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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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BLO'S STREET STAGE LIVE PERFORMANCES



COURTESY PHOTO

Boston Lyric Opera's Street Stage returned to the Rose Kennedy Greenway on Wednesday, July 30 with a free outdoor concert featuring passionate opera, classic musical theater anthems, and American Songbook favorites. See Page 8 for more photos.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Upcoming BHCA Meetings

Zoning & Licensing Committee - Wednesday, August 6th, 6pm via Zoom

Architecture Committee - Monday, August 18th, 5:30pm via Zoom

Upcoming BHCA Events

First Friday Coffee Hour - September 5th, 8:30-9:30am, 74 Joy Street

Dinner Under the Stars - Saturday, September 27th, 6pm, flat of Mt. Vernon

Fall Hill Fest - Sunday, September 28th, 12-4pm, flat of Mt. Vernon

For further information on BHCA events, including Zoom links for these meetings, or to volunteer, please contact the BHCA office at 617-227-1922.



Help us keep the gas lamps and trees free of permits!

With the busy moving season approaching, No Parking/No Standing permits will be every-

where. When you see expired parking permits, please remove them by cutting the tape or wire completely and discarding in the nearest trash can. Please remove any tape or tie-wraps as well. Although movers and contractors are asked to remove the permits they put up, many signs remain. Help us keep the neighborhood beautiful!

BRAP Community Meeting

Have you heard about BRAP? The Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP) is a new initiative to combat the rodent population in the city of Boston. BRAP is a coordinated, multi-agency initiative to mitigate the rodent population in Boston and provide a greater quality of life for residents

See BHCA Page 2

Grotto to close after 22 years on Bowdoin Street

By Dan Murphy

The neighborhood will bid farewell to a beloved, longstanding restaurant on Aug. 21, the last night of service for Grotto after 22 years in business at 37 Bowdoin St.

Owner Scott Herritt opened the cozy subterranean Italian restaurant on July 6, 2003 – several months shy of his 40th birthday.

Herritt had relocated from his home state of Oklahoma in 1992 to pursue cooking. He was already pretty well acquainted with Beacon Hill before opening Grotto, having previously lived in the neighborhood for around five years.

"I thought Beacon Hill would be a good location for a small, Italian restaurant," Herritt told this reporter.

Prior to opening Grotto, Herritt, who said he has "always been

cooking Italian style," was working in the North End.

At this time, the vast majority of Italian restaurants in Boston were concentrated around the North End, said Herritt, adding that "North End-style Italian is an island unto itself."

Instead of serving this same style of Italian cuisine, however, Herritt said, "A lot of the dishes I made were 'Northern Italian,' although I don't know if that term is used anymore."

Homemade pasta, including cavatelli; and a dish comprising short ribs, mushrooms, gorgonzola, and house-rolled short-rib gnocchi in a red wine sauce are among the enduring staples on Grotto's menu.

"The core concept of the menu, I would say, is still pretty much intact," said Herritt, "but some

See GROTTO Page 2



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Grotto restaurant at 37 Bowdoin St.

EDITORIAL

SHOULD DRIVERS OVER 80 BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A ROAD TEST?

We read with great sadness the recent news reports about an 81-year-old man who was arraigned last week on multiple charges connected with the wrong-way crash that killed an 18-year-old boy and injured three other teenage passengers.

According to a press release from Essex District Attorney Paul F. Tucker's office and related court documents, the accident occurred on the Abram Piatt Andrew Bridge that spans the Annisquam River on Route 128 in Gloucester at approximately 1:30 a.m. on June 30.

Authorities allege that the defendant, who was the operator and sole occupant of his 2020 Honda CRV, drove northbound in the southbound lane for five miles before colliding with the victims' vehicle, a 2011 Toyota Corolla.

The defendant was not charged with operating under the influence -- according to news and police reports, he simply had been confused.

We all know that accident statistics clearly demonstrate that new drivers (ages 18-24) are the most accident-prone of any age cohort, but what is less widely-known is that studies show that drivers 80 and over have the highest rate of fatal crashes per mile driven.

Although senior drivers, particularly those over 80, are involved in fewer crashes than younger drivers, they have a higher rate of deadly and severe crashes compared to other age groups.

This is not surprising. As those of us who are approaching that 80 year-old cohort know all too well, we have decreasing physical and cognitive abilities that affect our reaction time, vision, hearing, and overall driving performance.

Massachusetts law mandates that drivers age 75 and older must renew their licenses in person at an RMV location and undergo a vision test. The RMV can request a road test or written exam only if there is reason to believe a driver's medical condition might affect their ability to drive safely.

However, as Baby Boomers continue to age, America's senior population is growing faster than all other age groups, thus greatly increasing the number of elderly drivers who will be on our roads in the years ahead.

It seems to us that in this era of Lyft and Uber, our seniors have many options for getting around -- and that removing older drivers who no longer are capable of operating on our roadways safely will greatly improve public safety for everybody.

GROTTO (from pg. 1)

dishes I've added over time, like chicken parmesan, which you can't find in Italy."

Like any other new establishment, Grotto admittedly faced the immediate challenge of getting a foothold in Boston's restaurant landscape upon opening.

"I paid my dues for the first year or so," said Herritt.

Before the proliferation of social media, new restaurants were usually discovered via word-of-mouth, so Grotto's ascent was a somewhat gradual process, Herritt recalled.

Grotto advertised in the now-defunct *Improper Bostonian* and sometimes even through advertising inserts in this publication.

"People always seem to find the restaurant, but we didn't design it that way," said Herritt of the

space, which can accommodate a capacity of 40 patrons seated at tables.

With its exposed brick, the space had previously been home to an Indian restaurant and received little more than a quick makeover before reopening as Grotto. But this apparent lack of pretension also lent Grotto its cozy ambience -- something not lost on Zagat, which named it one of Boston's most romantic restaurants.

Moreover, Grotto had continuing success with its theme nights featuring a menu drawn from the 1996 film, 'Big Night.'

Set on the Jersey Shore in the 1950s, 'Big Night' tells the story of two Italian immigrant brothers who stage a massive, elaborate feast at their struggling restaurant in a last-ditch effort to compete with a rival Italian restaurant located across the street.

Timpano, the dish the brothers serve, comprises a heaping pile of

pasta, which combined together with meatballs, egg and salami, is swathed in a rich ragu, and then, it's all enveloped in a delicate dough.

Grotto offered its Big Night feasts about twice a year until the pandemic struck, said Herritt.

With Grotto's lease up in September, Herritt wasn't eager to commit to continue running the restaurant beyond then.

"Our lease was about to run out, and I didn't want to commit to another two or three years," he said.

Merritt is now pondering his next move, but he knows it won't entail opening another restaurant.

"I need a little time just to think about what I'm going to do next," he said.

Through Aug. 21, Grotto is still open nightly from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit grottorestaurant.com for more information.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

and visitors. Under the leadership of the Mayor's Office, Operations Cabinet, and Inspectional Services Department, BRAP brings together key stakeholders from several City departments to collaborate on rodent mitigation strategy and leverage a wide range of expertise. The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) commissioned this report to determine and address Boston's rodent control needs. Renowned urban rodentologist, Dr. Bobby Corrigan, authored the report detailing the factors contributing to Boston's rodent population. You can read the report at boston.gov by searching for the BRAP plan.

The Beacon Hill Civic Association is part of a BRAP focus group

to consider solutions to this problem. Additionally, there will be a city-led Community Engagement Meeting on Tuesday, August 12th, at 6pm via Zoom for any interested neighbors. E-mail luke.hines@boston.gov for the Zoom details or call the BHCA office.

In September, John Ulrich, ISD's Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Services, will be our guest at the September 5th BHCA Coffee Hour at 8:30am. He will discuss the plan and how we can do our part.

2025 Annual Appeal – Support the work we do for you!

The BHCA works every day to answer your calls and emails and respond to your concerns. We

work with the city to improve life on Beacon Hill by advocating for brick repairs and repaving. We connect with utility companies to provide you with up-to-date information about how your address will be impacted. We are always available.

With your 2025 Annual Appeal donation, you can support this work we do for you.

Please make a tax-deductible gift today by visiting bhcciv.org or by mailing your contribution to the BHCA at 74 Joy Street, Boston MA 02114.

