute of Technology and the City of Boston, expanding the qualified applicant pool and creating meaningful career opportunities.”

Councilor Coletta Zapata sponsored the hearing to explore current staffing levels and recruitment challenges within the plans examiner classification, and to examine how a structured academic-to-municipal workforce pipeline could be developed. The Councilor believes that partnering with Wentworth Institute of Tech-

nology, who offer programs in architecture, civil engineering, and construction management, presents an opportunity to expand the talent pipeline, create pathways into public service, and strengthen Boston’s capacity to efficiently process permits.

A hearing will be scheduled in the coming months. Details will be posted on the Councilor’s social media channels.

Sen. Edwards delivers major environmental and resiliency investments in \$3.64B bond bill

Special to the Regional Review

The Massachusetts Senate passed the Mass Ready Act, a \$3.64 billion environmental bond bill that targets key initiatives in climate resiliency and environmental protection across the Commonwealth. Included in the Act is millions in targeted investments aimed at climate and community initiatives for the Third Suffolk District secured by Senator Lydia Edwards. The investments and policy initiatives seek to address flooding, increasing tree canopy, clean energy, and stronger building reinforcements.

“Climate change isn’t just an environmental challenge—it’s a question of equity and justice,” said Senator Lydia Edwards, State Senator for the Third Suffolk District. “Meeting it requires bold investments in both our people and our infrastructure. The Mass Ready Act delivers necessary resources to the communities most impacted by climate change, while expanding access to affordable housing, resilient infrastructure, and clean energy.”

Boston

Senator Edwards has secured \$250,000 to purchase two new Sonar sailboats for Piers Park Sailing Center’s programming and \$1,000,000 for Boston Housing Authority to support climate mitigation and adaptation investments, including energy efficiency, insulation, electrical upgrades, HVAC modernization, window air-source heat pumps, flood prevention and other updates to Boston Housing Authority properties in the district.

\$1,250,000 will support the maintenance of economic prosperity at the waterfront, setting aside funding to help the city and stakeholders advance resiliency planning and development in the North End and Wharf District—areas that feature vibrant, high-use, historic urban waterfronts and serve as economic drivers for

the Commonwealth.

“Piers Park is preparing the workforce that will put these critical investments into action,” said Alex DeFronzo, Executive Director of Piers Park Sailing Center. “Senator Edwards’ support means that we are ready to provide safe and high quality programs for years to come. These programs prepare young people for success in their future careers in climate resiliency, infrastructure design and construction, marine tech, and more. Our fleet of boats is more than 30 years old and this funding will allow us to update and invest for the next generation. Senator Edwards has helped us ensure success in these programs that get young people ready to work on the waterfront. We are incredibly grateful for her support and proud to continue to grow and protect our waterfront facility and equipment.”

Winthrop

To protect residential homes in Winthrop from coastal erosion and flooding, the Senator has allocated \$1,000,000 to the design, permit, and construct a new concrete seawall at Pico Ave, a site that has endured constant and harmful flooding. The Town of Winthrop Tree Committee will receive \$250,000 to plant trees to combat heat island, climate change, and soil erosion.

“Special thanks to Senator Edwards for securing these bonds,” said Tony Marino, Winthrop Town Manager. “This potential \$1 million investment through the Massachusetts Ready Act is a critical step toward protecting our most vulnerable coastal areas. These funds are a great first step to extending the seawall near Pico Avenue, which will help reduce the impacts of tidal flooding and strengthen long-term resilience for the residents of Winthrop.”

“As tree warden in Winthrop my mission is twofold: public safety, identifying risk and lessening

it or removing it,” added Tom Derderian, Winthrop Tree Warden. “The second is to enhance the tree canopy of Winthrop for the next 100 years. This week we planted 24 trees with money from donations and with volunteer workers. These trees were an inch and a half in diameter. During the last year we have had to remove as many big, old trees. We have lost far more tree cover than we gained. To catch up we need far more than the 50 trees we now plant. This bond funding will be vital to helping Winthrop meet its goals.”

Revere

In Revere, \$250,000 will be used to implement the Shirley Avenue Tree Master Plan to foster green spaces. An additional \$500,000 will be expended for the purpose of solar panel purchase and installation at Revere High School and \$250,000 will go to HVAC upgrades to fully electrify the McKinley School. Revere will also receive \$250,000 for the soil remediation at Gibson Park Boat-house.

In addition to securing key funding, Senator Edwards advanced two policy priorities through targeted amendments:

Expanding Port Area Planning to Include Housing

Included in the bill is an expansion of the Designated Port Area (DPA) Commission’s review. For the first time, this process will explicitly consider housing and community access in and around port areas. The measure directs the Commission to evaluate opportunities for affordable and workforce housing, artist live-work spaces, and improved waterfront access for low-income communities—while also assessing how mixed-use development can coexist with active port operations. It further emphasizes coastal resilience and requires the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to be a formal partner in the review.

“It’s time for low income communities [such as East Boston] - where DPAs have historically been most prevalent - to regain meaningful access to their waterfronts,” said Tanya Hahnel, Co-Executive Director of East Boston Community Development Corporation. “When local neighborhoods are given a voice, we can work together with the State to find creative ways for DPAs to be productive spaces for the Commonwealth’s economy while also promoting waterfront programming and workforce housing that serves our low income families, who for too long have been cut off from their own waterfront.”

Setting a Statewide Carbon

Sequestration Goal


Senator Edwards has also secured a climate-focused initiative establishing a statewide, net-positive carbon sequestration and storage goal for natural and working lands. This framework will help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by accounting for the carbon-capturing potential of coastal environments - such as salt marshes, seagrasses, and waterways - while aligning with Massachusetts’ existing emissions reduction requirements.

“Natural and working lands are some of our most powerful tools in the fight against climate change, and this language takes

(BOND BILL Pg. 8)

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WECA hosts 'Creative Visioning' to address climate change

Special to the Regional Review

The public is invited to a creative and engaging student-led presentation that will provide valuable insights and practical strategies for navigating the challenges of climate change. This interactive event will take place Friday, May 1, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the HUB Causeway Meeting Room (50 Causeway St).

'Creative Visioning' stems from a collaboration between the West

End Civic Association (WECA), UMass (Amherst) Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, and the Eliot School to address the immediate need to plan for and adapt to climate change and promote public awareness and action. The collaboration focuses on the involvement of the "next generation:" UMass and 6th grade students from the Eliot School, whose "creative visions" addressing resiliency issues will be featured at the May

1 event.

UMass identified local neighborhood areas with significant unmet climate resiliency needs that underscore the immediate and urgent need for resilience planning. Concerns include heat mitigation, pollution reduction, stormwater management, open-space planning and greenspace expansion. While focusing primarily on the West End, the project also explores connections to adjacent neighborhoods and public spaces, including

the North End, Charlestown, Beacon Hill, Downtown, and Charlebank and the Esplanade. UMass has also connected with the City of Boston to align planning with community priorities.

To engage the Eliot School students, members of WECA's Greenspace Committee collaborated with UMass to inform and engage sixth graders on matters of climate resilience and public engagement, including a walking tour of parts of the West End and North End.

Additional informal learning sessions were held, and students and parents were also invited to attend WECA public meetings. Eliot School students committed to produce their "creative visions" to address local resiliency concerns.

WECA is proud of the opportunity to collaborate with UMass and the Eliot School on climate matters that affect quality of life in the West End to promote meaningful public engagement.

Edwards, Coletta-Zapata deliver remarks at climate change plan

By Cary Shuman

Sen. Lydia Edwards and City Council Vice President Gabriela Coletta, who are both considered legislative champions for the environment, credited Mayor Wu for her leadership on the issue of climate change during remarks at the Mayor's announcement of the 2030 Climate Change Plan Monday at LoPresti Park.

"Welcome to East Boston," began Edwards. "This is my home, but also it's a beautiful diverse neighborhood that has been climate resilient and been fighting climate change before it was cool."

Edwards praised the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, the Maverick Street Mothers, Air Inc., Tree Eastie, Eastie Farm, and the Piers Park Sailing Center for their efforts on environmental issues.

In praising Wu, Edwards told the large gathering, "She is the climate action mayor. I think to this day, she is the only [Boston] mayor that actually came out to Belle Isle Marsh and saw that beautiful [site], the natural lungs of this area, and I want to thank you, Mayor Wu, for all of your work and to the many city officials for your hearts. I appreciate your guidance and your pushing the state to do more not for just for the City of Boston, but for all of our futures."

Coletta Zapata, who is expecting a child soon, said, "I'm so grateful to be here in my favorite

park in the City of Boston, the best part in the city."

"I'm grateful to work with our state partners, Rep. Adrian Madaro, who is an environmental champion, and Sen. Lydia Edwards, who has been at the forefront of fighting for this environmental justice community her entire career, and of course, Mayor Wu, for being a true Green New Deal mayor. As you can tell, Baby Zapata is not here yet, but he's coming very soon, and I feel at ease about his future knowing that amid the uncertainty and hostile and regressive acts by the federal government, that we have local leadership here who is making this a priority."

The former chairperson of the Council's environmental justice committee, Coletta Zapata added, "I'm proud to stand here in this environmental justice community that has long been on the front lines of combating the climate crisis. In East Boston, we know that climate change is not abstract. It shows up in extreme heat on our hottest days and in coastal flooding along our waterfront, and in the very air that our families breathe. And for too long, communities like ours have carried a disproportionate share of those burdens, and that's why today matters. This climate action plan represents a shift from planning to action, and from siloed efforts to coordinated citywide strategies that center equity, public health, and accountability."

CLIMATE PLAN (from pg. 3)

training programs, and more.

The community Climate Action Plan launch event included remarks from Mayor Wu, leadership from the City's Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet, and community and institutional partners. Hosted in partnership with Tree Eastie, a Climate Action Plan community partner, the gathering included a ceremonial planting of 10 trees in East Boston to improve the neighborhood's tree canopy and local resilience to extreme heat.

"With this Plan, Boston continues its critical national and global leadership on climate change with direct benefits for all Bostonians and as a model for the rest of the country," said Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett. "Our communities and our future generations depend on the actions we take today. That's why we are working with our community partners to collaboratively deliver on concrete strategies, measurable targets, and actionable timelines to reduce emissions and strengthen our neighborhoods' resilience."

"The 2030 Climate Action plan distills our community's top priorities for climate, quality of life, and justice," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Environment Commissioner and Green New Deal Director. "We know that the effects of climate change are going to hit our most vulnerable communities hardest, so we are ensuring that every neighborhood of Boston can access the benefits of green jobs, energy bill savings, and cleaner air through this strategic path forward."

"In partnership with the community, the City developed thorough and thoughtful plans to lower the risks posed by extreme heat, coastal flooding, and stormwater flooding," said Chris Osgood, Senior Advisor to the Mayor for Infrastructure and Director of the Office of Climate



Boston Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett, Boston Environment Department Commissioner Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Sen. Lydia Edwards, and City Council Vice President Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

Resilience. "With this plan, we shift from a focus on developing the strategy to delivering on many of the projects and policies that will best protect and enhance our neighborhoods for generations to come."

"This Plan is the most ambitious climate action agenda in our city's history," said Hessann Farooqi, Executive Director of the Boston Climate Action Network. "I am proud Mayor Wu is doubling down on climate action that not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also lowers energy bills, creates jobs and business opportunities, and improves health. I am also grateful to the many organizations and residents who informed this plan, including the members of BCAN."

"Advancing affordable, climate-resilient housing and expanding access to quality jobs are central to our work," said Gustavo Quiroga, Executive Director of LISC Massachusetts.

"The City's Climate Action Plan focuses on scaling critical decarbonization upgrades and will help lower energy costs for residents while protecting vulnerable communities from extreme heat and flooding. The City's commitment to growing Boston's green workforce is equally important and will ensure more residents can access and advance in these emerging careers. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City, working together to align the resources needed to bring these priorities to life."

"Boston is faced with the invisible threat of severe heat and the peril of rising tides," said Bill Masterson, Executive Director of Tree Eastie. "While there is no single solution, Boston's Climate Action Plan converts these challenges into actionable, measurable solutions."

Read the full Climate Action Plan online at www.boston.gov/departments/environment/boston-climate-action.



Wu announces launch of 2026 construction season

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of a new construction season for City of Boston Streets projects. Building on last year's historic progress—50 miles of street resurfacing and a record 1,723 ADA-compliant ramps rebuilt—the City's focus this year continues to be investments in the state of good repair while improving safety and accessibility across neighborhoods. Planned efforts include roadway resurfacing, sidewalk and ramp upgrades, street reconstruction, and neighborhood safety projects.

“As the 2026 construction season gets underway, we're building on last term's record progress and moving forward with projects that strengthen our neighborhoods and improve the daily lives of our residents,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This construction season, the City will continue making investments in reliable infrastructure while focusing on long-term improvements that connect our communities and make our streets safer, calmer, and better designed for all road users.”

“Our dedicated teams are hard at work delivering projects that residents can see and feel in their daily lives,” said Interim Chief of Streets Nick Gove. “We're focused on coordinating construction efficiently, reducing impacts where we can, and ensuring every project contributes to a safer, more user-friendly street network.”

Significant safety and reconstruction projects slated for this

season include:

A Street, Congress Street, and Sleeper Street: This project will reconstruct these three streets within the Fort Point neighborhood to improve safety, accessibility, and overall street design. The project will deliver wider and more accessible sidewalks, additional and safer crosswalks, Fort Point-style streetlight upgrades, new street trees and landscaped areas, and protected bike lanes that fill key gaps in the existing network. Construction is currently in progress.

Cummins Highway: The Cummins Highway Project in Mattapan will fully reconstruct Cummins Highway to create a safer, more accessible, and more sustainable corridor. The work includes new sidewalks and curbs, upgraded street lighting and traffic signals, full roadway repaving, and necessary utility replacements or upgrades. When finished, the corridor will improve conditions for pedestrians, drivers, and the surrounding community. Work is underway and expected to be completed in late summer.

Ellis Elementary School Safe Routes to School: The MassDOT grant-funded project will provide for the construction of traffic calming at six intersections, such as curb extensions, green infrastructure, and raised intersections in the Garrison Trotter neighborhood of Roxbury. The Safe Routes to School program works directly with schools to create safer streets and conditions for children to get to school safely.

Harrison Ave (South End): The redesign of Harrison Avenue between Herald Street and East

Berkeley Street will improve safety and accessibility with rebuilt ADA curb ramps, wider sidewalks, pedestrian islands, high-visibility crosswalks, and updated signal timing that gives pedestrians additional time at crossings. The project will repave the roadway, add one-way separated bike lanes in both directions, and enhance the public realm with new street trees, permeable paving, and upgraded lighting while removing the existing concrete median.

Jones Avenue Neighborhood Street Improvements: This project will deliver comprehensive improvements to streets and sidewalks on Jones Avenue, Ballou Avenue, and surrounding streets, including the reconstruction of two intersections to enhance traffic flow and simplify turning movements. Additionally, it will expand pedestrian sidewalks and incorporate green infrastructure to improve stormwater management.

Lower Roxbury Neighborhood Safety Improvements: This American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded project will make streets safer by improving visibility, slowing traffic, and making crossings easier. Changes include clear corners to reduce sightline blockages, raised crosswalks and curb extensions to slow cars and shorten crossing distances, and crossing islands to give pedestrians a safe midpoint. Signal

timing updates and redesigned “T” intersections further reduce conflicts and improve safety, while contra-flow bike lanes expand safe cycling access on one-way streets.

Lost Village Transportation Safety Improvements: Funded through the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, this project will focus on traffic-calming improvements within the Lost Village in Charlestown, including the reconstruction of several intersections, sidewalk and accessible curb ramp reconstruction, repaving, and implementation of modernized traffic signal equipment.

The City is also actively engaging residents on several other projects. In the next few weeks, Street Cabinet staff will continue collaborating with other City agencies and residents on upcoming initiatives to ensure community priorities are reflected throughout the planning and design process, including the Andrew Square, Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square, and Wood Avenue projects.

Over the past four years, the City has resurfaced more than 105 miles of roadway, filled over 27,000 potholes, and nearly doubled its bike lane network, reflecting a sustained commitment to maintaining and modernizing transportation infrastructure. Additionally, over the past three years, 73 percent of the Public Works and Transportation Department's capital budget has

been invested in maintaining and improving roads, sidewalks, and bridges.

The Public Works Construction Management Division continues to prioritize keeping the City's infrastructure in a state of good repair, and will continue work across neighborhoods citywide this season, with a goal of repaving 45 miles of roadway. The full spring resurfacing list is available here.