Together, we will keep Beacon Hill a thriving and connected community. We appreciate your ongoing support and our thanks to all who have already contributed!

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Wu celebrates new beer, wine legislation and promotes available liquor license opportunities

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and State Representative Aaron Michlewitz celebrated new legislation that will allow businesses with beer and wine licenses to upgrade to all alcohol licenses. In addition, the City of Boston Licensing Board today approved community space liquor license applications for American Repertory Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, and Sorrel & Lime. The approved applicants are located in Allston, the South End, and Dorchester, respectively. The Licensing Board is currently in the process of sending the applications to the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) for further review. Since the 2024 legislation, Boston has granted 61 businesses new liquor licenses, helping entrepreneurs bolster their businesses and build wealth citywide.

"These new, upgraded liquor licenses will help strengthen our economy and support the local businesses that anchor our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thankful to our state legislators who made this possible, to the City Councilors and advocates who advocated for more opportunity through expanding liquor licenses, and the City of Boston Licensing Board, Office of Small Business, and Office of Night-life Economy for their countless efforts to support our local businesses and community spaces. I encourage local businesses across our neighborhoods to consider applying for an available liquor license and look forward to celebrating these new restaurants and community spaces as they continue to grow."

The Fiscal Year 2026 Massachusetts State Budget gives municipalities the opportunity to allow businesses to trade in their beer and wine license for a restricted all alcohol license. To accept this option, Mayor Wu will introduce an order to the City Council in the coming weeks. Once approved by the City Council, the Licensing Board will adopt regulations and inform businesses about the steps of the upgrade process. This fall, the Licensing Board and Office of Small Business will host workshops and consultation hours to ensure beer and wine licensees understand the legislation and how it could potentially impact their business.

"Allowing businesses to upgrade liquor licenses while still respecting the neighborhood process will lead to great opportunities for restaurants and bars all across the City. This legislative change is a great opportunity for them to grow and prosper by

upgrading from beer and wine to all alcohol licenses," said State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means. "I want to thank the Mayor for her support of this initiative and her unwavering commitment to the economic growth of the City."

"This new legislation is a game-changer for our small businesses, especially in Black and Brown neighborhoods that have been historically locked out of opportunities to grow and thrive," said State Representative Christopher Worrell, 5th Suffolk District. "By expanding access to all-alcohol licenses, we're giving local entrepreneurs the tools they need to compete, to build wealth, and to shape the future of our communities. I'm proud to have fought for these changes at the State House, and I'll continue to champion equity and economic empowerment for every corner of Boston—especially the ones that have been left behind for far too long."

"This latest step in liquor license reforms is a welcome change for our antiquated liquor license system," said City Councilor Brian Worrell. "We've already started seeing the benefits of adding 225 new ZIP Code-restricted licenses last year, and this upgrade of 300 more will further help our small business owners, add jobs, and spark business growth in our neighborhoods."

The beer and wine upgrade builds on last year's legislation to increase availability of liquor licenses in Boston. After Mayor Wu and the Boston City Council filed a successful Home Rule Petition, Governor Maura Healey signed legislation on September 11, 2024, bringing 225 new liquor licenses to Boston. This new batch is the single largest addition to Boston's liquor license quota since the end of Prohibition. With this influx, the City has the ability to support local entrepreneurs and boost economic growth. Specifically, the legislation created:

195 zip code-restricted licenses (both all alcohol and beer and wine) in Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, South End, and West Roxbury, to be granted to the City over three calendar years

15 all alcohol licenses for community spaces, including non-profits, small theaters, and outdoor spaces

12 transferable all alcohol licenses

3 all alcohol neighborhood restricted licenses in Oak Square, Brighton

"At the City, we have the priv-

ilege of serving the 18,000 small businesses that employ 125,000 people and generate \$28 billion each year. More than 10 percent of those businesses are restaurants and bars, and we continue to work tirelessly to provide wrap-around support services, remove barriers, streamline procedures, and deliver as much information to make obtaining a liquor license and running a business as easy as possible," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "With small businesses continuing to bear the brunt of destructive national policies, liquor licenses can help increase an operator's profit margin to keep them afloat and offer a chance to invest in growth. We encourage more entrepreneurs to seek out the remaining neighborhood restricted licenses, and remain dedicated to educating them on the new option to upgrade an existing beer and wine license to an all alcohol license. This latter option will provide the City with another tool to support the growth and sustainability of our restaurants, who bring vibrancy and a place to gather across our communities."

In early 2025, the Licensing Board approved 37 new liquor licenses and in June, the Licensing Board approved another 21 licenses. Today the Licensing Board approved three community space licenses: American Repertory Theater in Allston, Boston Center for the Arts in the South End, and Sorrel & Lime in Dorchester. The City of Boston is encouraging businesses throughout the city—but particularly businesses located in 02119, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02129, 02132, and 02136—to apply.

"We are happy to be part of a great collaboration with the City of Boston and State," said Stephen Clark, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Restaurant Association. "This is a great opportunity for new restaurants to open in certain neighborhoods and for those restaurants who want to upgrade their liquor license to do so. Opening new restaurants provides jobs and supports a bustling economic environment."

"Mayor Wu has made a big difference for Boston businesses by listening to our ideas and working with her team to help us recover and grow after the pandemic," said Helen Chen, Vice President of Chinatown Business Association. "This new liquor license program is another example of the administration finding new ways to make sure every neighborhood has successful, strong businesses."

"We appreciate the time and effort these community space applicants—and all 61 approved

applicants—have put into their applications," said Kathleen Joyce, Chair of the Boston Licensing Board. "We look forward to reviewing additional applications and encourage all potential applicants to engage with the Licensing Board throughout the process. We are here to help."

The businesses approved today completed their application and community process prior to May 23, qualifying them for the second round of the allocation process.

When reviewing additional applications, the Board will continue to factor in evolving neighborhood needs, market realities, the strength and sustainability of an establishment's business plan, and the applicant's ability to further economic growth for surrounding businesses.



The Mayor's Office of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, the

Office of Neighborhood Services, and Office of Small Business staff will continue to support potential applicants, as well as beer and wine licensees interested in upgrading their license.

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to make a drop-in appointment with the Boston Licensing Board at City Hall, Room 809 by contacting 617-635-4170 or emailing licensingboard@boston.gov. Beginning September 10, the Licensing Board will once again host bi-weekly office hours.

Potential liquor license applicants are encouraged to start the process as soon as possible. To apply, business owners must be able to demonstrate a legal right to occupy the premises. This could be a deed, lease, or letter of intent from a landlord. Learn more about applying for a liquor license on the Licensing Board website.

The Beacon Hill Times - beaconhilltimes.com
 The North End Regional Review - northendregionalreview.com
 The Boston Sun - thebostonsun.com
 The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - charlestownbridge.com

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Governor Healey: Forced renter-paid broker's fees end Aug. 1

Special to Times

Governor Maura Healey is reminding Massachusetts renters, landlords and brokers that the state's new policy banning forced renter-paid broker's fees goes into effect today, August 1. Earlier this year, Governor Healey proposed and then signed a provision in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget that prohibits landlords of residential rental properties from requiring that renters pay the landlords' broker fees. Now, the broker's fees for rental units must be paid by the person who hired the broker or salesperson.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has released an FAQ for renters, landlords and brokers to help them navigate this new policy and know their rights. In addition, anyone who thinks they've been improperly charged a broker's fee can contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division online or call 617-727-8400 for assistance.

"Housing costs are already way too high and moving is already way too complicated. This new law will save renters thousands of dollars each time they move and

make the rental process more fair and less burdensome," said Governor Healey. "We're here to support renters, landlords and brokers through this change to make sure everybody knows how they will be impacted and what their rights are. I'm grateful to the Legislature for approving this change and for their strong partnership in

our ongoing work to make housing more affordable in Massachusetts. We wish everyone good luck this moving season, stay safe and avoid moving trucks on Storror Drive!"

"Starting today, renters in Massachusetts will not be forced to pay thousands of dollars in fees for a service that they themselves never

contracted in the first place," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "The House remains committed to ensuring that state government does all that it can to bring down the cost of housing here in Massachusetts, and we're grateful to Governor Healey and our partners in the Senate for their shared commitment to that goal."