In preparation for upcoming summer events, the City will resurface several streets Downtown, including Atlantic Avenue, State Street, and Congress Street. As part of this state of good repair work, we will install permanent cast-in-place concrete separation on several Downtown bike facilities, including segments of Congress Street, Milk Street, and Franklin Street.

In addition to resurfacing work, the City is actively managing multiple contracts for ADA-compliant curb ramp and sidewalk reconstruction, encompassing both brick and concrete surfaces, with a goal of building nearly 1,800 ramps this season.

Residents and business owners can learn more about the resurfacing process, what to expect when crews are working in their neighborhood, and whether their streets are scheduled for resurfacing by visiting the City of Boston Resurfacing webpage.

Fenway Cares distributes food to residents

By Brigitte Camarillo-Martinez

Long before its 3:30 p.m. start time, a line begins to form at Symphony Park in the Fenway as the crowd waits in the cold for the Fenway Cares food distribution to begin.

The program has become essential for many people struggling with rising costs, said Fenway Cares organizers.

“I come here because it's free food and with grocery prices so high, that kind of resource is always needed, especially being a student,” said Boston University student Mebelyn Ureña.

Fenway Cares is led by a coalition of six neighborhood groups. Each partner contributes to coordination, volunteer support, outreach and operations, according to the Fenway Community Center.

Since 2020, the group has distributed more than 10,000 bags of fresh produce annually with the support of volunteers, local partnerships and state grant funding, according to the Fenway Community Center. What began as a COVID-19 response effort, has grown into a long-standing col-

laboration serving thousands of neighbors each year.

“What we thought was a short-term project quickly revealed that food insecurity had been in the community all along, and our work has continued to address food support for residents since then,” said Marie Fukuda, a Community Advocate for the Fenway Civic Association.

Today, the volunteer-run program distributes free bags of produce every other Wednesday at two locations: the Fenway Community Center in West Fenway and Symphony Community Park in East Fenway. It also offers free neighborhood deliveries.

Fenway Cares currently distributes approximately 415 boxes of fresh food per week, according to Fukuda.

Volunteers remain the backbone of the operation, supporting setup, distribution and home deliveries for residents unable to attend in person, Fukuda said.

“We have been incredibly fortunate to have a committed group of volunteers and community supporters,” Fukuda said. “Many have been with us for years.”

Relationships formed at the distribution sites have become one of the most meaningful indicators of the program's impact, Fukuda said.

Rose Miller, a junior at Northeastern University, began volunteering with Fenway Cares through their service fraternity and has continued to do so.

“I really enjoy coming out here in the community and getting to see new faces and meet new people,” said Miller. “You always meet interesting people here, there is always a story.”

Relationships formed at the distribution sites have become one of the most meaningful indicators of the program's impact, Fukuda said.

And for the people who stand in line for groceries, the program is a lifeline.

“Living in this city is so expensive,” Ureña said. “I have been coming here for about a half a year, and it's a big help.”

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

NEAA kicks-off Spring Soccer

The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) and A7 Associates have sponsored a Spring Soccer Program at Puopolo Park.

The eight week program has six teams that play every Saturday at 12:45pm.

Commissioners are Sean Drummy and Jose Truzman. The teams are:

Green Team, coach Gil Adam, Sloane Bremberger, Lorenzo Dello Russo, Juan Garvi Romero, Gus Gingras, Gabriel Herrera, Jeremy Knuesel, Radhika Kumar, Rhea Kumar, Clara White, and Joseph Shaban.

Brown team, coach Sarah Adriano, Nikola Drouin, Bento Garcez, Flora Garcez, Martim Garcez, Giorgio Karam, Ana Alberich, Carolina Alberich, Nizar Mayani, Michael Orlov, and Ethan Gardner.

Purple team, coaches Allison Jose and Kieran Paul, Damiano

Potami, Kai Manchanda, Mackenzie Coleman, Rian O'Sullivan, Charlotte Medeiros, Maxwell Mccusker, Finley Moniz, Ana Truzman, Andrew Drummy, and Hazel Marie Schiavone.

Red team coaches Kat and Tom Kellen, Siddharth Mehra, Nico Luengo Liander, Marcel Monnier, Kamren Nicholson, Stella Regan, Bree Ryan, William Ryan, Luna Schrott, Maximilian Schrott, and Kiran Vogg.

Navy team coach Jeff Parke, Amaya Bhatia, Ezra Jackson, Elliot Looker, Kalina MacDowell, Nevena MacDowell, Julian Lo, Bryce Dubois, Dev Mouli, Arman Vahdat, and Asher Wharton.

Royal Blue Team coach Jack Sean, Francesca Brozowski, Zoe Maklari-Kis, Nolen Maklari Kis, Alex Cristescu, Otto Heinzelmann, Tevel Kadosh Smith, Jack Luccarelli, Ella Saxe, Frank Addivinola, and George Addivinola.

Lanterns & Luminaries launch America's 250th anniversary celebrations in Boston

Keith Lockhart honored with third Lantern Award at Old North Church

Special to the Regional Review

Boston officially kicked off America's 250th anniversary celebration with a powerful tribute to history, arts and culture, and civic unity at Lanterns & Luminaries, held at the iconic Old North Church on the eve of Patriots' Day weekend.

Hosted by Old North Illuminated, the nonprofit that works to preserve and operate the historic site, the annual event brought together community leaders, historians, and music lovers to commemorate the famous April 1775 lantern signal that helped spark the American Revolution. The evening's centerpiece was the presentation of the Third Lantern Award to Keith



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY
From L to R: Angela Johnson, Keith Lockhart, Nikki Stewart and Jared Bowen.

Lockhart, longtime conductor of the Boston Pops, in recognition of his decades of cultural leadership and commitment to uniting communities through music.

The program featured the Boston Pops Esplanade Brass Quintet, period music by Tripp and Toddy, a stirring reading of "Paul Revere's Ride" performed by Roberto

Mighty, remarks by Governor of Massachusetts Maura Healey and fireworks projections by Illuminus. The evening culminated in the ceremonial lighting of lanterns in Old North's historic steeple, honoring the "two if by sea" signal that launched the American Revolution.

"This evening is about more than commemoration; it's about renewing our commitment to liberty and justice for all," said Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated. "As we approach America's 250th anniversary, Lanterns & Luminaries reminds us that the ideals exemplified in Old North's signal lanterns — courage, leadership, and active citizenship — still call on each of us today. Seeing the community gather in this historic place, a place where revolution continues to echo, is both moving and inspiring."

In accepting the Third Lantern Award, Lockhart reflected on the

enduring connection between music, history, and national identity.

"Standing here at Old North, where a simple signal helped shape the course of history, is profoundly meaningful," said Lockhart. "From my earliest memories of learning 'Paul Revere's Ride' with my grandfather, to my years with the Boston Pops, I've come to believe that music is one of the ways we tell our shared story — not just where we've been, but who we aspire to be. If my work has helped bring people together across moments of celebration and challenge, then I'm deeply honored to carry forward the spirit of the Third Lantern."

First lit in 1975 to mark the nation's Bicentennial, the Third Lantern symbolizes hope for future generations and the enduring relevance of America's founding principles. Lockhart joins a distinguished group of honorees, following filmmaker Ken Burns, who received the award in 2025.

Proceeds from Lanterns & Luminaries support Old North Illuminated's ongoing preservation and educational initiatives, aimed at inspiring deeper public engagement with history and civic life as the United States approaches this milestone anniversary. This year's event raised over \$135,000.

As the 250th anniversary sparks a banner year along Boston's Freedom Trail, visitors from across the country and around the world can step inside Old North Church Historic Site, which is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. From July through October, hours expand to Monday through Saturday from

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Holiday and November–December hours may vary. For more information, visit: www.oldnorth.com.

Established in 1991 as the Old North Foundation, Old North Illuminated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site operations and interpretative, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church in the City of Boston, Old North Illuminated welcomes approximately 500,000 visitors annually while overseeing the preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. Old North Illuminated serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. ONI works collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S. National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other partners to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church's history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. In 2024, Old North Illuminated was presented with a Leadership in History — Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of American history. The award-winning project, "Expanding History at Old North Church," encompassed a new exhibit, audio guide, and online video series. For more information, visit: www.oldnorth.com.

North End Regional Review 2026 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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BOND BILL (from pg. 5)

an important step toward fully understanding and maximizing that potential here in Massachusetts," said Representative Jessica Giannino, State Representative for the 16th Suffolk District. "By establishing a clear, science-based sequestration goal—and recognizing the unique role of our coastal resources like salt marshes and seagrasses—we are better positioning the Commonwealth to meet our long-term emissions reduction targets. I look forward to working closely with Senator Edwards and our colleagues to build on this momentum and ensure this effort

translates into meaningful, lasting climate solutions for our communities."

The effort is especially meaningful locally, with Belle Isle Marsh and Rumney Marsh located within the Third Suffolk District. A companion measure has been filed in the House by Representative Giannino (H.958).

"By prioritizing working families, waterfront neighborhoods, and historically underserved communities, we are building a stronger, more equitable, and climate-ready Massachusetts," Senator Edwards added. "I want

to thank Senate President Karen Spilka, Chairwoman Rebecca Rausch, and Chairman Michael Rodrigues for their leadership on the Mass Ready Act, and to my Senate colleagues for their shared commitment in protecting our Commonwealth."

The Mass Ready Act is part of the Commonwealth's commitment to climate resiliency and environmental protection. The Act will now move to the House of Representatives for further consideration. To read the full legislation, visit malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S3050.

Celebrate Public Art and World Labyrinth Day at Armenian Heritage Park

The Friends of Armenian Heritage Park will hold a Celebration of Public Art at Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston on Saturday, May 2 at 12:30 p.m., a gathering that highlights the shape-changing Abstract Sculpture and the Labyrinth's global connection.

Held annually on the first Saturday in May, the Park becomes Boston's connection to World Labyrinth Day: Walk as One at 1 p.m. This is a worldwide walk for peace and harmony that brings people together in cities across the globe from Boston (that's us) London, Paris, Chartres, and Rome to Gyumri, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Buenos Aires walking together at the same moment in time.

At 12:45 p.m., all will gather in front of the Park's Abstract Sculpture, reconfigured annually to create a new sculptural form, symbolic of a new life. Its changing shape reflects renewal, adaptation and the ongoing journey of communities across generations.

At 1 p.m., following a brief welcome, all are invited to participate in World Labyrinth Day: Walking as One in Peace & Harmony joining all ages in cities worldwide. The Labyrinth invites visitors to walk a single contemplative path, symbolic of life's journey. Those who live and work nearby walk the Labyrinth daily joined by visitors from across the region and around the world. Refreshments will follow.

In the heart of downtown Boston, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway is both a place of remembrance and a vibrant space for community, culture, and shared humanity. The art and landscape at the Park tell a story of heritage, resilience and the journeys that bring people to new shores.

On this day, a reminder that even in a busy city, a simple walk can engage many around the world, all coming together towards building a world of peace and harmony.



Artist rendering of residents walking along the Labyrinth in the Armenian Heritage Park.

Councilors Durkan and Santana introduce citywide zoning reform eliminating costly parking mandates for new residential development

Special to the Regional Review

Boston City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Henry Santana introduced a zoning text amendment at the recent Boston City Council meeting to eliminate minimum off-street parking requirements for residential development citywide—a reform aimed at lowering housing costs and accelerating housing production.

Boston's current zoning code requires new housing to include a fixed number of parking spaces regardless of neighborhood context or actual parking demand. These outdated requirements increase construction costs, constrain housing supply, restrict viable parcels, and ultimately drive up housing costs.

The proposal would allow developers to determine how much parking to include based on market demand, site constraints, and proximity to transit, rather than fixed zoning mandates. "Eliminating parking minimums doesn't mean developers will stop building parking," said Councilor Durkan. "It allows projects to respond to real demand instead of arbitrary mandates."

"At a time when housing production remains near historic lows and costs continue to rise, Boston must use every available tool to increase affordability and expand

the housing pipeline," said Councilor Durkan.

Boston's zoning code, at nearly 4,000 pages and with 429 distinct zoning districts, is one of the most complex in the country. "We took a comprehensive approach, starting with the base code and working through each neighborhood article to ensure this reform applies citywide," said Councilor Durkan.

Parking reform is increasingly recognized as an effective strategy to lower development costs and unlock new housing. Boston has already eliminated parking minimums for income-restricted affordable housing, helping to reduce costs and support new development, and similar policies have been adopted in cities across the country and across the Commonwealth.

Parking minimums disproportionately burden low-income households and residents without cars, effectively requiring them to subsidize parking they do not use through higher rents.

The amendment builds on a City Council hearing convened by Councilor Durkan in December 2025, where City Councilors heard from zoning and housing experts about the effectiveness of this reform in lowering costs and increasing housing production,

alongside strong public support.

With housing production slowing and costs continuing to rise, Boston faces mounting pressure to remove regulatory barriers and accelerate new development. This proposal seeks to remove a key constraint on housing supply and improve affordability.

"I am excited to build on the momentum we had in December and look forward to continuing the conversation with my colleagues to move this zoning amendment forward," said Councilor Durkan.

"To truly address housing affordability, we need to use every tool available to us and move away from policies that make it more expensive to build and live in our city," said Councilor Santana. "This zoning amendment is a step in the right direction. Our residents deserve affordable housing and more walkable, connected neighborhoods. I'm proud to partner with Councilor Durkan and my colleagues to help make that vision a reality."

The zoning text amendment requires approval by a majority of the City Council to petition the Zoning Commission for final consideration.

The zoning text amendment can be found here. The Boston City Council Live Stream can be found here.

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Boston funding helps St. Stephen's Youth Programs expand support for Black youth

By Julia Hendler

Mayor Michelle Wu announced in February that \$500,000 in city funding will go toward programs serving Black men and boys across the city, including St. Stephen's Youth Programs (SSYP), a long-running youth development nonprofit in the South End.

The investment is in partnership with the Office of Black Male Advancement, whose mission is to empower Black men and boys and ensure they have equitable access to opportunities across the city, according to the office's website.

Founded in 1999, SSYP offers year-round programming for youth of all genders across Boston. The organization provides academic support, career exploration opportunities and leadership development through after-school programs, summer employment and mentorship initiatives, according to the organization's website.

While working with students, Latasha Scott, SSYP's assistant director of development, said she noticed a gap in the programming available for boys compared to girls. Socioemotional opportunities for the boys were often limited, she said.

Boys often gravitated toward sports activities, which did not always create space for conversations about mental health or the "disparities that they're facing, whether it's in the community or at home," Scott said.

"That led to a lot of frustration," Scott said. "They're mad about a game, or they can't really express why they don't want this person on the team, or something to that effect."

The grant will support one year of the Youth Leadership Corps, a program focused on academic support, social-emotional development and leadership skills for middle school students. While the program is open to all eligible participants, the majority of students involved are boys, Scott said.

Government grants make up roughly 35 percent of the organization's funding, according to a SSYP 2023-2024 Impact Report.

SSYP first applied for the grant in 2024, but was not selected. This year, they applied again for \$20,000, and were awarded \$15,000, Scott said.

Lauren Young, the grants manager at SSYP, said grants are becoming increasingly competitive while the need for nonprofits like SSYP continues to grow.

"In this current state of the political climate and the economic climate, it's just hard," Young said. "It's hard for our youth and their parents, and also for our organization, just to stay afloat."

Half of the students enrolled in Boston Public Schools are considered "economically disadvantaged," according to the BPS website.

National economic pressures and policy decisions often "trickle down" to the students, forcing the nonprofit to adjust how it uses its resources, Young said.

"In November, when the gov-

ernment shut down, parents couldn't put food on the table," Young said. "And so then we have kids coming in extra hungry, and it's like, how do we supplement?"

Although its primary goal is to provide academic and emotional support, SSYP is much more than just an afterschool program to the students and families it serves, said D'Andra Evans, the organization's college and career counselor.

Evans first joined SSYP when she was 15 years old, and has spent the last decade working in various roles, she said.

In her current position, Evans

said the experience feels "full circle." She recalled times when SSYP helped her family buy groceries and flew her to North Carolina to visit the university she would later attend.

"St. Stephen's really does feel like a dysfunctional family in the best ways possible," Evans said. "There's always an adult who trusts in you, believes in you and you have a safe place here."