Longtime environment and climate expert Kris Sarri named Massachusetts State Director of The Nature Conservancy

Special to Times

Kristen 'Kris' Sarri has been named The Nature Conservancy's new Massachusetts State Director, bringing 30 years of deep knowledge about environmental non-profit work and government leadership to the role and a passion for improving the livelihoods of communities and protecting nature.

Sarri most recently served as the USAID Acting Chief Climate Officer and Senior Advisor for Climate and Environment in the Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security. She was also President Biden's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Prior to joining USAID, Sarri served as President and CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary



COURTESY OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Kristen 'Kris' Sarri, The Nature Conservancy's new Massachusetts State Director.

Foundation in Silver Spring, MD. During her tenure, she transformed the organization into a leading voice for the conservation and restoration of U.S. waters, working closely with local communities. She also has served in a senior leadership role in the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

She spent eight years in the U.S. Senate where she was on the Professional Staff of the Senate Commerce Committee with responsibility for the Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee; served as a Senior Policy Advisor to Senator Jack Reed; and the Legislative Director of the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition.

"I'm excited to step into this role at such a pivotal moment for nature conservation and climate resilience in Massachusetts," Sarri said in a press release. "I look forward to working in close partnership with our Board of Trustees and staff, whose leadership and deep commitment are instrumental in forging innovative conservation strategies across the Commonwealth and driving impact

for people and nature. Together, I'm confident we can significantly accelerate the pace of progress, tackling the biggest threats to the environment and ensuring its vital benefits are protected for generations to come."

A native of Ann Arbor, Mich., her early life was shaped by a strong sense of service and a deep love for the outdoors, particularly the ocean. Her passion for the natural world, combined with her parents' emphasis on service, led her to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington University, where she majored in Biology and minored in Political Science. She went on to earn two master's degrees from the University of Michigan: a Master of Science in Natural Resources and a Master of Public Health.

Sarri is an avid SCUBA diver. She and her husband, Drew, as well as their rescue cats and dogs, are relocating to Boston from Silver Spring, Md.

Founded in the U.S. through grassroots action in 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a self-described "global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive."

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COPLEY SQUARE BOSTIX BOOTH REOPENS AFTER FIVE YEARS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARTSBOSTON



ArtsBoston's newly renovated Copley Square BosTix Booth returned to service on Thursday, July 31, after being closed for the past five years.

The iconic booth, which was designed by the late architect Graham Gund and opened in 1995, closed during the pandemic and has remained dormant since

during its reconstruction.

This occasion also coincided with Harry Potter's birthday, and in celebration of this milestone, ArtsBoston and the Emerson Colonial Theatre offered cupcakes, games, giveaways, and exclusive in-person ticket deals for 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child,' coming this fall to Boston.



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Project Bread, officials visit Massachusetts meal sites during Summer Food Rocks Tour

Special to the Times

Project Bread, the state's leading food security organization, and Congressman Jim McGovern, U.S. Representative, Massachusetts 2nd Congressional District, visited meal sites in Greenfield and Orange during the 11th annual Summer Food Rocks Tour. They stopped at a Summer Eats lunch location at Greenfield High School followed by a second lunch stop at the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School in Orange.

Led by McGovern and Jennifer Lemmerman, Chief Policy Officer at Project Bread, the tour emphasized the importance of Summer Eats to bring free meals to children and families while students are out of school, as well as SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), additional funds for groceries during the summer. Accompanying the tour were Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, Ph.D, Secretary of Massachusetts Executive Office of Education, Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez, and local officials.

"Programs like Summer Eats show what's possible when we

prioritize kids and families," says Lemmerman. "These are meals kids count on, served in welcoming, familiar spaces by trusted staff from schools, rec departments, and community organizations. At Project Bread, we believe hunger is a policy choice. And while at the federal level, we're seeing harmful choices like SNAP cuts, child nutrition under threat, and barriers to Medicaid, Massachusetts is charting a different course. Thanks to leadership from advocates and our legislative and administrative partners, universal school meals are permanent here, and as a result, 103,000 more students ate school lunch this past October compared to before the pandemic. That's progress. That's policy making a difference."

In Greenfield, children spun a prize wheel for Summer Eats swag, while enjoying hot dogs with peaches and a cucumber & cherry tomato salad. Families were able to take home extra food for the weekend with Greenfield's grab & go service. In Orange, children and adults lined up in the Ralph C. Mahar cafeteria for crispy baked



Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, Orange, Mass. Pictured left to right: Congressman Jim McGovern, Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez, Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, Project Bread Chief Policy Officer Jennifer Lemmerman, and Orange Food Service Director Katrina Bressani.

drumsticks with assorted sauces, fresh corn on the cob, homemade pasta salad, veggie dippers and fresh melon wedges. Thanks to a grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the school is able to cover the cost of parent and guardian meals while their children eat. Kids enjoyed yard games like ring toss and cornhole.

Orange Food Service Director Katrina Bressani shared their local successes through the Summer Eats Program. "This summer, we were proud to offer fresh, locally sourced, scratch-made meals with care and creativity to all children and teens in our community," says Bressani. "We were fortunate to also be able to offer options, including grab-and-go and adult meals, that create a unique community dining experience—one that stands apart from any program I've led in the past."

"Summer meal programs like the ones we saw in Greenfield and Orange are a lifeline for families," says Congressman McGovern. "They help make sure kids—and with innovative models like the one we visited in Orange, their adult caregivers—don't go hungry when school is out. These programs reflect the best of what our government can do when it works to make things better for everyday people. At a time when Republicans in Congress are trying to gut food programs to give tax breaks to billionaires, I'm focused on protecting summer meals programs that prevent children from going hungry. I'm grateful to Project Bread, DESE, and our local partners for leading the way—and I'll keep fighting to make sure these programs get the full support they deserve."

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration made free school meals permanent across the state. But students shouldn't miss out on

healthy food just because school isn't in session," says Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. "We know families' grocery bills increase in the summer when kids do not have access to school meals. That's why programs like Summer Eats are so vital, providing kids with nutritious food whether they're at camp, a park or their local school. Summer Eats is one of the ways the administration is working to address childhood food insecurity, and we are so grateful to partners in this work like Congressman McGovern and Project Bread."

"It was wonderful to see - and taste! - the delicious, nutritious food that school districts and community organizations are providing to children through Summer Eats," says Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez. "I'm grateful to Project Bread for their outreach work and for their advocacy in this area. It's critical to keep nutrition funds and farm-to-school funds flowing to families and schools if we want to give our students the strongest start possible."

In Massachusetts, 1 in 5 households with children are currently facing food insecurity. Summer Eats, the Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program, provides free meals to children and teens in communities across the state to ensure they continue growing, learning, and thriving over school vacation. Meals are administered by sponsors in coordination with DESE and activities and educational programming are often offered for children eating onsite.

For more than 20 years, Project Bread has worked in partnership with DESE to provide youth with access to Summer Eats across the state. All children or teens 18 and younger can eat at hundreds of sites statewide for free. No reg-

istration or ID is required. This year, Project Bread has granted a total of \$236,482 to Summer Eats sponsors statewide for their program development and capacity-building, such as equipment to transport meals or increase kitchen efficiency and meal quality, as well as staffing support and items to enhance site engagement, outreach and promotion efforts. In 2024, more than 2.8 million meals were served across over 1,450 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program. Another summer food resource is SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), which is a federal food benefit providing additional funding for groceries for low-income families with school-aged children.

Summer is better with full bellies and big smiles. For more information about Summer Eats meal sites and SUN Bucks, visit www.projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-8333 for help in any language.

Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. Summer Eats is one of the many nutrition programs they support. Any resident of Massachusetts struggling to afford food or worrying they might run out before they have money to buy more can call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline for help in 180+ languages (1-800-645-8333) or send a confidential chat on www.gettingsnap.com for compassionate, personalized assistance. Counselors are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is also a dedicated line available to those who are hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.



Meals are administered by sponsors in coordination with DESE and activities and educational programming are often offered for children eating onsite.



Children spun a prize wheel for Summer Eats swag.

HANCOCK ST. HOLDS SUCCESSFUL BLOCK PARTY

Hancock Street held a successful block party on Sunday, Aug 3, from 4-7 p.m. with about 50 people in attendance. The neighborhood was able to get a free street-closing permit and was even awarded a small grant through the mayor's block party initiative.