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

SCENES FROM THE GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN BOSTON

On April 26 the City of Boston came to life with celebrations for Greek Independence Day. Beginning with a parade in

the Back Bay, and continuing on to the Greek Independence Day festival on Boston Common. Shown below residents from the

City and the Greater Boston area shown on the Boston Common wearing their best for the occasion.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR



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ABCD North End to host annual Mother's Day Celebration

Special to the Regional Review

The ABCD North End Neighborhood Service Center

(NE NSC) invites the community to its annual Mother's Day celebration on Friday, May 8, at 12 noon. The event will be held at 1 Michelangelo Street in the North

End.

This festive gathering serves as a special opportunity to honor and celebrate the mothers in our community. This year's event features

a special contribution from Robin Sidell of North Street Grille, who will be providing beautiful floral arrangements for the guests.

Organizers describe the cele-

bration as a consistently cheerful and community-focused tradition. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP by calling 617-523-8125.

Wu, Chairman Michlewitz, and Rep. Moran announce \$4M in new funding included in Ways & Means proposed budget

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu joined House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz and State Rep. John Moran to announce \$4 million in new funding that will be included in the House Ways & Means proposed budget in support of ongoing initiatives to end outdoor substance use in neighborhoods of Boston and connect individuals with treatment and recovery programs. Mayor Wu also highlighted progress made across various city departments and agencies, including the Coordinated Response Team (CRT), which leads cross-departmental efforts to address safety, health, and quality of life for residents with a goal to end outdoor substance use in neighborhoods of Boston and the criminal activity that supports it, and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), which leads a public health approach to supporting residents with substance use disorder. Today's announcement builds on the City's significant progress and highlights continued coordination between the City, state partners and community leaders to advance comprehensive, long-term solutions and ensure public health in the Mass & Cass area and citywide.

"Boston has made meaningful progress toward the goal of ending outdoor drug use in our neighborhoods through a sustained and coordinated effort grounded in public health, safety, and accountability," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We're seeing fewer crowds, fewer calls for service, and more people connected to treatment, thanks to the ongoing collaborations with neighborhood working groups, service providers, and our City and State agencies. I'm grateful to Chairman Aaron Michlewitz and Rep. John Moran for their leadership in including significant funding in the House budget that would support even more of this critical work."

To drive forward crucial efforts to address quality of life in the Mass and Cass for residents and families, Chairman Aaron Michlewitz announced that the House Ways

& Means Committee will include \$4 million in their proposed budget supporting various initiatives better connecting individuals with treatment options and recovery programs. Funding is aimed at bolstering supportive recovery housing options for individuals and additional clinical support services.

"By providing these additional financial resources, we will be able to better connect individuals with acceptable treatment options and effective recovery programs. With this partnership between the Commonwealth and the City, we will be able to not only improve the lives of the residents of Boston but also help people on the road to recovery," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). "I want to thank Mayor Wu and her administration for their tireless commitment to this issue, as well as Re. John Moran, and the other members of the working group for finding a reasonable and effective solution to this issue."

"Sincere thanks to Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for his steadfast support of the South End/Roxbury/Newmarket Working Group on Addiction and Recovery and his commitment to advancing meaningful solutions for Mass and Cass. Together with city and state partners, we remain focused on balanced, humane, and effective solutions that strengthen public health, improve safety, and restore confidence in our neighborhoods," said State Rep. John Moran (9th Suffolk District).

Last year, the City brought together the Coordinated Response Team (CRT), the Boston Police Department and their Neighborhood Engagement Safety Team (NEST), the Boston Public Health Commission, partner organizations and elected officials to advance coordinated efforts for the Mass and Cass area and improve conditions in various neighborhoods. This led to a series of recommendations being brought forward by the South End/Roxbury/Newmarket Working Group on Addiction and Recovery. These recommendations have informed the City's ongoing strategy to end outdoor substance

use in the area and across Boston neighborhoods.

"I want to thank Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for his unwavering commitment, Rep. John Moran for his steadfast advocacy at the state level, and to Mayor Michelle Wu for recognizing the urgency and complexity of these challenges — working to improve quality of life for residents and business owners, while ensuring that those who are struggling receive the care, dignity, and support they deserve on their path to recovery," said District 3 City Councilor John Fitzgerald.

"What we see at Mass and Cass and nearby neighborhoods is a mix of enormously complex societal challenges," said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden. "It isn't just one issue; it's many all at once across public health, public safety, homelessness and quality of life. I thank everyone here for helping put forward solutions and look forward to continuing our efforts in partnership."

"I want to thank Mayor Wu, Chairman Michlewitz, and my committed recovery working group co-chairs for their thoughtful recommendations and steadfast support of the Mayor's Coordinated Response Team (CRT) co-response diversion program in partnership with the Boston Police Department Neighborhood Engagement Safety Team (NEST)," said Kellie Young, Director of Coordinated Response Team. "Together, we are working to end outdoor substance use and improve quality of life for our residents, business owners, and individuals living with substance use disorder. Through our partnership with the Gavin Foundation, we are ensuring that individuals are rapidly connected to structured pathways to recovery that promote stability and long term support. We are already seeing clear, measurable improvements across our city streets, with consistent reductions in outdoor substance use and meaningful progress in restoring public spaces. We remain focused on building on that progress every day. This work reflects what's possible when coordination, accountability, and compassion come together—and strengthens our

commitment to advancing both public safety and public health across Boston."

"As Boston Public Health Commission prioritizes health and provides a wide continuum of prevention, care, and treatment services, more work is needed, and we're thankful to the Mayor, our city and state partners, and our provider partners who do this challenging work with us on a daily basis," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "Our city is a national leader in our response to the substance use crisis, and I'm proud of our legacy of crafting innovative, collaborative, evidence-based, and compassionate policy to ensure people living with substance use disorder have access to the full continuum of treatment services."

Boston Public Health Commission works to promote the health and wellness of residents across Boston, including people with substance use disorder. Their data show a 38% decrease in overdose deaths in Boston, the lowest number of overdose deaths in nine years. BPHC's Recovery Services Bureau focuses on preventing overdose, expanding treatment access, and supporting recovery through harm reduction services, outreach programs, and community partnerships. In 2025, BPHC had more than 45,000 client interactions through outreach services and programs, and they placed about 2,500 people on treatment pathways. BPHC's Mattapan Recovery campus provides residential treatment beds with 24-hour care and alone had 850 enrollments in 2025.

In an effort to improve quality of life and address unlawful behavior, the Boston Police Department continues to implement various strategies. In the area around Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, quality of life calls for service have decreased by 20% and total violent crime has decreased by 33% year to date 2026 compared to 2025. Total violent crime in the Mass and Cass area decreased 7%, property crime decreased 6%, and arrests increased by 54% for 2025 compared to 2024.

To enhance real-time responsive-

ness and shift to more proactive, preventative engagement, the CRT worked closely with NEST to use a new, field-based diversion model which is effectively engaging more residents in high impact areas. This new effort has led to the CRT and NEST proactively engaging more than 890 people since September through their coordinated outreach efforts. This engagement has led to more than 600 people accessing inpatient substance use treatment. On March 30, City teams launched our Warm Weather Initiative, bringing additional BPD resources for NEST with support from state partners and the MBTA Transit Police. In the two weeks since launching efforts across agencies, the Coordinated Response Team has engaged more than 160 individuals and helped 90 people onto recovery pathways.

With warmer weather approaching, the City of Boston will continue to advance and expand our efforts to end outdoor substance abuse, connect individuals to treatment and recovery programs, and build on our progress. Next week, the City will send the annual 2026 Warm Weather Plan and Coordinated Response Team Report to the Boston City Council.

This announcement also builds on the City's new partnership with the Gavin Foundation, supported by a grant from the Cummings Foundation, has expanded access to recovery and treatment services in the area. Although significant challenges remain, over the past four years, the City has succeeded in building clear pathways to recovery and stable housing, coordinating public safety and public health responses, and ending permanent encampments in Boston. To address persistent outdoor substantial use and quality of life challenges, the Boston Police Department has committed to increased presence and enforcement in impacted areas, focused on diverting individuals in treatment and recovery programs.

For additional information on the City's ongoing efforts, please visit the Coordinated Response Team's webpage and this dashboard.

Coletta Zapata hosts budget town halls ahead of FY27 budget review

Special to the Regional Review

In preparation for the City Council's FY27 budget review process, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) hosted a series of budget town halls to shape her advocacy. Each meeting focused on key issues impacting each neighborhood, creating an important space to hear directly from constituents about their feedback on investments in essential city services. Throughout the budget town hall meetings, Councilor Coletta Zapata committed to advocating for core city services improving the quality of life of residents such as improved trash collection, pest control and mitigation, efficient street and sidewalk repairs, increased main-

tenance for parks and open spaces, senior programming, and expanding affordable housing.

"The budget reflects our values by demonstrating our priorities through key investments, and it serves as the Council's leverage to advance and deliver for our district," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "Over the coming weeks, we will engage in a collaborative process with residents to ensure we are funding critical city services and advancing initiatives that address our most pressing challenges while navigating financial constraints. I encourage all residents to share their input by reaching out to my office and joining the Council during upcoming budget hearings."

On April 8th, 2026, Mayor Michelle Wu shared the first draft

of the \$4.9 billion FY27 Operating Budget which is now in the hands of Boston City Council. The FY27 budget reflects a disciplined approach to protecting core city services while positioning Boston for long-term fiscal stability with the lowest increase in spending since 2009. The City of Boston, along with other municipalities across the Commonwealth and country, are facing a challenging fiscal environment with rising costs, slowing revenue growth, and economic uncertainty. Despite these challenges, the City of Boston continues to have a AAA bond rating and strong city reserves. As fiscal conditions tighten and costs rise, the FY27 budget reduces or eliminates funding for several discretionary programs and grants that were previously supported

through federal relief funding and City investments.

To address key drivers of last year's deficit, the FY27 proposed budget includes cost-containment measures targeting rising health care costs, public safety overtime, and snow removal. At the same time, the budget continues to prioritize housing affordability and stability, summer youth employment, and high-quality constituent services that improve quality of life and maintain our streets. It also invests in public health and safety, critical resources for families and seniors through Boston Public Libraries and BCYF centers, and high-quality education for all students.

The Boston City Council will hold budget hearings reviewing the proposed budget alongside city

officials and hear feedback directly from residents. Most hearings will be live-streamed on www.boston.gov/city-council-tv and all hearing recordings will be available on the Boston City Council's youtube page.

This marks the fifth year the Boston City Council has the authority to reject, reduce, amend, or approve line items in the city's operating budget. The Council is expected to vote on the finalized budget by the end of June, with approved measures taking effect on July 1, 2026. Additionally, this budget cycle will feature the city's third participatory budgeting process, allowing residents to contribute ideas and recommendations. To learn more about how to get involved, visit boston.gov/departments/participatory-budgeting.

MBTA and MassDOT celebrate Earth Day with Blue Line Station cleanup

In honor of Earth Day 2026, dozens of employees from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) volunteered to cleanup eight stations along the MBTA Blue Line: Maverick, Airport, Wood Island, Orient Heights, Suffolk Downs, Beachmont, Revere Beach and Wonderland Stations. This year's focus on the Blue Line reflects the MBTA's rotating, systemwide approach to Earth Day service efforts. Now in its fourth year, the employee-led cleanup initiative has previously focused on stations and corridors along the Orange Line, Red Line, and Fairmount Line, ensuring that communities across the network benefit each year.

"MBTA and MassDOT employees take pride in the communities we serve, and these cleanup efforts along the Blue

Line reflect our shared responsibility and desire to keep the environment clean and our system welcoming for all," said Interim Secretary General Manager Phillip Eng.

Sustainability is a core priority for the MBTA. Initiatives like the annual Earth Day cleanup support broader efforts to reduce environmental impact and build a more resilient transit network. Through its strategic planning and climate work, the MBTA is focused on modernizing infrastructure, improving sustainability, and supporting mode shift to public transportation. In September 2024, the MBTA released its Climate Assessment, which outlines progress to date and identifies next steps to advance sustainability and resilience across the system.

In addition to its climate planning work, the MBTA is advancing sustainability through major



COURTESY PHOTOS

Shown (above and below) are some of the employees from the MBTA and MassDOT who volunteered to cleanup eight stations along the MBTA Blue Line



fleet modernization and mode shift investments across bus and commuter rail. The agency continues to deploy hybrid and battery-electric buses and invested in supporting infrastructure like the fully funded Arborway battery-electric bus facility.

The MBTA is in the midst of the Better Bus Project, which will help to make riding the bus a first choice for more riders by improving accessibility, reliability, safety, and the overall experience.

The MBTA is also moving forward with Regional Rail modernization, including a new joint procurement for battery-electric and Tier-4 low-emissions locomotives that will support quieter, cleaner, and more reliable service, building on investments already underway such as battery-electric service on the Fairmount Line.

The MBTA also thanks its riders for doing their part. Whether

choosing the bus, subway, commuter rail, ferry, or paratransit, public transportation helps to reduce traffic congestion and lowers greenhouse gas emissions. Public transportation in the region produces significantly fewer emissions per passenger mile than single-occupancy vehicles, and as ridership increases, the environmental and sustainability benefits are anticipated to grow.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence,

modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on while supporting the region's economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, the Better Bus Program, and the Rail Modernization Plan, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders' daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, riders are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact mediarelations@mbta.com. For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit MBTA.com or follow @MBTA on social media.

MASQUERADE: A GIBSON SOIREE AT THE ST. BOTOLPH CLUB



Mark and Jackie Yessian



Tarot Card medium Jill Anderson from the Regina Russell Tea Room in Quincy MA offered complimentary readings for guests.



Sisters enjoying their night out celebrating a unique historical home in Boston :Joanne O'Neill and Nancy Jane Duncan.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian
The Gibson House hosted its Masquerade: A Gibson Soiree at the St Botolph Club. The fundraising event had a theme that embraced the dark, Victorian

humor of Edward Gorey. Music, drinks and a celebration of the unique museum house that maintains its original layout and furnishings, a time capsule of Boston's life in the 19th Century.



Greg Bowne, Elissa Lunger, and Tyler Cavanagh



Etiquetteer Robert Dimmick



Isabela and Samantha Connelly



Erica Hirshler



Anne Swanson has her tarot cards read by Cynthia Rivera from the Regina Russell's Tea Room in Quincy MA.



Gibson House Board member Rob Davidson (right) with his husband Andy Rubison and Matthew McGurick.



George Earley and Catherine Rockett



William and Alice Bancroft with Kathryn Gillis



Guests enjoyed the ambience of the St Botolph Club that lent to the Edward Gorey theme of the party.



Raffle items, shown above, await for guests to buy tickets for them.

The theme of the evening was the dark, Victorian-styled humor of Edward Gorey.

Wu Administration announces Affordable Housing Funding for rental projects citywide

Funding will support 892 rental homes across 13 developments in nine Boston neighborhoods

Special to the Regional Review

The City of Boston has announced more than \$52 million in new funding to support the creation and preservation of affordable rental housing across Boston. The awards, administered through the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust, will support 13 developments in nine neighborhoods, resulting in 892 income-restricted rental homes, including 75 homes that will be set aside for families and individuals exiting homelessness.

Projects funded are located in Roslindale, Jamaica Plain, East Boston, Roxbury, Downtown, the West End, Charlestown, Dorchester, and Mission Hill. Developments include housing for older adults, families, permanent supportive housing, preservation of public housing, and mixed-use projects that feature community and commercial amenities, and easy access to some of Boston's most beautiful open spaces. These newly funded projects will also advance City priorities around transit-oriented development

and adaptive reuse, provide new homes designed to be affordable to households earning low or moderate incomes, and create significant construction jobs for the local workforce.

"The City is using every possible tool to deliver stable, affordable housing for residents and families across our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This funding will strengthen our communities, expand access to housing, and help ensure Boston remains a home for everyone. I'm grateful to the Neighborhood Housing Trust, the Community Preservation Committee and all of our partners as we work together to address the housing crisis and strengthen our communities."

"This funding round reflects the City's continued commitment to housing as a cornerstone of stability for Boston residents," said Chief of Housing Sheila A. Dillon. "We greatly appreciate the development teams assembling high-quality projects that we are eager to support. Each of these projects will strengthen neighborhoods and ensure that affordability remains at the heart of Boston's growth."

Funding for this round includes several federal sources, such as the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and the Community Development Block Grant, along with City of Boston resources, including the funds derived from

new residential development under the City's Inclusionary Development Policy, funds derived from the surcharge paid by residential property owners and administered by the Community Preservation Fund, and funds from the City of Boston's Development Impact Projects Exactions Policy, or Linkage which are administered by the Neighborhood Housing Trust to create affordable housing that serves Boston's low-income residents. Together, these investments advance City goals to maximize the impact of public dollars to meet urgent housing needs.