The grant covered:

- Safety / Logistics (Traffic Cones, Name Tags, etc.)
- Lawn Games / Activities (Corn-hole set, bean bags, chalk, craft items, etc.)
- Snacks / Refreshments (pot-luck platters of food like sandwich platters / fruit platters / cheese / meat trays / etc; drinks like water / soda / juice / etc)

The lawn games are going to be loaned to the Civic Association to re-use during Hill-Fest.



NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

WECA WON'T MEET IN AUGUST

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will not meet in August.

Join the group again at its next meeting on Thursday Sept. 11. Guests will be announced in a future edition of this publication.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS TO WELCOME MIGUEL ROSALES ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

Upstairs Downstairs Home, located at 69 Charles St. will welcome venerable local bridge architect Miguel Rosales for the second installment of its Speaker Series on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Copies of Rosales's newly published book, 'Bridges as Structural Art,' will also be available for purchase at this in-store event.

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM TO OFFER SUMMER EVENING TOUR

The Nichols House Museum, located at 55 Mount Vernon St., is offering a Summer Evening Museum Tour on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 6 p.m.

Visit the air-conditioned muse-

um for a look back at life on Beacon Hill at the turn of the 20th century. Hear stories about the Nichols family's varied careers, educations, and passions – and the art colony where they went to escape the city heat. Step out of time and see the house bathed in summer evening light.

For more information and to register for these programs, visit nicholshousemuseum.org.

ATHENAEUM OFFERS 'WILD FLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND' PHOTO EXHIBIT

The Boston Athenaeum, located at 10½ Beacon St., is offering its 'Wild Flowers of New England' exhibit, which features the photographic work of Massachusetts-based Edwin Hale Lincoln (1848–1938), highlighting his career dedicated to documenting and preserving New England's wildflowers through Sept. 5.

This exhibit presents, together for the first time in over a century, Lincoln's botanical photographs, glass plate negatives, and his collected pressed specimens of flowers from his 1910-1914 self-published series of the same name. Through Lincoln's preservationist lens, visitors will experience a meticulous photographic practice capturing botanical methodology, artistry,

and the timeless allure and beauty of New England's wildflowers.

More information on Athenaeum programs and events is available at: bostonathenaeum.org/events.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Volunteer Instructors for the American MahJong Community are offering free lessons for new and experienced players.

The group meets on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Community Room at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 68 William Cardinal O'Connell Way.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman (artedeman@gmail.com), or Julia Forbes (jmfaorbes@gmail.com) or Sandy Connor (ssconnor46@gmail.com).

AUGUST EVENTS SPONSORED BY WEST END MUSEUM

The West End Museum, located at 50 Staniford St., Suite 7 (on Lomasney Way), offers 'Redcoats

& Rebels: A Musical Duel Across the Atlantic' on Sunday, Aug. 24, at 4 p.m.

Listen to the soundtrack of the Revolutionary War with an evening where violins face off with fiddles in a thrilling soundscape of revolution and refinement.

Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/redcoats-rebels-a-musical-duel-across-the-atlantic-tickets-1439044293219?aff=Newspaper> for tickets and more information.

The museum offers 'Bridges as Structural Art in Boston' on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m.

From the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge to the Russell Bridge, learn how the functional meets aesthetic form in bridge designer Miguel Rosales's book, 'Bridges as Structural Art.'

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridges-as-structural-art-in-boston-tickets> for tickets and more information.

The museum also offers 'Zakim and Russell Bridges Walking Tour'

on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m.

In conjunction with the museum's pop-up exhibit, join bridge architect Miguel Rosales as he takes you on a walking tour of two bridges designed by himself and his firm. Hear about the design and engineering behind the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge and the newly completed Bill Russell Bridge.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zakim-and-russell-bridges-walking-tour-tickets> for tickets and more information.

Aldo the museum's Boston Trivia Night takes place on Thursday, Aug. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Boxer Hotel's Bullfinch Social, located at 107 Merrimac St.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-trivia-night-tickets-1469559775849?aff=Newspaper> for tickets and more information.

These projects are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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BLO'S STREET STAGE BRINGS FREE, LIVE PERFORMANCES BACK TO ROSE KENNEDY GREENWAY

Boston Lyric Opera's Street Stage returned to the Rose Kennedy Greenway on Wednesday, July 30 with a free outdoor concert featuring passionate opera, classic musical theater anthems, and American Songbook favorites. Performed by soprano Carley DeFranco, tenor Morgan Mastangelo, and pianist Ji Yung Lee, the hour-long program invited audiences to relax on the grass and enjoy live music on Boston's picturesque park.

BLO's Street Stage vehicle is a 26' long x 8.5' wide semi-trailer, custom engineered to open on three sides and provide a 270-degree view of performers. Its street art design was created and painted by Artists For Humanity student artists, guided by muralist Rob "ProBlak" Gibbs and AFH Co-Founder Jason Talbot.



COURTESY PHOTOS

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See our website for venues and times

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The Liberty Hotel's Yappier Hour hosts Benny's Birthday Party on August 13

Special to the Times

On Wednesday, August 13 at 5:30 p.m., The Liberty Hotel will host a special edition of its weekly Yappier Hour to celebrate the birthday of Benny, the hotel's beloved Director of Pet Relations. Open to hotel guests and the local community, the event will take place in The Yard (weather permitting) and will feature music by DJ Milzy, birthday cake, treats, and signature cocktails from CLINK. Guests can also enjoy an expanded lineup of local pet-friendly vendors, along with surprises and goodies for furry companions.

Featured Vendors Include: Red Dog Pet Resort & Spa, Karen 4 K9s, Onyva, Veg ER For Pets, LP Pet Photography, Paw De La Creme, Boston Animal Hospital, Poodle Pack Gear, Bond Vet, Carola's Cakes, and Wellness Pet Company.

Admission is free for hotel

guests and the local community. Valet guests can enjoy \$10 off parking with Benny's official birthday stamp.

Rich with history and full of ornate architecture, Beacon Hill's The Liberty, a Luxury Collection Hotel, is centrally located and steps away from shopping, dining, Boston Common, and much, much more. A unique blend of history, high-style luxury and homegrown warmth, The Liberty Hotel is the ideal place for a "Quintessentially Boston" experience.

Located at the foot of Beacon Hill, The Liberty Hotel is an imaginative transformation of the storied Charles Street Jail, a national historic landmark and architectural gem built in 1851. Now, from our 298 imaginatively re-invented rooms and suites, guests take in sweeping views of the city skyline and Charles River, linger over five distinct restaurants and bars and



A scene from a previous Yappier Hour.

conduct some of the city's most fun business in our approx. 6,000 square feet of meetings and event

space.

The Liberty Hotel is located at 215 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114. For more information, or

to make a reservation, please visit www.libertyhotel.com or contact (617) 224-4000.



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Photos by Brooke Trisolini

*Age as of August 31, 2025

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Healey announces successful closure of all hotel shelters, ends state of emergency

Special to the Times

Governor Maura Healey is announcing that the final hotel shelters in Massachusetts are closed, months ahead of schedule. She is also formally terminating an emergency declaration she issued in August 2023, which paved the way for reforms that successfully lowered the size and cost of the state's emergency shelter system.

"When we took office, families were being placed in hotels all across the state, and families were staying in shelter for months – sometimes years – at a time. There was no plan in place to reform the shelter system to handle the surge in demand, protect taxpayer dollars or help families leave shelter. We can all agree that a hotel is no place to raise a family. So we took action," said Governor Healey.

"As a result of my reforms and our efforts to help families get jobs and stable housing, we have fewer families in shelter than the day we took office, and all hotel shelters are now closed – months ahead of schedule. We're saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and putting families on a path to self-sustainability."

"We are deeply grateful to the frontline teams whose extraordinary work make all the difference for families," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "The dedication of our shelter providers ensured that thousands of families had access to safe shelter and support when they needed it most. We also thank the communities and partners across the state who stepped up to help families in need."

The Healey-Driscoll Adminis-

tration inherited two dual challenges when it arrived in office in 2023: an unprecedented surge of families seeking emergency shelter and a flawed shelter system that was ill-equipped to handle such a surge. In response, Governor Healey declared a state of emergency and imposed a cap on the system at 7,500 families in 2023. If she hadn't implemented this cap, caseload was projected to have reached 13,000 families by the summer of 2024. Governor Healey also worked with the Legislature to reform the Right to Shelter law to implement a six-month length of stay limit, require proof of Massachusetts residency and require that all family members have lawful immigration status, with limited exemptions. Governor Healey also expanded workforce training and job place-

ment for residents, increased case management to help families find stable housing, and imposed mandatory CORI checks for all adults before entry into the system.

As a result of Governor Healey's actions, caseloads and costs have decreased. The number of families in shelter is now lower than when Governor Healey took office in January 2023, and all hotel shelters closed as of Thursday. Since the start of 2025, triple the number of families have exited shelter (approximately 4,500) than have entered shelter (approximately 1,500). Approximately 85-90 percent of families seeking shelter are now longtime Massachusetts families.

Historically, Massachusetts has turned to hotels and motels to shelter homeless families when traditional shelters reach capac-

ity. In 2014, 1,500 families were being sheltered in hotels across the state. The previous administration turned to hotels again in 2022 as the number of families seeking shelter began to dramatically increase due to the housing crisis, failed federal immigration policy, and a lack of safeguards to control the expansion of the shelter system.

In addition to hotels, the Norfolk Rapid Shelter located at the former Bay State Correctional Center and the Chelsea Rapid Shelter site have also closed.

The reforms implemented by Governor Healey and the Legislature will remain in place to ensure the continued sustainability of the shelter system and protect taxpayer dollars.

Health Advisory: Cyanobacteria in the Charles River

Special to the Time

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is alerting residents of a cyanobacteria algae bloom in the Charles River downstream of Massachusetts Avenue and the Harvard Bridge. Following visual assessment of the river, conducted by DPH staff, identified the presence of cyanobacteria cells at levels exceeding DPH guidelines for recreational waterbodies in Massachusetts. Cyanobacteria

produce toxins that can make people and pets sick. Residents are urged to avoid contact with the water and any areas of algae concentration, even on shore.

People and pets should avoid the Charles River downstream of the Harvard Bridge (also known as the Mass Ave Bridge).

Avoid swimming, fishing, paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, and other activities in direct contact with the water.

Do not allow dogs to swim in or drink the water.

If you, your child, or your pet comes in contact with the water, rinse off immediately.

Blue-green algae can form harmful blooms in lakes, ponds, and rivers that make the water murky, and can sometimes make the water look like pea soup or paint. Blue-green algae blooms can produce toxins that may make people and pets sick. Toxins may

be present within the algae cells or in the water.

For humans, the primary concern is ingestion of water containing blue-green algae while swimming. Direct skin contact with the blue-green algae and inhalation of water droplets containing blue-green algae or toxins is a secondary concern. For dogs, the primary concern is the ingestion of water containing blue-green algae or scum that has washed ashore or gotten onto their skin or fur.

Contact may cause skin and eye irritation, and inhalation can cause respiratory irritation and exacerbate pre-existing respiratory conditions. Ingestion can cause acute gastrointestinal symptoms, such as vomiting and diarrhea. If the blue-green algae are producing toxins, the health effects can be more serious, especially for children and small pets due to their smaller body weights. These health effects can include issues with the functioning of the liver, kidneys, and/or neurological systems. In severe cases toxins produced by blue-green algae can result in death.

Call your veterinarian immedi-

ately if your dog has been around an algae bloom and shows symptoms such as vomiting, staggering, drooling, or convulsions. These symptoms present themselves soon after exposure. Dogs have been known to eat the scum that washes ashore and lick scum out of their fur. In Massachusetts and in many other states, canine deaths have been documented due to the ingestion of harmful algae.

Algae blooms may last for weeks in the summertime or may disappear quite quickly. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) will continue to monitor cyanobacteria algae levels in this area. DPH will conduct sampling for laboratory analysis once the bloom has dissipated. DPH requires two rounds of samples collected a week apart that are below the threshold of 70,000 cells/milliliter of water to determine that the advisory can be lifted.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like more information, please call the Boston Public Health Commission's Environmental and Occupational Health Division at (617) 534-5965.

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MBTA continues to make improvements to bus and subway service

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) announced improvements this fall to subway and bus schedules, which go into effect on August 24. The MBTA typically adjusts service schedules quarterly to reflect the levels of service being delivered.

Among the changes, six more bus routes will begin operating every 15 minutes or better every day, and several routes will see routing improvements to better serve riders and communities, such as Route 62 now operating seven days a week for consistent service to the Bedford VA Hospital and Route 220 again serving the Hingham Ferry Terminal for improved multimodal connections as well as other upgrades.

Riders are strongly encouraged to check schedules in advance, which will be fully available soon, and use the MBTA's Trip Planner as well as the MBTA Go app to view live information.

Subway Frequency Improvements This Fall

Beginning August 24: Red Line frequency will improve every day with the number of weekday trips increasing by 3% and the time between trains during peak hours on weekdays decreasing by about 30 seconds.

Orange Line frequency will improve every day due to faster observed turnaround times with the new car fleet. The number of weekday trips will also increase by 9% with the time between trains during peak hours on weekdays decreased by about 30 seconds.

Blue Line frequency will improve slightly on weekdays.

Weekend Green Line schedules will adjust slightly to better reflect actual trip times, and Mattapan Line schedules will adjust to better reflect actual trip times every day.

More information will be available soon at mbta.com/ServiceChanges.

Bus Service Improvements This Fall

Beginning August 24, notable bus upgrades this fall include:

Route 1, 15, 22, 23, 28, 31: These six routes will become Frequent Bus Routes with service every 15 minutes or better all day, every day during operating hours.

Route 15: Service will extend past St. Peter's Square to Fields Corner Station for all trips.

Routes 62 and 76: Routes 62 and 76 will operate as separate routes with more frequent service (the combined Route 62/76 will be discontinued). Route 62 will run seven days a week, including on Sundays, which it did not previously, bringing consistent bus service to the Bedford VA Hospital as well as more direct service to Lexington, Arlington, Cambridge, and Red Line connections at Alewife. Route 76 will operate each weekday. Both routes will be more frequent at peak times.

Route 90: Pending roadway

changes from the City of Somerville, service will resume via Cross Street and Broadway. This will maintain service along Cross Street while the MBTA shares plans with the public about future changes to Route 88/90 service.

Route 220: Service will resume operating to the Hingham Ferry Terminal for improved connectivity to the Hingham Ferry and other retail destinations.

Routes 4, 92, and 93: Service will resume operating in the Congress Street bus lane near Haymarket due to the southbound roadway reopening after construction closures.

Route 716: The new seasonal Saturday service pilot connecting Mattapan to recreational opportunities at Houghton's Pond will continue through October 11.

Some bus routes will also shift trip times to improve service frequency and reliability. The full list of upcoming bus service changes will be available soon at mbta.com/buschanges and mbta.com/ServiceChanges.

2025 Ferry Schedule Changes

Hingham/Hull Ferry weekday service continues to operate year-round. Hingham/Hull Ferry weekend service will continue through October 12, 2025.

Charlestown Ferry weekday and weekend service continues to operate year-round.

East Boston Ferry will operate this season through November 30, 2025.

Lynn Ferry, Winthrop Ferry, and Quincy Ferry will operate this season on weekends through October 12, 2025, and on weekdays through November 26, 2025.

For more information, connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

BCBS offers riders \$31 Bluebikes credit for National Wellness Month in August

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross"), the title sponsor of Greater Boston's municipally owned bike-sharing system, is launching the program to encourage active transportation and support healthier lifestyles across Metro Boston.

How it works: Beginning Aug. 1, individuals can redeem the \$31 credit – equivalent to \$1 per day throughout National Wellness Month – by entering code BLUECROSSMARIDE in the "Rewards" section of the Bluebikes app, while supplies last.

The credit can be applied toward any combination of Bluebikes trips, whether used all at once or across multiple rides.

Credits can be used for pedal and ebikes across all 550 stations in 13 municipalities, including Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Revere,

Salem, Somerville and Watertown.

Once redeemed, the credit will be added to the rider's account and remain valid for 12 months from the time of redemption.

Riders also are encouraged to share their wellness journeys using #WhyIBikeBlue on social media to inspire others throughout the month.

What they're saying: "At Blue Cross, we believe that small daily choices, like biking to work or taking a ride with friends, can have a powerful impact on health. We're proud to make it easier for our communities to get outside, get active and feel good, one ride at a time," said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross.

Biking's benefits: Regular physical activity, including biking, is associated with improved cardiovascular health, reduced stress, and enhanced mental wellbeing.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity each week, and even small amounts can deliver health benefits.

By the numbers: Since becoming title sponsor in 2018, Blue Cross has provided thousands of free and discounted rides to promote healthier lifestyles and access to biking, contributing to more than 22 million rides overall.

Operated by Lyft, Bluebikes is municipally owned by 13 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts and jointly managed by the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett and Somerville, and the

Town of Brookline.

Bluebikes is public transportation by bike. The system is municipally owned by thirteen cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts, jointly managed by the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville and the Town of Brookline, and operated under contract by Lyft. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is the system's title sponsor. Riders can find 550 stations and 5,300 bikes, including ebikes, across the thirteen municipalities: Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Medford, Malden, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown. Since 2011, riders have taken more than 25 million

trips on Bluebikes. For more information about Bluebikes, visit bluebikes.com.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (bluecrossma.org) is a community-focused, tax-paying, not-for-profit health plan headquartered in Boston. We are committed to showing up for everyone like they're the only one and guiding our members to the exceptional health care they deserve – affordably, equitably and seamlessly. In keeping with our commitment, we are rated among the nation's best health plans for member satisfaction and quality. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

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Local couple marries at North Shore affair

Special to the Times

In what is being hailed as one of New England's most elegant weddings of the year, two members of the local legal and business universe, Hailey Jenkins and Anthony D'Ambrosio, were married Saturday, July 19, in a private ceremony at the groom's parents historic Queen Ann Victorian home situated on four oceanfront acres in Beverly Farms.

The celebration blended old-world elegance with modern sophistication, and all played out in front of a sweeping vista of the Atlantic Ocean. Some 200 guests gathered on the home's manicured lawn, along the Cape Ann coast, enjoyed curated menus and other designer details throughout the evening.

Among the attendees were a who's who of Massachusetts business, legal, and political powerbrokers. Guests included Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll; former Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice David Loney; former Massport CEO, Pfizer vice president, and gubernatorial chief of staff Virginia Buckingham; Massachusetts Trial Court Administrator and former Revere

mayor and Chelsea city manager Thomas Ambrosino; LPL Financial founder Bill Dwyer; Constitution Capital Partners CEO Dan Cahill; Aptiv CEO Kevin Clark; Link Ventures CEO Dave Blundin, State Representative Jeffrey Turco; Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe, Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria and other officials.

The groom's father, Gerry D'Ambrosio, is a prominent Boston attorney who provides counsel on some of the largest, complex economic development projects in the Commonwealth and sits on numerous boards including the Governor's Judicial Nominating Commission.

The wedding site has a rich history dating back to the 19th Century. The home, a 9,000 square foot historical manor, was initially built on the promontory overlooking the ocean in 1845 as a summer residence for Boston investment banker and entrepreneur Henry C. Lee.

The wedding was officiated by Reverend Patrick O'Connor, formerly of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Winthrop, currently assigned to Our Lady of Providence Seminary in Rhode Island.

The former Miss Hailey Jen-



Anthony and Hailey D'Ambrosio walk down the aisle as husband and wife.

kins wore a show-stopping Italian Stretch Mikado, cat eye neckline, basque waist pleated and gathered ball gown with signature bow accents, from The Park View by Sareh Nouri. It was worn with a custom off-shoulder ceremony wrap, a cathedral length ribbon-trimmed veil with a blusher, diamond drop earrings and a pair of Christian Louboutin vintage Empira Lace booties. The groom's attire was by Frank's Custom Tailoring of Boston.

The wedding planner was Just a Girl Events, led by Charlene DeLuca, who has more than three decades of experience in Boston, Newport, and New York City.

The couple exchanged vows beneath a sculptural composition of hydrangeas of varying heights, up to six-plus feet, vary in height, that overlooked the ocean. The floral creations were by American Stems, a bespoke floral studio in Harwich Port.

The prominent floral designer Kelsey Harris continued the hydrangea theme to a 50-foot aisle that led guests through a mass of blooms to the site of the ceremony. It was extended, also, to the head table, where a cascading meadow of flowers spilled from either end, and to the bars.

Guests were seated under a 45' by 84' sailcloth, tri-top tent with a complete flooring system, erected by Seacoast Tent Rentals of Plaistow, N.H. Much of the tented platform was elevated several feet from the ground, complete with railings, stairs, and ramps.

Cake Ann of Gloucester provided the massive three-tiered vanilla berry wedding cake with vanilla simple syrup.

Timothy S. Hopkins Catering of Essex created a menu featuring coastal New England and American favorites. Hors d'oeuvres



Attorney Gerry and Michelle D'Ambrosio with the newly weds, Anthony and Hailey D'Ambrosio.

included lobster rolls, crab cakes, yellowfin tuna, and a full raw bar. Entrees were halibut and filet of Angus beef, and the dessert station featured delectable petit confections, sable cookies, and chocolate-dipped strawberries. Hopkins additionally provided the wedding party and guests a late-night snack of black Angus sliders, fried chicken, and homemade potato chips. Guests enjoyed three full open bars for the duration of the evening. There was an after-dinner cigar station as well.

The Fenway String Quartet performed the ceremonial music. A pre-recorded voice note from the bride to the groom was played over the string section as she walked down the aisle.

The wedding band was Hot Mess, a best of Boston, nine-piece

ensemble with five lead vocalists, a horn section, and choreography complete with costume changes. The band incorporated traditional Italian music to reflect the heritage of the groom's family and also provided a surprise mash-up of Tim McGraw's "My Little Girl" and Krystal Keith's "Daddy Dance With Me" for the father-daughter dance. The bride's father, Jim Jenkins, loves both songs so much he couldn't choose just one. The music and wedding party concluded at 1AM.

The newlyweds reside on Revere Beach as Hailey departs the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to start a new position with the Trial Court, and Anthony enters his first year at Harvard Business School.

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New England Aquarium returns six more rehabilitated sea turtles to waters off Cape Cod

Special to the Times

Six more rehabilitated sea turtles are back in the ocean waters off Cape Cod following the New England Aquarium's fourth release event of the season.

Staff, volunteers, and interns from the Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital in Quincy, MA, gathered on West Dennis Beach early Tuesday morning to send off the long-term sea turtle patients. The five Kemp's ridley and one green sea turtle spent about seven months receiving care for life-threatening, hypothermia-related conditions after becoming "cold-stunned" and stranding on the shores of Cape Cod last year. Among the group of turtles was "Hercules," a critically endangered Kemp's ridley, who arrived at the Aquarium with sepsis and severe gastrointestinal disease. After months of aggressive treatment including tube feeding, antibiotics, and steroids, the turtle fully recovered and returned to Nantucket Sound

as bystanders cheered.

From November to January, staff and volunteers with Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary walk the beaches along Cape Cod Bay searching for hypothermic turtles to rescue and transport to the Aquarium's Quincy facility for medical care. The Aquarium treated 518 live sea turtles this past cold-stunning season. As the release season in Massachusetts winds down, the Aquarium continues to care for six remaining turtle patients after returning 36 turtles to Nantucket Sound this summer.

The turtles released on Tuesday, with Greek mythology names bestowed by the Aquarium team, included:

- "Artemis" (#234) – Green sea turtle

Stranded Nov. 29, 2024, in Eastham, MA

- "Hercules" (#641) – Kemp's ridley sea turtle

Stranded Dec. 6, 2024, in Truro, MA

- "Phoenix" (#685) – Kemp's ridley sea turtle

Stranded Dec. 6, 2024, in Brewster, MA

- "Hera" (#696) – Kemp's ridley sea turtle

Stranded Dec. 6, 2024, in Brewster, MA

- "Asclepius" (#761) – Kemp's ridley sea turtle

Stranded Dec. 7, 2024, in Eastham, MA

- "Odysseus" (#789) – Kemp's ridley sea turtle

Stranded Dec. 9, 2024, in Truro, MA

The New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 50 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.



PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA KAHN/NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Shown (above and below) rehabilitated Kemp's ridley sea turtle "Hercules" enters Nantucket Sound on July 22.



PHOTOS COURTESY NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM



Shown are scenes of the six rehabilitated sea turtles being releases back to the sea.



NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through August 16 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- FRP fascia screening installation
- Marine fender and dolphin pile work

Work Hours

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

Travel Tips

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

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move

carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

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

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead

period:

- August 8 at 7 p.m., August 9 at 3 p.m., August 9 at 7 p.m., August 10 at 7 p.m., August 12 at 7 p.m., and 8/15 at 7:30 p.m.

How can I find more information?

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

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

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

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

Bunker Hill Community College collaborates with Labcorp on new simulation lab in Chelsea

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), in collaboration with Labcorp, a global leader of innovative and comprehensive laboratory services, celebrated a new chapter in clinical education with the unveiling of a brand-new simulation lab on its Chelsea campus on May 13. The unique public-private collaboration enables BHCC students to acquire essential clinical phlebotomy skills through

hands-on learning while creating a pathway to potential employment opportunities with Labcorp.

“Labcorp is dedicated to shaping the future of healthcare by investing in both education and experiential learning,” said Bill Haas, Senior Vice President of Labcorp’s Northeast Division. “The simulation lab empowers students to translate their academic knowledge into practical skills, preparing them to deliver exceptional care in real-world clinical settings.”

BHCC offers four programs within the medical laboratory science industry, including the Phlebotomy Technician Certificate program. The course covers processes and procedures, safety protocols, quality assurance and precautions, venipuncture skills, terminology, and related anatomy and physiology. Upon completing the training, students can then take their lab assessments and be assigned to their clinical placements on campus.

ments on campus.

“We struggle to find clinical phlebotomy placements for our students, and the Labcorp simulation lab is a dream come true because our students get hands-on experience with a trusted provider of lab services right on campus,” said Dean of Workforce and Economic Development Kristen McKenna.

With more than 50 years of academic excellence, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is one of Massachusetts’ largest community colleges, serving approximately 16,000 students annually. With campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea, BHCC offers a broad range of educational opportunities across Greater Boston. BHCC fosters a welcoming and supportive learning environment for students, providing associate degrees and certificates, early college and dual enrollment, community education, corporate training, and industry-specific programs.

Art and Play Therapy Assistant.
Prep & organize mat’ls for therapy-based rsrch sessions, incl art supplies & play equip. Collect & doc data during sessions thru observations, rcrd’gs, & participant feedback. Comm w/ participants & families about rsrch goals, consent, & prog. Maint detailed rcrds of findings & assist in refining therapy techniques based on rsrch results. Ensure rsrch environments are clean, organized, & conducive to therapy-focused studies.
Reqmts: At least Bachelor’s deg (or equiv coursework) in Psychology, Sociology, or a rlted field. Min of 6 mos of exp working in art & play therapy assistant role. Cert in Art & Play Therapy & CPR is req’d.
Send resume to: 17 STEPS LLC DBA: 17 STEPS COUNSELING, 129 Mount Auburn St, Unit 1 Cambridge, MA 02138 or serapkantarci@17healers.org.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

Beacon Hill Times

Pick-Up Locations

Antonio’s	288 Cambridge St.
Simmon’s Liquors	210 Cambridge St.
Jobi Liquors.....	170 Cambridge St.
7-Eleven.....	122 Cambridge St.
West End Library.....	151 Cambridge St.
Charles St. Liquors	143 Charles St.
U.S. Post Office.....	136 Charles St.
Gary Drug	53 Charles St.
Bank of America.....	39 Charles St.
Charles St. Supply.....	54 Charles St.
Cobblestones	30 Charles St.
DeLuca’s	11 Charles St.
Beacon Hill Wine	Charles St.
UPS	Charles St.
Remax 119	Charles St.
Cheers.....	84 Beacon St.
Emerson Place	10 Blossom St.
Beacon Hill Market.....	61 Anderson
Beacon Capitol Market	30 Myrtle St.
City Convenience.....	23 Beacon St.
Capital Coffee House	122 Bowdoin St.
Richdale Food	Beacon & Bowdoin St.
River House.....	145 Pinckney St.
West End Place	150 Stanford St.

Apartment Building locations:

8 Whittier Place	1 Emerson Place
6 Whittier Place	0 Emerson Place
150 Stanford St.	45 Temple St.
1 Longfellow	10 Bowdoin St.
4 Longfellow	122 Bowdoin St.
5 Longfellow	144 Bowdoin St.
2 Hawthorne Place	130 Bowdoin St.
3 Hawthorne Place	45 Myrtle St.
9 Hawthorne Place	19 Myrtle St.
Emerson Place	65 Martha Rd.
4 Emerson Place	

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Piltch, Deborah	Turner, Alvin N	1 Charles St S #604	\$1,535,000
Keith R White 2024 T	Mammola, Joseph P	128 Marlborough St #5	\$3,700,000
Keith R White 2024 T	Mammola, Joseph P	128 Marlborough St #6	\$3,700,000
Michael Cargo RET	Arnold M Zack RET	170 W Canton St	\$5,375,000
Henning, Beth M	SI Group Properties LLC	20 Boylston St #1	\$950,000
Muggo And Associates LLC	George, Sean	265 Beacon St #5	\$1,550,000
Linso, Francis	Clapp, Caleb	270 Huntington Ave #508	\$405,000
Reinert, Kimberly K	Freeman, Hannah H	3 Lawrence St	\$3,300,000
Rayer, Benjamin W	Jenks, Jacqueline	306 Columbus Ave #1	\$1,675,000
Teng, Wenxuan	Hughes-Ferns RET 2023	321 Commonwealth Ave #22	\$662,500
Beckingham, Taylor	Xu, Anqi	400 Stuart St #18F	\$1,058,000
Quinlan, Richard P	Kim, Ji E	400 Stuart St #21D	\$2,575,000
Di Preta, Angelo	411 Mre7 LLC	411 Marlborough St #7	\$1,080,000
44 Hgo LLC	Amer Meterological Socie	44 Beacon St	\$10,500,000
Ogden, Elise L	Fox, Ann	468 Massachusetts Ave #1	\$1,170,000
Connors, Erin	Finsterwald, Peter C	504 Columbus Ave #5	\$1,125,000
Branse, Eric	Beauville T	68 Marlborough St #A	\$1,050,000
Tobin, Susan M	Mcwhan Ft	8 Gloucester St #14	\$1,400,000
Xia, Hongfang	Sobel, Eitan	84 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$1,720,000
Lee, Sara	Modica, Ralph J	87 Gainsborough St #202	\$630,000
94 Sb LLC	Livingston Joan S Est	94 Saint Botolph St #1	\$625,000
Yaeger, Laura V	Gutierrez, Maria	31 Massachusetts Ave #4-4	\$881,000
Ak Nassau LLC	197 Harrison LLC	1 Nassau St #1	\$1,500,000

BEACON HILL			
Kim, Choon	Tristan A Foerster T	1313 Washington St #103	\$1,740,000
Carolyn B Mccoy RET	Herman, Gerald N	505 Tremont St #415	\$2,400,000
Grosso, Harry	Pulver, Redmond	59 W Cedar St #2	\$573,000
Gardner, Brian L	Moruzzi, Laura M	688 Tremont St #2	\$930,000
Lot One Bowdoin Prop LLC	Reep-Ofc One Bowdoin Sq	1 Bowdoin Sq	\$28,000,000
Heliconia Rt	Connors 4th, James	169 Beacon St #1-4	\$650,000
Wang, Bianca	Bristol Real Estate LLC	70 Revere St #5	\$600,000
Moriarity, Paul	Galvagna, Anthony L	79 Revere St #4	\$880,000

DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Doan, Jimmy	Conti, Anthony	1 Franklin St #4509	\$1,280,000
Anderson, John	Durgin, Daniel T	117 Fulton St #4	\$760,000
Cristal Clear LLC	Undavia Ritz Rt	2 Avery St #35E	\$5,225,000
435 Lewis Wharf LLC	Yaffe Doris Y Est	28-32 Atlantic Ave #435	\$890,000
Qadir, Christine	Sapienza, Paul L	28-32 Atlantic Ave #518	\$982,500
Bissonnette, Zac	Montesion, Thomas E	43 Commercial Wharf #8	\$1,850,000
Wang, Yan	Doherty, Mark J	700 Harrison Ave #610	\$1,200,000
Faro, Joseph	Mccourt, Trevor R	8 Union Wharf #8	\$5,150,000
Harbor Towers I 31d Nt	Gorchev Hbr Towers li Rt	85 E India Row #31D	\$545,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Scholder, Elizabeth	Pellegrino, Jason	14 Cazenove St	\$2,830,000
Van Riper, Devin	Wisteria Property LLC	146 Worcester St #3	\$1,050,000
Karakullukcu, Ilter	Sfk LLC	188 Brookline Ave #251	\$1,600,000
Weissmann, Noah H	Pao, Charles C	206 W Brookline St #2	\$2,310,000
Londono, Miguel A	David C Cushing T	26 Concord Sq #2	\$1,045,000
Egan, Quinn	Miller Barnett Ft	3 Appleton St #202	\$755,000
Kozee, Jacqueline	Cmw Holdings LLC	301 Shawmut Ave #30	\$850,000
Calmat, Stephanie	Goh, Jin X	51 Park Dr #22	\$620,000
Lin, Yingku	Cai, Chenggang	16 Miner St #506	\$715,000



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PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on the Lunder Building on the MGH main campus. It was completed in 2011 and designed by the architectural firm NBBJ. As built, it added 150 beds, an updated emergency department, and space for radiation and oncology.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



FRESH AND LOCAL

Tick Season

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

For the first time in her thirteen years, we found a tick on our Westie, Poppy, this summer. We were aware that this was a particularly severe season for ticks and the resulting tick-borne illnesses, such as Lyme Disease. That prompted us to share reliable information for readers who may not be as familiar with this issue.

How Bad Is This Tick Season?

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' June 2025 report on Tick Exposure and Tick-borne Disease Syndromic Surveillance charts tick-related visits to Emergency Departments. Visits were lowest in Suffolk and Middlesex counties and highest in the Berkshires, Cape Cod, and the Islands. This data indicates that these areas have a higher prevalence of ticks and tick-borne diseases. If you plan to visit these areas, take extra precautions to protect yourself and your pets.

The Fordham Tri-State Tick Risk for neighboring states on July 18th reported "8 out of 10: HIGH RISK." Boston.com said, "This year's summer spikes are the

largest in at least five years in the Northeast."

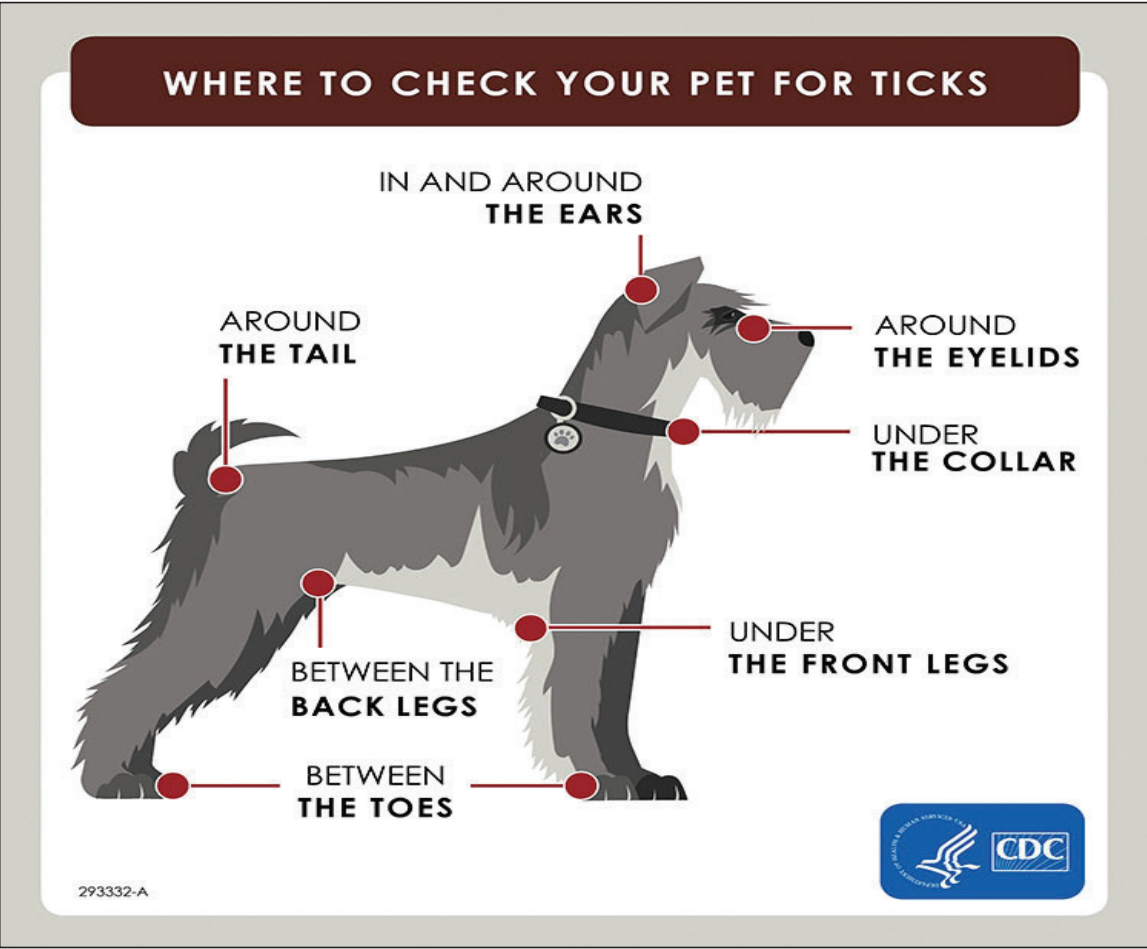
Preventing Ticks

The number one way to keep ticks off your dog is to choose where you walk and how you maintain your property. Having your dog on a leash to control where they walk is a start.

Remember, ticks also reside in urban areas. Our Poppy, like many city dogs, loves to walk along the front of gardens to enjoy the aromas she finds. However, that is precisely where ticks wait to hop a ride on passing critters.

Most of the available information focuses on the danger to humans from tick bites. However, by protecting yourself, you are also protecting your animals. Just be sure to heed the warnings or consult with your physician or veterinarian before following any recommendations on social media, to ensure that it is safe for your particular mammal or dog breed.

For example, the CDC warns, "Cats are extremely sensitive to a variety of chemicals. Do not apply any tick prevention products to your cats without first asking your veterinarian!" A product that



The CDC offers this handy graphic to remind us where to check for ticks.

might be safe for humans might not be right to use on other creatures.

Finding Ticks

End each walk with a thorough examination of your dog to remove any loose ticks before they

have a chance to attach. Do this outside, if possible, since you don't want your home infested with ticks. Brushing or combing your dog can remove ticks that have not attached. Running your hands through the fur, feeling the skin for tell-tale bumps, and systematically checking the areas where ticks are commonly hidden will help.

Removing Ticks

If possible, avoid handling ticks. If you find one, use tweezers or a tick remover to deal with it. The AHA writes, "To use tweezers, grab the tick with clean tweezers as close to your pet's skin as possible without pinching them. Pull the tick out slowly and steadily,

ensuring that all parts of the tick are removed."

Once you've removed the tick, the AHA advises against crushing it; instead, flush it down the toilet. Finally, clean the wound with antiseptic and the tool with isopropyl alcohol.

If you are a recent dog guardian, this may all be news to you. The Internet provides authoritative videos and articles on this topic, as well as misinformation and outdated information. Choose your educational sources wisely, and you'll be ready when a tick appears.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

ACTIVE LISTINGS

August Offerings



BEACON HILL
21 Branch Street
2 Beds | 2F Baths | \$3.295M

Single family home with private garage parking and deck.



JUST LISTED IN BEACON HILL
70 Phillips Street, U:3
2 Beds | 1F Bath | \$925K

Sunny 2 bed, 1 bath, great closet space, private onsite parking.



BEACON HILL
101 Chestnut Street, U:E
3 Beds | 3F Baths | \$4.295M

Elegant concierge building. Stunning common roof deck.



BEACON HILL
45 Temple Street, U:405
1+ Bed | 2F Baths | \$2.095M

Luxury service building with common roofdeck, gym & more.

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Personal Reflections on a Universal Theme
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Submissions: July 14 - September 17, 2025
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StoveFactory Gallery
AGC Artists Group of Charlestown
523 Medford Street, Charlestown
Detail of "Eddie At The Piano" © Carol Schweigert