"These projects reflect the City's commitment to aligning planning and housing investments to meet the needs of our growing communities," said Kairos Shen, Chief of Planning. "By advancing development in transit-accessible, resource-rich neighborhoods, we are helping to create more equitable access to housing and opportunity. The Planning Department is proud to work alongside the Mayor's Office of Housing to support projects that contribute to a more inclusive and resilient Boston."

"The Neighborhood Housing Trust is proud to support this round of funding, which will create new affordable homes and strengthen communities across Boston," said Catherine Hardaway, Chair, Neighborhood Housing Trust. "By leveraging Linkage resources, we are able to invest in devel-

opments that expand access to housing and support residents at a range of income levels. These projects reflect the kind of thoughtful, community-centered growth that is essential to Boston's future."

"The Community Preservation Act continues to be a vital tool for expanding affordable housing in Boston," said Felicia Jacques, Chair, Community Preservation Committee. "These investments reflect our commitment to directing resources toward projects that effectively meet urgent community needs, support long-term affordability, and help residents remain in the neighborhoods they call home. We are proud to partner in advancing developments that will have a lasting impact across the city."

"This funding will help connect residents to stable, affordable homes at a time when that stability is more important than ever," said Kenzie Bok, Administrator, Boston Housing Authority. "Through our rental assistance programs, we are able to ensure that many of these new homes are truly accessible to households with the lowest incomes, including families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness. This partnership strengthens our shared work to make Boston a city where everyone has a place to live with dignity."

Downtown

25 West Street, developed by Bridge Over Troubled Waters with the Planning Office for Urban Affairs as development consultant, will transform a vacant five-story historic commercial building into a new residential and supportive services facility for youth. This adaptive reuse project will create 63 emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive units for homeless and at-risk youth. 25 permanent supportive units will be funded by the City of Boston. The facility will also feature administrative office space, and on-site services including a Welcome Center and supportive services in a location steps from public transit and easily accessible to downtown.

West End

151 Cambridge Street, will replace the existing West End Library with a new mixed-use development that combines a modern two-story public library with 119 affordable rental homes and commercial space. Developed by POAH and Caste Capital, the project will deliver housing for families and individuals earning low to moderate incomes. Located in a transit-rich, high-opportunity neighborhood, the development will expand access to affordable housing while creating a vibrant community resource in Beacon

(HOUSING Pg. 15)

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU26P0721EA
Estate of: Mary Elizabeth DePoto
Also Known As: Mary E DePoto
Date of Death: 02/06/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Linda D. Bower of Douglas, 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: Linda D. Bower of Douglas, 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 05/27/2026. 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: April 15, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

4/29
RR

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston MA, 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF

PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN
Docket No. SU22P1010GD
In the Interests of: Bryna Harris
Of: Dorchester, MA

RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/14/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both.

The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 15, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

4/29
RR

Do you need to run a Legal Notice?

Send it to legals@eastietimes.com or call the office at 781-485-0588

HOUSING *(from Page 14)*

Hill and the surrounding West End.

Roslindale

4259–4267 Washington Street, developed by BBH Community Development LLC, a development entity of B'nai B'rith Housing New England, will create 41 affordable rental homes for older adults (55+) and seniors. Located in the heart of Roslindale Square, the six-story mixed-use building will include on-site resident services, a fitness center, community space, and a rooftop deck. The project will also include ground-floor commercial space and bike parking. This will be one of the first developments permitted under the City's new Squares + Streets zoning, advancing transit-oriented, age-friendly housing while meeting the City's net-zero emissions building standards.

1198 Centre Street, developed by Hebrew SeniorLife, will create 78 deeply affordable rental homes for older adults, including homes set aside for seniors experiencing homelessness. Located adjacent to the Arnold Arboretum, this six-story building will include extensive on-site services such as wellness programming, care coordination, and supportive housing services designed to help seniors live independently. The project will transform a parking lot into a sustainable, service-enriched housing community, and expand access to affordable senior housing in a neighborhood with limited income-restricted units.

Jamaica Plain

The Rogerson–Beaufort project, led by Rogerson Communities, includes the creation of 41 new affordable senior and 66 new assisted living memory care units to replace existing memory care services on their campus along the Jamaica way. This six-story building will be located opposite Jamaica Pond, part of Boston's Emerald Necklace and has easy access to public transit and neighborhood amenities, while creating a modern, sustainable campus.

294 Hyde Park Avenue, developed by Arx Urban, will create 48 new mixed-income rental homes in a transit-oriented corridor near the Forest Hills MBTA station. The project will replace a deteriorating auto-parts store and warehouse with new housing serving individuals and family households earning low to moderate incomes, including homes set aside for individuals experiencing homelessness. Designed to meet high sustainability standards, including

Passive House and zero-emissions requirements, the development will bring new affordable housing to a high-cost neighborhood while improving the surrounding streetscape.

The Nate Smith House, developed by Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation, will preserve and modernize 45 deeply affordable rental homes for extremely low-income seniors. The neighborhood surrounding this longtime community asset joined the tenants in strongly advocating for the renovation to address critical building needs, including accessibility upgrades and an elevator replacement. The preservation effort will stabilize the property while enhancing on-site services and maintaining its affordability.

East Boston

2 Shawsheen Road, developed by East Boston Community Development Corporation, will create 35 new affordable family-sized rental homes in Orient Heights, steps from the MBTA station. Built on a former industrial site near Belle Isle Marsh, the four-story Passive House-certified building will reserve more than half of its homes for families earning very low incomes. The project will provide access to supportive services and expand affordable housing in a neighborhood with below-average affordability.

Roxbury

The Doris Bunte Apartments, a Boston Housing Authority public housing community in Egleston Square, will undergo a comprehensive preservation and modernization effort to protect 163 deeply affordable homes for seniors and residents with disabilities. The project will fully renovate apartments and common areas, improve accessibility, upgrade elevators and life-safety systems, and replace outdated gas systems with all-electric heating and cooling. Outdoor spaces will be reimagined with gardens and seating areas, supporting resident health and connection, while ensuring that all homes remain permanently affordable and under public control so residents can continue to age safely in place.

Drexel Village, developed by the Planning Office for Urban Affairs and JGE Development. Phase I will create 139 affordable rental homes as part of a larger mixed-use, mixed-income campus on a City-owned site near Ruggles Station. The project will include multiple buildings with larger,

family-sized homes, community and retail space, and landscaped open areas designed to serve both residents and the surrounding neighborhood. Located in a transit-rich area, the development will expand access to affordable housing while supporting economic activity and creating new community space in Roxbury.

Charlestown

The Austin Street development, led by Trinity Financial, Inc., will create 123 affordable rental homes, including 13 homeless set-asides, on a City-owned site adjacent to the MBTA's Community College Station. The first phase of redevelopment will deliver a seven-story, transit-oriented building with a high share of family-sized apartments, along with resident amenities including a fitness room, bike facilities, and shared community space. Designed to meet Passive House performance standards, the project will transform an underutilized parking area into energy-efficient housing that improves pedestrian connections and expands affordable housing access in a transit-rich neighborhood.

Dorchester

Hollins Park, developed by VietAID, will transform a vacant residential property into 33 new affordable rental homes for families and individuals. This 100 percent affordable development will serve households earning very low to moderate incomes and will include homeless set-asides and deeply affordable units supported by rental subsidies. Featuring a high share of family-sized apartments, the project will replace an underutilized site with new housing that reflects community input, improves the streetscape, and helps address displacement pressures in the Bowdoin-Geneva neighborhood.

Mission Hill

145–157 St. Alphonsus Street, developed by Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, will preserve and convert seven existing townhouse-style units into permanently affordable rental homes for extremely low-income families. Located adjacent to the Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park Arboretum, the project will remove the property from the speculative student housing market and fully renovate and energy retrofit the property. This project will help counter displacement pressures in a neighborhood where rents have risen sharply given high demand,

and represents a rare opportunity to recapture market-rate housing for families currently at risk of being priced out.

Proposals were evaluated through a competitive process led by the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Neighborhood Housing Trust, and the Community Preservation Committee following a Request for Proposals issued in summer 2025. Projects were assessed based on financial feasibility, development team capacity, design quality, community support, and alignment with City housing priorities.

Under Mayor Michelle Wu's leadership, Boston has made historic progress toward creating and preserving homes that residents can afford. Since the start of her first term, the City has produced or begun construction on more than 18,000 new homes, including thousands of income-restricted units, and has launched new policies to make it easier, faster, and less expensive to build housing across every neighborhood. Mayor Wu has directed record levels of investment to prevent displacement, expand affordable homeownership, and support renters and homeowners who face housing instability.

The Mayor's focus on climate and health has also made Boston a national leader in green and energy-efficient housing. Together, these efforts are helping to make Boston a city where every resident can have a safe, stable, and affordable home, and where communities can grow stronger for generations to come.

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) is a public agency that provides subsidized housing to low and moderate-income individuals and families. In addition to conventional public housing communities throughout Boston, BHA offers rental assistance programs. BHA receives federal and state funding to provide housing programs to individuals and families. BHA's mission is to provide stable, quality affordable housing for low and moderate-income persons; to deliver these services with integrity and mutual accountability, and to create living environments that serve as catalysts for the transformation from dependency to economic self-sufficiency.

The City of Boston's Planning Department shapes growth that serves Boston's residents and centers their needs. Our mission is to address our City's greatest challenges: resilience, affordability, and equity, and to take real estate actions and prioritize planning, development, and urban design

solutions that further these priorities. We seek to build trust with communities through transparent processes that embrace predictable growth and shape a more inclusive city for all.

The NHT Fund supports homeownership, rental, cooperative, transitional, and permanent housing developments. The fund provides financing for projects serving households earning at or below 50% AMI and gives preference to populations that face barriers in securing housing, including seniors and people with disabilities. Funding is awarded as gap financing, and each applicant may receive no more than 1,000,000 per project. Priority is given to projects serving the greatest number of low-income households. The program also has a preference for projects that are near transit, and include family-sized units with two or more bedrooms. Boston's Neighborhood Housing Trust Fund is funded through a commercial project linkage payment fee system.

After Boston voters adopted the CPA in November 2016, the City created a Community Preservation Fund. This fund is capitalized primarily by a one percent property tax-based surcharge on residential and business property tax bills that began in July 2017. The City uses this revenue to fund initiatives consistent with statewide CPA guidelines: income-restricted housing, historic preservation, open space, and public recreation. The funding of any project requires a recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee and appropriation by the City. For more information, please visit the Community Preservation webpage.

FOR LEASE



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781 808 6473

West End Museum offers programming in May

Special to the Regional Review

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7, has announced its May events calendar, including an author talk centered around immigrant communities in modern Boston; the second event in our 2026 performing arts series; and two walking tours - there's something for everyone.

"Harry 'Bucky' Lew: An Early Black History of Basketball The First Black Professional Basketball Player" comes to the museum on May 2 at 11 a.m. Join author Chris Boucher and Harry 'Bucky' Lew's granddaughter, Wendy Johnson, for a conversation about the life and legacy of Lew as the first Black professional basketball player.

"Title town in the West End," a

walking tour presented by Boston Sports Tours, takes place on May 2 at 1 p.m. Meet at the Government Center MBTA stop for a walking tour led by the founder of Boston Sports Tours, Kathryn Harris. Get outside and learn all about the West End's role in making Boston 'The City of Champions.'

"Developers in Dialogue" is then scheduled for May 3 at 3 p.m. at the museum. Hear from Berkeley Investments' Dan McGrath, Venley Developments' Joseph Venley, and PWC's Brendan Mallon at an open panel discussion and networking opportunity for individuals from all corners of the real estate, investment, construction, and development industry. Drinks will be generously provided by Currently Wine Company.

"Immigration, Community,

and Identity: A Conversation with Shubha Sunder" takes place on May 6 at 6 p.m. at the museum. In collaboration with The Immigrant Learning Center and the Institute for Immigration Research at George Mason University, WEM will be connecting the neighborhood's long history of immigration with the present through an author talk centered around Sunder's work 'Optional Practical Training,' which explores themes of immigration and belonging today.

"Body Revealed, the Spirit Unbound: The Art of Hyman Bloom and the Music of Hovhaness and Sibelius" is then scheduled for May 10 at 3 p.m. Join The WEM at The HUB50 Community Room for a musical performance and lecture featuring the art of the West End's Hyman Bloom alongside the music of his contemporaries Alan Hovhaness and Jean Sibelius. Together, these works invite reflection on the body as both material and vessel: a site of decay, transformation, and perhaps - spiritual continuity. This musical performance will be preceded by a short lecture from Vanessa Formato, Archivist at Mass Eye and Ear Institute's museum and archives. Formato will be discussing the work of Bloom's relationship to the larger history of anatomical art.

"Remnants of Urban Renewal Walking Tour" takes place May 16 at 11 a.m. Get outside with former museum curator Duane Lucia during a one and a half hour walking tour exploring the few buildings that were not destroyed by urban renewal in the 1950s and '60s when more than 50-acres of tenement buildings occupied by roughly 7,000 residents that were demolished under the premise of 'slum clearance' in The West End. Those that remain represent an impressive lineage of early Boston architects and the legacy of the neighborhood that was turned to rubble.

Finally, WEM's Boston Themed Trivia returns May 21 at 6 p.m. to The Pennyweight Hotel. Flex your local knowledge and enjoy tasty food and drinks. This event is not to be missed.

More information and links to purchase tickets can be found online at: thewestendmuseum.org



Members of St. Lucy Lucy Society are shown receiving NEW Health Partnership Award.

NEW Health honors St. Lucy Society

Special to the Regional Review

A Community Partnership Award was recently presented to St. Lucy Society by NEW Health recognizing their long-standing commitment to improve the health and well-being of the communities the Health Center service.

The award also honors the society's ongoing collaboration with the Center in their shared dedication to addressing critical needs across neighborhoods.

Over the years, the society has been an invaluable partner in sev-

eral meaningful initiatives including generous donations of food items to the Food Access Program that ensures that patients and families have nutritious essentials.

They have helped distribute holiday gifts to students at the Eliot School and have assistant the center's outreach team to organize an annual backpack drive that provided equipment to students.

The Society's generosity, partnership and community spirit has and continues to make a lasting impact to NEW Health earning them this well-deserved award.

MICHELEWITZ (from Page 1) ities in our communities, Triangle is grateful to have Rep. Michlewitz in the crucial role as Chairperson for the House Committee on Ways and Means," said Triangle, Inc. CEO Rachel Kaprielian. "He understands the complex needs facing individuals with disabilities and has continued to preserve crucial services that help them live richer, fuller lives in their communities."

The award was presented on April 23 at Rep. Michlewitz's State House office, where Triangle, Inc. CEO Rachel Kaprielian, Chief Program Officer Drew Warren, Senior Residential Manager Gamelin Bernier, and Triangle program participant and resident, Dennis, had the opportunity to meet with Rep. Michlewitz and thank him for his support.

Rep. Michlewitz's leadership, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic, ensured that rates

for providers of day, residential, and workforce development programming for individuals with disabilities kept pace with increasing costs and rising demand from the community. This essential funding allows Triangle and similar organizations to continue to evolve and innovate through the creation of new, modern service models aimed at younger members of the disability community. Rep. Michlewitz has supported Triangle's earmark funding through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which has benefited over 500 students with disabilities with employment-focused programming since its inception in 2018. This includes more than 100 Boston Public School students in Rep. Michlewitz's home district.

For more information about Triangle, Inc., visit <https://triangle-inc.org>

SEWAGE BACKUPS ARE PREVENTABLE

No Valve = No Protection

If your home has plumbing fixtures in the basement, like a toilet or sink, a backwater valve will prevent sewage from flowing into your home during heavy rains or sewer backups.



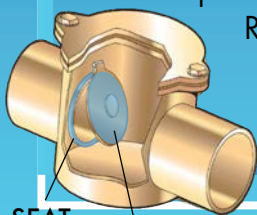
Maintenance Matters!

Without a properly installed and maintained valve your basement is vulnerable to costly and hazardous sewage backups.

Simple Maintenance Requirements:

Inspect regularly, especially before storms. Wear protective gloves and eyewear.

Remove debris from valve seat and flapper with water and gentle scrubbing.



SEAT

FLAPPER



Boston Water and Sewer Commission

Note: PSA for informational purposes. Backwater valve must be installed by a licensed plumber. BWSC does not install valves.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER