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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOMENT MARKETING CO. BOSTON

75 Chestnut proprietor Tom Kershaw, surrounded by revelers and staff, cuts the ribbon on the patio, ushering in another season of outdoor dining at the longstanding restaurant.

75 Chestnut opens patio for sixth season of outdoor dining

Special to the Times

Neighbors, friends, and patrons of 75 Chestnut restaurant gathered on Friday, May 1, to celebrate the opening of the sixth patio season.

Proprietor Tom Kershaw and President and CEO of the Hampshire House Corporation Markus Ripperger addressed the group of nearly 60 guests enjoying beer and wine to toast the occasion.

“The pandemic gave us a lot of things we did not like, however, one of those things we are eternally grateful for is the way we grew closer as a neighborhood and a community through things like outdoor dining,” said Ripperger

Kershaw addressed the group of patrons reminiscing about the first time he came to the Beacon

See DINING Page 2



Pictured (left to right) are Hampshire House Corporation CEO Markus Ripperger; 75 Chestnut proprietor Tom Kershaw; and District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan, who presented the restaurant with an official resolution.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

The Beacon Hill Civic Association invites members to its annual Members-Only Cruise aboard the Valiant, operated by the Charles River Boat Company, on Wednesday, May 27th,

from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join fellow neighbors for an evening on the water. Tickets are available at www.bhcivic.org. This event is open to BHCA members only.

Upcoming Meetings & Events
Board of Directors - Monday, May 11th, 7pm, 74 Joy St
Architecture Committee -

See BHCA Page 6

Upstairs Downstairs hosts their seventh annual Derby Day

Special to the Times

On Saturday, May 2, Upstairs Downstairs hosted its popular, seventh annual Kentucky Derby event.

From noon to 4 p.m., on the sunniest of days excitement ensued as store friends, old and new, came to place their bets and win prizes.

Once again, ‘nom de plume’ Biff Hawkins was on hand to welcome all and to oversee the activities.

The 1940s retro ‘Neck and Neck’ horse race game was open to all. The four tin horses, Dipsy, Doodle, Pasta and Fazooli, came from the paddock without incident and lined up at the starting gate. Everyone who played the game and picked a horse to win, place, show or fall down exhausted were still awarded a prize.

This year everyone received a rare large English shiny copper penny - some going

back to the reign of Queen Victoria.

Race winners were then able to select from a wide variety of Derby hats to wear for a souvenir photo shoot. They had a lot to choose from - fedoras, chapeaus, sun hats with pearls, bonnets with ribbons upon them, and even a pith helmet! It was a wonderful and fun day for all.

Laura Cousineau, the shop’s owner, as well as the ‘race commissioner,’ said, “It’s important for us to have events and activities like this, art receptions and book signings as a way to thank our valued customers in as many ways we can for we are forever grateful for their loyalty and support.”



SHARON DUFFIELD PHOTO

Above, a festive table setup, including the ‘Neck and Neck’ horse race game, is seen on Derby Day at Upstairs Downstairs.



QUINN COUSINEAU PHOTO

Shown left, A Derby Day hat. See Pages 4 and 5 for more photos.

EDITORIAL

HOUSING, HEALTH, HUNGER: THIS IS WHY AMERICA IS FAILING

Americans' optimism about their future has sunk to an all-time low, according to a recent Gallup Poll (which was conducted, we might add, before the war with Iran had begun).

Why the malaise when we have record-low unemployment and a record-high stock market?

In our view, the explanation is right in front of our eyes.

Humans have four basic needs: shelter, food, health, and safety. But other than public safety (crime rates have been at historic lows for more than two years), America is a failing society in all other respects.

The housing crisis affects Americans at almost every income level. Young people, even those with six-figure incomes, are unable to buy a home unless they either inherit it from their parents or receive a large cash gift from a family member for a downpayment.

The average age for a first-time homebuyer in the early 1980s was 28 -- and that was when mortgage interest rates were in the double digits and huge numbers of Baby Boomer buyers were flooding the market.

But today, the average age of a first-time homebuyer has risen to 40 and the median age of a homeowner is almost 60. In short, the long-held American dream of homeownership is attainable only for a lucky few among the younger generation.

On the healthcare front, our national healthcare system has never been more precarious. The budget enacted by Congress last year that reduced subsidies for health insurance for low-income Americans (while giving trillions of dollars of tax breaks to billionaires) has resulted in millions of Americans losing their health insurance.

In addition, immigration policies have reduced the number of healthcare workers, including doctors, which have placed a strain on the delivery of healthcare services for all Americans, not just the poor.

The acclaimed HBO TV show *The Pitt* accurately portrayed the dire straits of our healthcare system, a situation that will be exacerbated with the loss of the Obamacare subsidies for health insurance.

Even for middle-class Americans with private health insurance, our healthcare system is failing. Medical debt from an unexpected illness ranks as the number one cause of personal bankruptcy filings because of high deductibles, co-pays, and uncovered services,

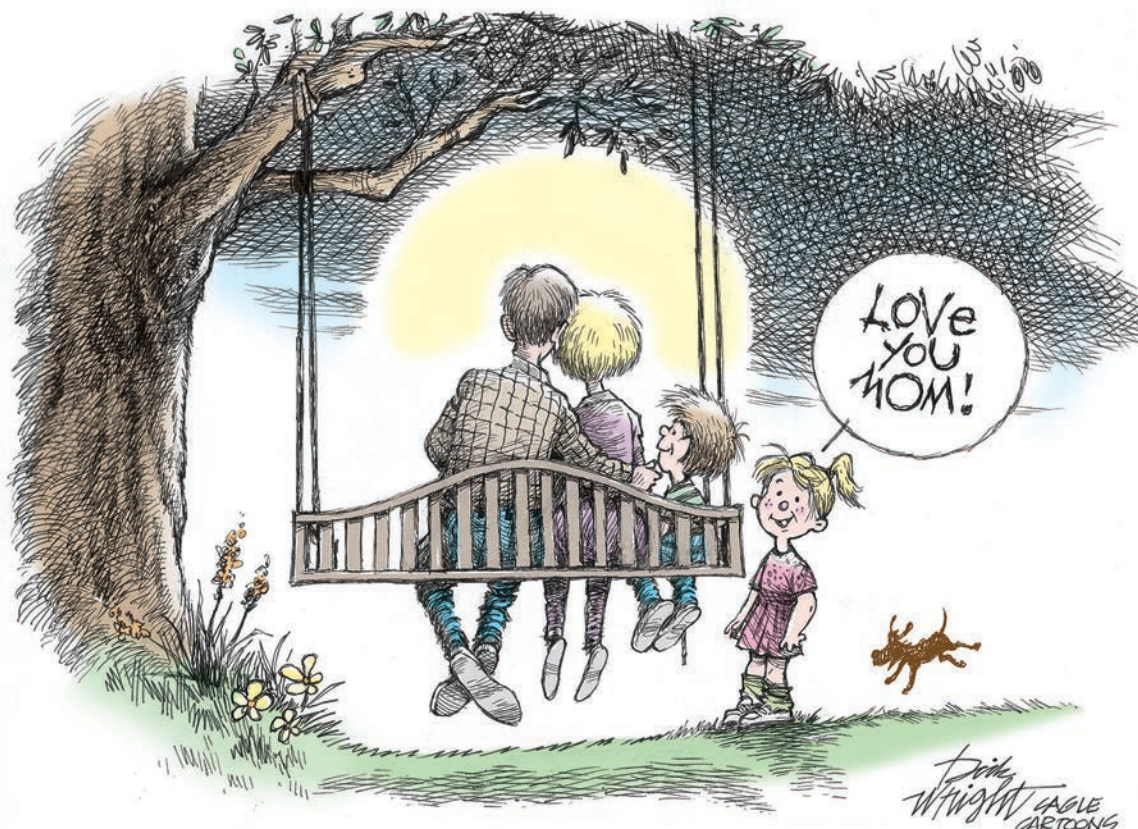
The budget enacted by Congress last year also significantly reduced the eligibility for the SNAP program (formerly known as Food Stamps). Government data estimated that up to 48 million Americans, including 14 million children, faced "food insecurity" (the new bureaucratic term for not having enough to eat) even before the cutbacks in the SNAP program.

But now, under the new rules, enrollment in SNAP has decreased by nearly 3.5 million people, a development that will only further exacerbate the problem of hunger in America.

As for those of us who have been fortunate enough never to need SNAP, food inflation continues to make feeding ourselves and our families a more and more expensive proposition at a time when the ultra-rich are spending \$1500 (that's not a typo) on a dinner at a restaurant in Los Angeles.

The defining characteristic of Americans (as noted by Alexis de Tocqueville in 1830) since our founding has been a boundless optimism that our future will be better.

But as we approach the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, our national mood of sunny optimism has been replaced by a feeling of hopeless pessimism.



DINING (from pg. 1)

Hill neighborhood in the 1960s, he was invited to brunch in one of the townhomes across the street. He thought the neighborhood a great place to call home and not too long after did just that by purchasing the 84 Beacon St. townhome in 1969, which is home to The Hampshire House and Cheers.

75 Chestnut restaurant opened in 1997 (later purchasing the condo unit it occupies in 2020) and will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year - the team is excited for what is to come. If Friday's patio party is any indi-

cation, 2027 will be filled with many jovial festivities.

Before leading the party out to the street level patio to cut the ribbon, Ripperger referenced a building permit from 1917 for the property that stated "no horse or mule shall be stabled on the second or any higher floor of any building...." "I checked before you all arrived and there are no horses or mules. We've come quite a long way since then."

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan presented an official resolution to mark the evening

and recognize the efforts of the 75 Chestnut ownership and team for their support of the community.

"We know how important this patio is," she emphasized.

And restaurant patrons and Beacon Hill residents Ryan and Mei-Ling agree.

"Our wonderful neighbors at 75 Chestnut have created a comfortable, casual space for community and conviviality," they said. "This is truly a place where everybody knows your name."

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to deb@thebostonsun.com are preferred.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

MUSIC FROM 17TH CENTURY SOUTH GERMANY TO BE PERFORMED MAY 8 AT GOETHE-INSTITUT

Newton Baroque presents Music from 17th Century South Germany featuring Bertali, Schmelzer, Biber, and Capricornus on Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m., at Goethe-Institut, located at 170 Beacon St.

Long before Mozart, Vienna was already an important musical center. This concert highlights musicians active in mid-17th-century Vienna. Their music is full of invention, wit, and charm, with a wide expressive range, at times sounding as if from another sphere, and at others like the music of a farmer's fiddle.

Performing musicians include Susanna Ogata, violin; Laura Jeppesen, viola da gamba; and Andrus Madsen, harpsichord.

Tickets are available online at <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/music-from-17th-century-south-germany-bertali-schmelzer-biber-capricornus>, or visit <https://www.newtonbaroque.org/> for more information on the concert.

WEST END MUSEUM TO OFFER UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

The West End Museum will offer "Body Revealed, the Spirit Unbound: The Art of Hyman Bloom and the Music of Hovhanness 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 Hovhanness 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., kicking off outside the museum at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7. 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

REP. LIVINGSTONE TO HOLD UPCOMING COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Rep. Jay Livingstone will hold community office hours via Zoom on Tuesday, May 12 at 5 p.m., as well as in-person for West End constituents on Wednesday, May 13, at 10 a.m. at the West End Neighborhood Center at 75 Blossom Court.

Due to limited availability, only constituents of the 8th Suffolk District are invited to attend in-person office hours. Rep. Livingstone is also available to meet with constituents at an alternative time, outside of in-person office hours.

To receive the link for virtual office hours or for more information, email Audrey.Herrmann@mahouse.gov.

WECA MEETING SET FOR MAY 14 IN WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The next meeting of the West End Civic Association (WECA) will be held Thursday, May 14, at 6 p.m. in the West End Neighborhood Center on Thoreau Path.

This will be a Neighborhood Forum. WECA wants to hear residents' thoughts about living in the West End. What do residents want for the neighborhood? What do residents love about living here and what are their gripes? What environmental obstacles do residents encounter in their day-to-day lives that

could be addressed? And what do residents miss in their environment?

Join in the discussion to start building a vision for the West End of today and into the future.

West Enders have long learned that if the neighborhood, as a group, doesn't plan for its future, someone else will, so they should be ready. Members of the WECA Zoning and Planning Committee are already at work on such a project, and some of them will facilitate the discussion.

All West End residents are welcome to attend.

BLACKSTONE'S TO OFFER KNIFE-HONING CLASS ON MAY 14

Blackstone's of Beacon Hill, located at 40 Charles St., is offering a knife-honing class, 'Keep Your Edge Knife Honing 101,' on Thursday, May 14, from 6-6:30 p.m.

The cost per guest is \$35 and includes Wusthof hone. Register in-store, or online at www.blackstonesboston.com.

UPCOMING SESSIONS SPONSORED BY MGH'S BLUM CENTER

The Blum Patient and Family Learning Center (Blum Center) at Massachusetts General Hospital is hosting a few in-person educational and wellness sessions at the Blum Center (MGH Main Campus, White 110), including Awareness to Access: A Conversation on PrEP on Monday, May 11, from noon to 1 p.m.; Skin Cancer & Sun Safety on Tuesday, May 12, from 1-2 p.m.; Sound Therapy, Reiki, and Acupressure Open House Healing Event, (with two dates) on Tuesday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., as well as on Tuesday, May 26, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.; Managing Your Medicines with Confidence on Wednesday, May 13, from 4-5 p.m.; Stroke Prevention Education for Patients, Families, and Caregivers on Wednesday, May 27, from noon to 1 p.m.; From Sprains to Gout: Making Sense of Joint Pain on Wednesday, May 27, from 4-5 p.m.; and Well-Being Series: The Heart-Mind Connection: Emotion, Intuition, and Coherence on Thursday, May 28, from noon to 1 p.m.

All sessions are free. For more information, call the Blum Center at 617-724-7352.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP SERIES RETURNS TO CITY PARKS

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has announced the return of its popular ParkARTS Summer Watercolor Painting Workshop series, including stops at Christopher Columbus Park in the North End on Sunday, May 31; the Public Garden on Sunday, June 7; and the James P. Kelleher Rose Garden in the Back Bay Fens on Saturday, June 13.

All classes are held from 10 a.m. to noon, weather permitting, for these free workshops offered as part of Boston Parks' 2026 ParkARTS program, which brings arts and cultural programming to parks across the city.

Open to Boston residents ages 9 and up, the Watercolor Painting Workshops welcome artists of all skill levels to create their own green space-inspired masterpieces. Materials and instruction will be provided by a local instructor. Pre-registration is required. For more information, visit boston.gov/watercolor-workshops.

BEACON ENSEMBLE'S BEACON NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL VOLUME II COMING JUNE 5-7

Beacon Ensemble's Beacon New Music Festival Volume II is coming June 5 to 7.

Opening night of the festival with Mink Duo is set for Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at Beacon Hill Friends House, located at 6 Chestnut St. on Beacon Hill.

Night two of the festival follows with Reflections Duo on Saturday, June 6, at 7 p.m., again at Beacon Hill Friends House.

The finale performance of the festival features event host, Beacon Ensemble, on Sunday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Covenant, located at 67 New-

bury St. in the Back Bay.

Visit <https://www.beaconensemble.org/beacon-new-music-2026festival> for more information on the festival.

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM OFFERING TOURS

The 1804 Nichols House Museum at 55 Mount Vernon St. was home to an early 20th-century family of artists and activists, along with their domestic staff. The house was preserved as a museum by Rose Standish Nichols, a pioneering woman landscape architect. It is furnished with an original collection, including works by the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, as well as furniture and textiles handcrafted by Rose and her sister Margaret. Tours are offered on Thursday through Saturday at 10 and 11 a.m., and noon; on Sundays at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m.

For more information, tickets, and to register, visit: nicholshousemuseum.org

COME PLAY MAH JONGG AT THE WEST END COMMUNITY CENTER

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, you are invited to join the friendly Mah Jongg group. Instructors will be available to help new players, and everyone is welcome. Come meet new people, socialize, and play the game.

The group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the West End Community (within the West End Neighborhood Center), 75 Blossom Court (entrance on Thoreau Path).

To sign up or for more information, email [Audrey Tedeman\(artedeman@gmail.com\)](mailto:Audrey.Tedeman(artedeman@gmail.com)) or [Sandy Connor\(ssconnor46@gmail.com\)](mailto:Sandy.Connor(ssconnor46@gmail.com)).

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UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOSTS SEVENTH ANNUAL DERBY DAY

COURTESY PHOTOS

On Saturday, May 2, Upstairs Downstairs hosted its popular, seventh annual Kentucky Derby event.



Upstairs Downstairs owner Laura Cousineau, with her husband Bob Cousineau.



Geraldine O'Hagan and Arleen Greene.



Seen, left to right, are: Bridghid Kelly, Kelsey Price, Christopher Foley, and Nicole Zelazko.



Holly Foster and Maggie Beaulieu.



Montez Haywood and 'Tez.'



Pictured, left to right, are Sharon Duffield, Melissa Magner, Olivia the dog, and Biff Hawkins.



Tom DeWinter and Priya DeWinter.



Ralph Hingson and Johanna Seddon.



Derek Kouyoumjian.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION TAKES PART IN LOVE YOUR BLOCK 2026



Jim Cooper and Isa Auerback picking trash along sidewalks on Charles Street.

Photos by Marianne Salza

Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) members joined together for the Love Your Block neighborhood cleanup on April 25, gathering debris littering sidewalks and tree pits, as well as clearing the Philips and Myrtle Street Playgrounds.



Anna McCarter gathering cigarette butts from a tree pit in Charles Circle.



Representative Jay Livingstone picking up debris from a tree pit along Charles Street.



Beacon Hill resident, Councilor Sharon Durkan, picking up a discarded box in Charles Circle.



Lukas Yelle, Councilor Sharon Durkan, Jim Cooper, Isa Auerback, Scott and Jacquelyn Wayne, Sydney Melvin, and Angelina Collins.



Angelina Collins inspecting Charles Street for litter.



Ten-year-old Tucker helping Justyna Jaskiewicz carry her trash bag in front of Top Shelf.

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BEACON HILL WOMENS FORUM

SPRINGSTROLL

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MAY 12TH, 2026 — ALL DAY
Charles Street, Beacon Hill

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TICKET HOLDERS RECEIVE:

- A keepsake shopping passport
- Exclusive deals at every participating store, May 12th only
- A chance to win special prizes
- An invitation to the evening social gathering

TICKETS
BHWF MEMBERS: \$20
NON-MEMBERS: \$30

Available online at beaconhillwomensforum.org or at DeLuca's on May 12th

@thebhwf #BHWFSpringStroll

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Wu appoints Marcela Dwork as Press Secretary

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Marcela Dwork as Press Secretary. Dwork will begin serving in her role on May 4, 2026, and will lead the Mayor's Press Office.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Marcela to our team," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Her career has been marked by a commitment to community and passion for sharing the stories that drive our city. I look forward to her leadership of our Press Office and its critical role

in ensuring information about City services and initiatives is easily accessible to all members of our community. I'm excited to work alongside Marcela as we continue to engage Boston's diverse, vibrant neighborhoods and make Boston a home for everyone."

Dwork is a strategic communications professional with experience across public, nonprofit, and media sectors. She most recently served as an Account Director at Denterlein, a Boston-based strategic communications and public relations agency. Her previous roles include

Press Secretary for Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, Development Associate at the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and on-air reporter for Univision Boston.

"I am excited to return to public service in this role and work alongside Mayor Wu to connect residents across neighborhoods," said Marcela Dwork, Incoming Press Secretary. "As a bilingual communicator, I also look forward to helping ensure that the City's diverse communities receive timely, accurate information and stay connected to City Hall initiatives."

Originally from Bucaramanga, Colombia, Dwork immigrated to the United States at age 22. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga.

As Press Secretary, Dwork will serve as a liaison between the Mayor's Office and members of the media, communicating the Mayor's priorities through press conferences, interviews, public events, and press materials. The Press Office works closely with speechwriting, digital, and photography teams to deliver a coordinated message that reflects the



PHOTO COURTESY MATT STONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Marcela Dwork

Wu administration's vision and commitment to transparency and public trust.

Wu announces White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu in partnership with Boston Legacy FC announced the creation of the White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council (WSNAC), a 15-member advisory body established to engage communities and provide input on the White Stadium project.

Created under the project's lease and governing agreements, the council creates a structured forum for information-sharing, discussion, and community feedback as White Stadium is built and prepares for operations. WSNAC will serve as an advisory voice representing neighbors and park users on stadium operations, transportation, scheduling, logistics, and other topics of neighborhood interest.

The council members represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including resi-

dents from Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Mattapan, park users, BPS student athletes, local businesses, faith leaders, and youth sports organizations. Members will receive regular updates from the City, BPS Athletics, the Parks Department, and Boston Legacy FC, and will provide ongoing community feedback and perspectives on construction progress and stadium operations.

"The White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council will help ensure that the community continues to steer investments in two of our most beautiful and treasured public spaces in Boston—White Stadium and Franklin Park," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This group will be instrumental to making sure this project reflects the needs and priorities of our residents."

"The White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council for-

mizes what Boston Legacy FC believes is essential to this project's success: an ongoing, meaningful partnership with the community," said Kim Miner, Chief External Affairs Officer, Boston Legacy FC. "It will play a critical role in building trust and accountability through transparency and ongoing engagement, providing a consistent forum for listening to and sharing neighborhood perspectives."

The inaugural members of the White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council who will serve two-year terms, include:

Co-Chairs

Luis Perez Demorizi, Executive Director of Franklin Park

Matt Balk, Boston Legacy FC Head of Facilities

Anshi Moreno Jimenez, City Coordinator

Ex-officio Members

Brian Worrell, City Councilor for District 4

Benjamin J. Weber, City Councilor for District 6

Rev. Miniard Culpepper, City Councilor for District 7

General Members

Sam DePina, Boston Public Schools Athletics

Tony DaRocha, Youth Sports Coach

Camila Restrepo, Boston Public Schools Student Athlete

Rickie Thompson, Franklin Park Coalition President

Beth Santos, local Business Owner (co-owner of Ula Café) and BPS Parent

Marilyn Forman, Dorchester Representative

Tony Brewer, Roxbury Representative

Kevin Batt, Jamaica Plain Representative

Pastor Dana Gonsal, Mattapan Representative

Under the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, negotiated in December 2023, "A White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council ("WSNAC") will be established at the earliest practicable time. Membership shall include District Councilors and representatives of residents from park-adjacent neighborhoods of Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Mattapan, park users, Boston Public Schools, and the

Applicant. WSNAC will be co-chaired by the Parks Department and the Applicant."

Following the stadium's inaugural season at White Stadium, the advisory council will receive and review the Annual Stadium Operations Report submitted by Boston Legacy FC, covering transportation, sound management, lighting, trash, event scheduling, and more. The council will also review the annual Transportation Management and Operations Plan and provide feedback as a representative body of residents, identifying what worked well and what could be improved in future seasons.

WSNAC members will also share feedback and ideas for the Community Annual Fund, a \$500,000 commitment that will increase annually by 3% and is funded entirely by Boston Legacy. The Annual Fund will be established by the City and Boston Legacy, with guidance from its own advisory body, as established under the lease documents. It is one part of more than \$252 million in privately-funded community benefits over the next 15 years stemming from the White Stadium project.

West End Museum to offer upcoming programming

The West End Museum will offer "Body Revealed, the Spirit Unbound: The Art of Hyman Bloom and the Music of Hovhannes 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 Hovhannes 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,

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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.

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

BHCA (from pg. 1)

Monday, May 18th, 5:30pm, via Zoom

Annual Meeting - Thursday, May 21st, 8am, Hampshire House

Member's Cruise on the Valiant - Wednesday, May 27th, 6:30pm, Rowes Wharf

First Friday Coffee Hour - Friday, June 5th, 8:30am, 74 Joy

Street; an MBTA representative will be our guest

Summer Evening at Otis House - Thursday, June 11th, 6pm, Otis House

For further information on BHCA events and meetings, or to volunteer, please contact the BHCA office at 617-227-1922.

Wu appoints Diana Fernandez Bibeau as new Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and Deputy Chief of Open Space

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Diana Fernandez Bibeau as the new Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and Deputy Chief of Open Space. Fernandez Bibeau will begin serving in her new role on June 1.

“I’m thrilled to appoint Diana Fernandez Bibeau as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and Deputy Chief of Open Space,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Diana brings years of experience as a dynamic problem solver and visionary designer, grounded in deep personal connection to the communities we serve and the role of public spaces in connecting us all. Her leadership will build on Boston’s legacy stewarding the nation’s oldest and most beautiful park system. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Interim Commissioner Cathy Baker-Eclipse over the last year and look forward to our continued work creating beautiful, welcoming, and resilient open spaces where every resident feels at home.”

Fernandez Bibeau, who has served as Boston’s Deputy Chief of Urban Design for the Planning Department since 2022, brings over 15 years of experience in the private and public sectors to the position, including a substantial design portfolio to advance equity, sustainability,



Diana Fernandez Bibeau

and resilience through Boston’s built environment. Prior to joining the Wu administration, she practiced landscape architecture and design at Sasaki for over seven years, working on several significant projects, including the Frederick Douglas Memorial in Roxbury and coastal resiliency efforts in Charlestown and East Boston, and led large parks projects across the country, such as the Port of Los Angeles Wilmington Waterfront. She will also be making history as the first Latina to serve as Commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, responsible for leading over 300 full-time staff and the stewardship and programming of 2,200 acres of permanently protected open space.

As Deputy Chief of Open Space, a new leadership position in the City of Boston, Fernandez Bibeau will serve as the primary strategic convener for open space policy, facilitating alignment across City cabinets, departments, and external stakeholders. Bridging city, state, federal, and private entities, this new role will ensure a cohesive and equitable vision for Boston’s public realm. For years, the City of Boston has invested in improving the maintenance, infrastructure, and programming of its parks. Fernandez Bibeau will build on this foundational work, using open spaces to build local resilience against climate change and meet the recreation and programming needs of Boston’s diverse communities.

“Parks are my passion. As an immigrant, they were the first spaces where I felt welcome, sparking my dream to become a landscape architect,” said Diana Fernandez Bibeau. “I’m eager to build on the Parks Department’s legacy of excellence by bringing a renewed perspective to how we grow, protect, and program our parks. I look forward to delivering on Mayor Wu’s vision—ensuring Boston’s public spaces are exceptional, safe, and welcoming for everyone.”

“Diana Fernandez Bibeau is the leader Boston needs to propel our treasured historic parks and

open spaces into the twenty-first century,” said Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett. “Her innovation, experience, and vision will help ensure that Boston’s open spaces remain places our communities can enjoy, all while building our resilience against climate change. I look forward to working with Diana to ensure that our parks and open spaces throughout the City meet the needs of current and future generations alike.”

“Diana is relentless in her pursuit to deliver the best outcomes for Boston residents. As part of our effort to change the culture of planning and development in Boston, she led a team that created an inclusive design vision that promotes predictability and quality. She elevated design with creativity and ambition, and I know she will bring that same spirit to Parks and Recreation,” said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. “I am glad she is not going far and I’m excited to work with her in this new role.”

Fernandez Bibeau brings a unique perspective to her work, deeply informed by a lifetime of navigating complex transitions. From her early childhood immigration from the Dominican Republic to the fierce determination required to balance young

motherhood with her education, her trajectory is defined by profound resilience. She channeled this work ethic into her studies—earning a degree in Landscape Architecture from Temple University—and into her career and academic scholarship.

Fernandez Bibeau is a proven thinker, collaborator and leader, who works seamlessly with architects, planners, urban designers, ecologists and civil engineers on the design of equitable and sustainable places. She writes and lectures on landscape architecture, urban design, and equity. Her work has been published and nationally recognized through the Urban Land Institute (ULI), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the American Planning Association (APA). She has also been awarded the 2019-2020 LAF Fellowship in leadership and innovation, honored with the Emerging Professional Medal in 2020 and named a 30 under 30 Leader for Temple University.

She resides in West Roxbury and is a proud mother of three, a Boston Public Schools parent, and an avid gardener with her husband, Devin Bibeau.

Accessory Dwelling Units showcase starts May 12

Special to the Times

We’re demonstrating what’s possible with the use of prefabricated construction in terms of providing cost, design, and quality predictability for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU).

The Housing Innovation Lab at the Mayor’s Office of Housing is staging a fully built ADU on City Hall Plaza from Tuesday, May 12 through Sunday, May 17.

If you’ve ever wished you could expand your home, this is an opportunity to see what is possible with an ADU. Learn more about what it takes to build an ADU, connect with experts, and get a feel for what just 500 square feet can offer your family.

Daily Info Sessions: Tuesday through Sunday at 12:00 PM,

join us to learn more about permitting, financing, and building an ADU in Boston

ADU Resource Fair: On Saturday, May 16 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, come speak with architects, builders, lenders, and housing organizations that specialize in ADUs! If you’ve got questions, this is the best place to bring them.

Background

While there’s strong policy support and resources for homeowners to build ADUs in Boston (as well as internal efforts to radically simplify the process to permit an ADU), unknowns about the cost and feasibility of designing, permitting, and constructing ADUs is hindering their potential to meaningfully add to Boston’s housing stock.

Our Hypothesis

We suspect that the ability for Boston homeowners to select an “off-the-shelf,” prefabricated model that meets Boston’s design, building, and permitting requirements would drastically reduce the unknown variables that can deter homeowners from even starting an ADU project.

The Showcase

Beginning on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, through Sunday, May 17, 2026, Boston’s City Hall will have its very own prefabricated ADU! Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the ADU between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on each day of the showcase, and at 12 p.m. each day, City staff will host a one-hour informational workshop about designing, financing, and permitting ADUs in the City of Boston.

Coming to City Hall Plaza this May!

ADU Showcase

TUESDAY, MAY 12 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 17
TOURS AVAILABLE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM
INFO SESSIONS EVERY DAY AT 12 PM

ADU RESOURCE FAIR:
SATURDAY, MAY 16 FROM 1 PM TO 5 PM

CITY of BOSTON | **HOUSING INNOVATION LAB** | **Housing**

Sen. Edwards, housing advocates, celebrate one year of eviction sealing in the Affordable Homes Act

Special to the Times

One year ago this week, a historic provision championed by State Senator Lydia Edwards went into effect as part of the Affordable Homes Act – fundamentally changing the trajectory of thousands of Massachusetts residents by granting the right to petition courts to seal certain eviction records.

In its first year alone, 6,284 petitions to seal eviction records have been filed across the Commonwealth, underscoring both the urgent need for this reform and its immediate, tangible impact.

“I believe in second chances,” said Senator Lydia Edwards. “For too long, eviction records – often stemming from circumstances beyond a tenant’s control – have locked families out of housing and opportunity. Today, thousands of Massachusetts residents have a pathway forward. I want to thank Attorney General Campbell, Governor Healey, Senate President Spilka, The Executive Office of Housing and Liveable Communities, Leader Michael Moran, and the countless advocates who realized the urgency in this issue and acted on it accordingly a year ago today.”

The law protects an array of circumstances including fault-



Sen. Lydia Edwards (center) joined by housing advocates during the conference celebrating one year of the eviction sealing provision of the Affordable Homes Act.

based and no fault evictions, each with specific parameters dictating the process and regulations. When applying for new housing, the tenant may legally state that they have “no record” of a prior eviction.

To aid constituents in utilizing the provision, Senator Edwards has held three successful “Supper and Sealing” workshops, com-

munity-based events dedicated to connecting residents with legal professionals to expedite the sealing process for both eviction records and CORIs (criminal records).

Advocates and partners like Greater Boston Legal Services, North Suffolk Community Services, Maverick Landing Community Services, Big Hope Project, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center and Massachusetts Law Reform Institute have made this possible.

Additionally, the Legal Information & Technology Lab at Suffolk University Law School has played a critical role in expanding access. By developing an online petition tool, the Lab has made it possible for residents to begin the sealing process directly from their smartphones—eliminating barriers such as transportation, time off work, and court navigation.

The success of eviction sealing in Massachusetts demonstrates what is possible when policy centers equity and lived experience. This reform represents a meaningful step toward a more just and accessible housing market.

Quotes of Support

“Our Affordable Homes Act

is about making it easier and more affordable for people to find housing,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Eviction sealing is a crucial part of that. No one should face huge barriers to getting housing because of a hardship they faced long ago. I’m grateful to Senator Edwards and the Legislature for their partnership on this important policy which is already making a difference for thousands of Massachusetts residents.”

“HLC recently concluded a statewide fair housing listening tour to hear directly from residents about how our new fair housing office can better serve their needs. In every region, we heard from people who have been denied housing opportunities because of decades-old eviction records and discrimination,” said Juana Matias, Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC). “Eviction record discrimination remains a significant barrier to housing stability. But one year into eviction record sealing, we are better positioned to support residents in crisis, connect them to resources, and help more families remain stably housed in Massachusetts.”

“One year ago, Massachusetts

took a bold step toward fairness and opportunity with the passage of the Eviction Sealing Law – a milestone that has already opened doors for countless families and residents to secure stable housing and rebuild their financial futures,” said Attorney General Andrea Campbell. “This law is a lifeline that helps break cycles of instability and restores dignity to those too often shut out of the housing market. Thank you to Senator Edwards and Leader Mike Moran for their unwavering advocacy and leadership on this important issue, and to Senate President Spilka and Speaker Mariano for their commitment to this legislation, which ensured that it became law.”

“The Senate prioritized this policy because we know that one difficult chapter in our lives does not define who we are,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “Now, as nearly 5,000 people have submitted petitions under this policy, it is clear that passing this measure was the right thing to do—and that it is changing lives for the better. I applaud Senator Edwards, whose steadfast leadership and moral clarity were instrumental in bringing this reform to fruition. Her work reflects the very best of what we strive to achieve in the Senate, advancing policies that expand opportunity, restore dignity, and change lives.”

“Senator Edwards’ steadfast leadership was instrumental in getting the eviction record sealing law passed,” said Tyler White, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. “In the year since it took effect, the law has empowered thousands of tenants to start fresh in their search for new housing—and countless others will benefit in the years to come. The spirit of the law is simple: tenants should not be perpetually disadvantaged and made to suffer lifelong consequences as a result of their eviction records. We look forward to continuing our work with Senator Edwards to advance housing justice in Massachusetts.”



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Project Bread's 58th Walk for Hunger raises \$1 million as food insecurity reaches crisis levels across Massachusetts

On Sunday, May 3, nearly 4,000 participants gathered on Boston Common and joined virtually from across the country and around the world for Project Bread's 58th Annual Walk for Hunger, the nation's oldest continually running pledge walk. Walkers representing 216 towns across Massachusetts, along with participants from 23 U.S. states and five countries, united to take action for the 40% of Massachusetts households experiencing food insecurity. Donations are still coming in but the event is well on its way to hitting the goal of raising \$1 million in support of statewide efforts to end hunger in the Commonwealth.

"The Walk for Hunger has always been about the strength of community coming together to make a tangible difference—and this year, the urgency has never been greater," says Erin McAleer, President & CEO of Project Bread. "Seeing thousands of people from every corner of the state show up, not just to walk, but to say, loudly and clearly, that hunger is unacceptable. Today we showed what this community can do when



PHOTO BY DAVID LEIFER, VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE WALK FOR HUNGER
Erin McAleer, Project Bread President and CEO cuts the starting line ribbon for The 58th Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Thousands of people from Massachusetts and beyond hit the pavement at Boston Common, raising critical funds to support Project Bread's year-round anti-hunger work across Massachusetts.

we work together, but we're not done yet. The need is greater than ever, and all of us have a part to play in meeting this moment for our neighbors struggling across the Commonwealth."

This year's Walk comes at a critical inflection point for food security in Massachusetts. Forty percent of state households are experiencing food insecurity, amid historic cuts to SNAP over the last year that are forcing more families to make impossible choices between food and

other basic needs. Against that backdrop, The Walk served as both a fundraiser and a rallying cry, drawing first-time participants alongside advocates who have walked for decades.

During the Opening Ceremony on the Boston Common Main Stage, Project Bread CEO Erin McAleer presented the prestigious Patrick Hughes Award for Social Justice to Jean McMurray, recently retired CEO of the Worcester County Food Bank.

McMurray was honored for more than 30 years of advocacy and partnership advancing systemic solutions to hunger across Massachusetts and her ongoing work as advisor to the Make Hunger History Coalition.

The Walk featured a family-friendly, fully accessible 3-mile loop on Boston Common, with live entertainment, local food vendors, a cooking demonstration, and inclusive programming with ASL interpretation. Walkers were cheered on by family and friends throughout the festive route, which highlighted ways to get involved in the fight to end hunger.

Now in its eighth consecutive year, the Commonwealth Program welcomed 68 community-based organizations that fundraised as part of a joint initiative, retaining 60 percent of all funds they raised to support their own anti-hunger work while contributing to The Walk's statewide goal.

Funds raised through The Walk support Project Bread's year-round work to connect families to food when there's nothing left at home, make sure kids have enough to eat, and

guides everyday people through moments of crisis. Funds also support long-term solutions to ending hunger permanently.

Fundraising for The Walk for Hunger continues. Visit www.projectbread.org/walk to donate or start a personal fundraiser.

People experiencing food insecurity should call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential, free assistance getting connected to a variety of food resources in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. Counselors can pre-screen families and help them to apply for SNAP. Learn more at projectbread.org/get-help.

Project Bread is the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts. Beginning in 1969 with the first Walk for Hunger, the nonprofit focuses on driving systemic change to ensure people of all ages have reliable access to healthy food. Project Bread works collaboratively across sectors to create innovative solutions to end hunger and improve lives across the Commonwealth. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

Green Line C branch will be suspended between Kenmore and Cleveland Circle until May 17

Special to the Times

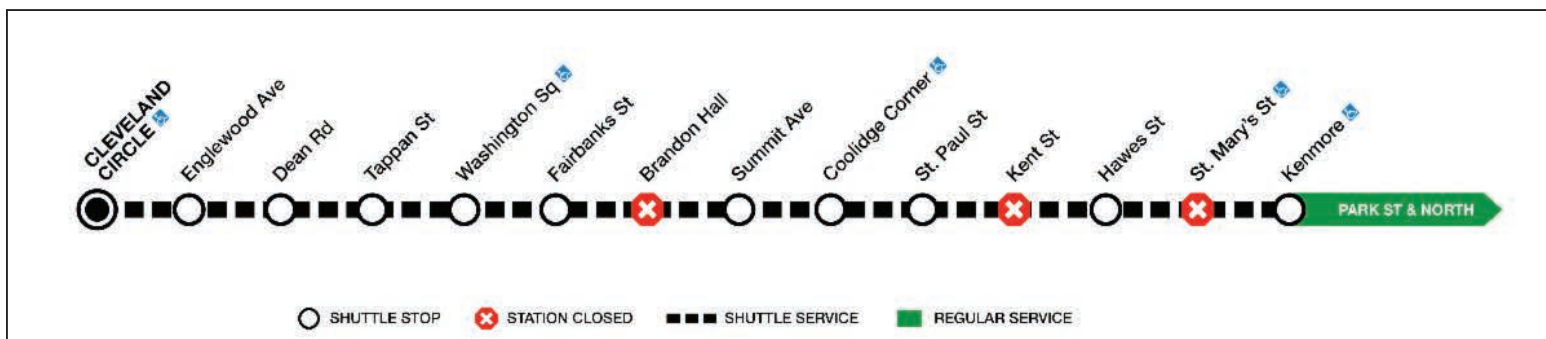
The MBTA is reminding riders that Green Line C branch service will be suspended between Kenmore and Cleveland Circle for twelve consecutive days, May 6 – 17.

The MBTA will continue the installation of critical Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS) infrastructure on the C branch during this service change. When complete, GLTPS will combine vehicle and wayside equipment to avoid train-on-train collisions, incorporate speed enforcement, and more.

Riders can find complete information at mbta.com/GreenLine. More information on these service changes and alternate travel options is below:

- Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace service between Kenmore and Cleveland Circle.

- Shuttle bus service will not be available at Saint Mary's Street, Kent Street, or Brandon Hall in both directions. Riders



should instead utilize shuttle bus service at the next nearest stop.

- Additional service will be added to the Green Line D branch during this time period. Riders who board or disembark at Cleveland Circle are encouraged to instead utilize D branch service at Reservoir, which is 0.1 miles away (or about a two- to three-minute walk).

- Riders using shuttles bus service should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider travelling to Government Center from Cleveland Circle should budget at least an additional 15 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

More information is also

available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

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

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering pub-

lic 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.

City kicks off free Summer Fitness Series May 13 at Copley Square Park

Special to the Times

The 2026 Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series, sponsored by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), will kick off at Copley Square Park in Back Bay on Wednesday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m., featuring free Bota Fogo Dance Fitness and Yoga plus fun giveaways.

“The free Summer Fitness Series brings residents outside

and into our communities, taking care of ourselves and each other throughout the summer season,” said Mayor Michelle Wu in a press release. “We’re grateful to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Boston Public Health Commission for their partnership in opening our parks for neighbors to come together, stay active, and make the most of the season.”

The series offers a wide range

of classes, including Yoga, Chair Yoga, HIIT, ZUMBA, Kick It By Eliza, Walking Group, Strength and Balance, Line Dancing, Barre Fusion, and Latin Fusion Dance. The program is tailored to residents’ and participants’ interests, including age-friendly classes for families, older adults, and those new to fitness classes. For more information and a link to the full schedule, visit boston.gov/fitness.

“Our parks are an incredible

resource for Boston residents, especially as warmer weather makes it even more exciting to get outside,” added Cathy Baker-Eclipse, Interim Commissioner of Boston Parks and Recreation. “Through free programming and initiatives like our Summer Fitness Series, people of all ages are invited to come out to the parks, connect with their neighbors, and stay active. These initiatives not only provide opportunities for physical

activity but also create welcoming spaces where communities can flourish.”

For up-to-date information, including weather-related cancellations for outdoor fitness classes, visit Boston.gov/Parks, call 617-635-4505 and follow via social channels at @parks.boston.gov on Bluesky and @bostonparksdept on Facebook and Instagram.

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City of Boston hosts 12th annual Citizenship Day

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), and Project Citizenship hosted the City’s annual Citizenship Day at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury. The annual event provides free legal help with citizenship applications for immigrants eligible for naturalization. This event builds on the City’s efforts to make Boston a home for everyone and on its longstanding commitment to connecting residents with services and supporting eligible residents with citizenship applications.

“For more than a decade, Citizenship Day has helped Boston residents apply for U.S. citizenship at no cost. Now more than ever, naturalization offers an important pathway to stability, opportunity, and a more secure future,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement, Project Citizenship, and the hundreds of volunteers who help make Boston a welcoming home for everyone, no matter where you come from.”

Since 2014, MOIA has partnered with Project Citizenship

to host Citizenship Day, New England’s largest one-day citizenship clinic. Before this year, the clinic has served over 3,200 people from 115 countries. To date, the event has helped more than 1,900 eligible immigrants become citizens.

Between legal fees and USCIS application fees, becoming a U.S. citizen can be prohibitively expensive for residents. On Citizenship Day, hundreds of community volunteers, law students, and pro bono attorneys help people complete their citizenship applications for free and determine whether they qualify for a USCIS fee waiver. It currently costs \$760 to file a citizenship application. Since the event’s inception, over 2,000 fee waivers have been submitted for qualifying applicants.

“Citizenship can be a life-changing benefit that allows for increased family reunification, stability, and opportunities to become more civically engaged through voting and running for office. We are proud to have sponsored this event for over 12 years,” said Monique Tú Nguyen, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement.

In Boston, 1 in 10 residents is

a naturalized citizen, and about 30,000 residents are eligible for U.S. citizenship. MOIA encourages all eligible immigrants to apply for citizenship. Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years old, lawful permanent residents for five years or three years if married to a U.S. citizen, able to read, write, and speak basic English, and not have traveled extensively outside the U.S. in the past five years.


“At a time when many who weren’t born in this country feel especially vulnerable, Boston Citizenship Day honors the important role that immigrants play in our communities,” said Gail Breslow, Executive Director of Project Citizenship. “By providing free legal help, we make sure everyone eligible has access to the benefits and protections of citizenship, as well as the opportunity to participate fully in our democracy.”

Project Citizenship screens applicants to ensure registered participants complete their applications on Citizenship Day and are processed for naturalization. To learn more about Citizenship Day in Boston, eligibility, and the benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen, visit: boston.gov/citizenship.

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts celebrates National Bike Month

In recognition of National Bike Month and National Mental Health Awareness Month, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (“Blue Cross”), the title sponsor of Greater Boston’s municipally owned bike-sharing system, Bluebikes, will offer a free credit of \$20 while supplies last. Fully funded by Blue Cross, the offer reflects the health plan’s commitment to increasing access to biking’s physical and mental health benefits and supporting healthier, more connected communities through sustainable transportation.

How it works: Beginning May 1, individuals can redeem the free \$20 credit by entering code BCBSBIKEMONTH26 in the “Rewards” section of the Bluebikes App, while supplies last.

- The credit can be used for both pedal and ebike trips across Bluebikes’ 600 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 Bluebikes account and will remain valid for one year.

- Riders are also encouraged to share how biking on Bluebikes supports their wellness journeys using #WhyBikeBlue on social media.

Biking’s benefits: Outdoor physical activity like biking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic conditions, like cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity, according to the National Library of Medicine. Biking is also linked to lower stress levels, reduced anxiety, and a lower level of depression, according to Healthline.

What they’re saying: “We’re proud to offer this Bluebikes credit during National Bike Month and Mental Health Awareness Month to help more people experience the benefits and impact of biking,” said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. “A simple ride can support both physical and mental well-being, while helping people feel more connected to their communities. We’re continually inspired by riders’ stories and hope this initiative encourages even more people to get out and ride.”

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 over-

all.

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, 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 600 stations and 5,500 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, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Artist Rixy to bring 2026 Dewey Square mural to life

Special to the Times

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy is delighted to welcome Boston-born artist Rixy, who will begin work this week on the 2026 Dewey Square Mural—one of the city’s most vibrant and visible canvases for public art.

From May 1, 2026, through the first week of June, neighbors, community members, and visitors are invited to watch the artwork come to life in real time, as Rixy and her all-women painting team bring a bold new vision to the heart of downtown.

Selected through the Conservancy’s first-ever national open call in partnership with Embrace and Everyone 250, Rixy’s upcoming mural, *The Midnight Ride*, reimagines familiar histories through world-building, storytelling, and meaningful dialogue—inviting visitors of all ages to pause, reflect, and see themselves within a shared, continually evolving story.

Throughout the mural painting process, community members, families, and visitors are invited to stop by, take in the process, and return often as new details emerge each day. Whether it’s a morning coffee break with colleagues or a picnic lunch with friends, join us at The Greenway during the month of May to witness contemporary art coming to life in Boston.

Key dates for the public and



PORTRAIT OF THE MIDNIGHT RIDE PAINTING TEAM COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Pictured (left to right) are Sagie Vangelina, Rixy, and Ayana Mack.

media include:

April 20–25: Scrape and prime the previous mural

April 24 (1–4 PM): Aerial lift training for mural team and Conservancy employees

May 1 – June 5 (weekdays 9 AM to 6 PM): Mural painting in progress at Dewey Square

May 21 (12–1 PM): Meet the

Muralist Lunch & Learn with Rixy at the Dewey Square Mural

June 16 (12–1 PM): Online Artist Talk with Rixy Learn more about Rixy, her work and what it takes to paint large-scale walls. RSVP via Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link.

June 27 (3–6 PM): Opening Reception & Community Cele-

bration for the completed mural

Since 2012, the Dewey Square Mural has served as a dynamic canvas for contemporary public art in Boston, welcoming millions of visitors each year and sparking connection, curiosity, and joy in a shared civic space.

This summer, Rixy’s mural offers a fresh invitation to engage with our shared histories, reimagine accepted narratives, and envision new futures together.

Follow along on our Instagram [@greenwaypublicart](https://www.instagram.com/greenwaypublicart) or learn more at <https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/rix>

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston and one of the most visited attractions in the Commonwealth, welcoming millions of visitors annually. The Greenway is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, a non-profit responsible for the administration and care of the park. The majority of the Conservancy’s annual budget is made up

of generous donations from the community, and it is with their support that the Conservancy cultivates a gathering space where all are welcome and celebrated.

The Dewey Square Mural is funded, in part, by Massachusetts250, Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism, Meet Boston, Holland America, and an Anonymous Donor.

Public Art on The Greenway is made possible with major support from the Barr Foundation, Goulston & Storrs, the Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation, and the Wagner Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, Robert & Doris Gordon, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and The New Commonwealth Fund.

Special thanks to our co-commissioning partners Embrace and Everyone 250 and our project partner, Marr Companies.

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MBTA unveils first systemwide resilience roadmap to strengthen transit network against climate impacts, improve reliability

Special to the Times

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) released its first-ever systemwide Resilience Roadmap, a comprehensive plan to strengthen transit infrastructure and prepare operations against the impacts of climate change and severe weather, including flooding, extreme heat and cold.

Developed as a key next step following the MBTA's release of the 2024 Climate Assessment, the Roadmap outlines both near- and long-term strategies to proactively reduce climate risks and improve reliability across the transit system. The plan spans all modes of transit and prioritizes investments that protect critical assets, support safe operations, and minimize service disruptions.

The MBTA's Resilience Roadmap directly supports goals laid out in the Healey-Driscoll Administration's program, ResilientMass, which is strategically designed to help communities across the state mitigate the negative impacts of severe weather like heatwaves and flooding.

"The MBTA is always looking for ways to proactively address climate resilience," said Interim Secretary and General Manager Phillip Eng. "Our riders deserve safe, reliable, and robust service now and in the future, which is why this Resilience Roadmap is impactful. I'm thankful to the many MBTA teams, experts, and advocates who helped us map out a plan to protect our system and assets."

"Building climate resilience is essential to keeping our transportation system safe and reliable. Much of our infrastruc-

ture wasn't built for heavier rainfall, more frequent storms, and heat waves—conditions that can cause flooding, damage, and service disruptions," said Energy and Environmental Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "The MBTA's roadmap targets practical upgrades to strengthen reliability and safety and plays an important role in advancing the ResilientMass program, which works to prepare infrastructure for today's conditions and the future."

The data-driven plan was developed from expertise across the MBTA, more than two dozen climate vulnerability studies, site assessments across the system, and best practices from peer transit agencies nationwide.

The Roadmap focuses on nine priority areas, including but not limited to:

- Investing in the resilience and reliability of the power system
- Protecting tunnels and stations from flooding
- Reducing heat exposure for riders and employees
- Improving the resilience of signal and communications systems
- Addressing flooding at stations and support facilities
- Upgrading tracks and facilities to withstand extreme temperatures.

In total, the plan identifies 30 new resilience strategies, with 23 recommended for action within the next five years. Each strategy identifies the climate risks addressed, potential locations, responsible departments, and the estimated cost ranges for each project.

Projects and actions would include but are not limited to

Snapshot of Rapid Transit Vulnerabilities (current & projected)

Current Impacts

Park Street Station
Summer temperatures currently impact riders and employees within underground stations and the broader tunnel system.

Southwest Corridor
Drainage issues currently cause delays and closures during heavy rainfall events.

Future Impacts

Orient Heights Yard
Future sea level rise and heavy rainfall can cause flooding and drainage issues across the site, threatening operations along the Blue Line.

Airport Portal
Future sea level rise can lead to water inundation at Airport Portal that could travel through the central tunnel system and ripple across the entire rapid transit system.

North Station
Future projections make North Station vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise and storm surge, affecting both the rapid transit and commuter rail systems.

Snapshot of Systemwide Vulnerabilities (projected)

RIDE Facility
Sea level rise and storm surge threaten access to and from the site in 2050 and beyond, impacting the 100 - 120 vehicles stored at this location.

Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility
Extreme heat and stormwater flooding are projected to impact operations at the Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility.

Lynn Bus Garage
Sea level rise and storm surge threaten access to and from the site, potentially impacting routes serviced by Lynn Bus Garage

Charlestown Campus
A seawall currently protects Charlestown Campus from sea level rise and storm surge – a critical facility for bus operations.

Long Wharf Ferry Terminal
Sea level rise is projected to obstruct access to the Long Wharf Ferry Terminal.

• Bolstering weather resilience within the Blue Line Airport tunnel portal, which includes installing hinged portal doors to protect from flooding that would lead to widespread infrastructure, operational, and economic impacts across the subway tunnel system.

• Expanding shade at stations and bus stops with high heat exposure to protect riders

• Incorporating permanent or deployable flood protection systems at vulnerable stations

• Installing cooling equipment in signals and applying communications modernization upgrades to protect critical

equipment from extreme heat

• Expanding access to heat safety training and personal protective equipment for MBTA workers

• The Roadmap also emphasizes the need for sustained capital investment, internal knowledge sharing, and regional collaboration to advance this work. The MBTA will continue working closely with municipal, regional, and state partners to implement the strategies identified in the Roadmap and adapt to evolving climate conditions over time.

This work builds on the MBTA's vision of building a

more resilient transit network. Key recent investments towards a decarbonized and more resilient system include:

• \$10 million towards upgrading pump rooms along the Blue Line to increase resiliency to flooding

• \$15 million for the construction of new bus amenities and shelters across the system to provide relief to riders during extreme heat or heavy rain events

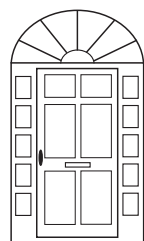
• \$1 million ResilientMass grant to the design of flood protection for the Blue Line Airport tunnel portal.

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

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 sys-

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WEST END GETS SOME NEIGHBORLY CARE



COURTESY OF WEST END CIVIC ASSOCIATION

West Enders focus on the Lindemann lot during the May 2 Love Your Block neighborhood cleanup.



MBTA (from pg. 12)

tems 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.

Russell Bridge receives esteemed ACEC/MA Grand Conceptor Award

By Times staff

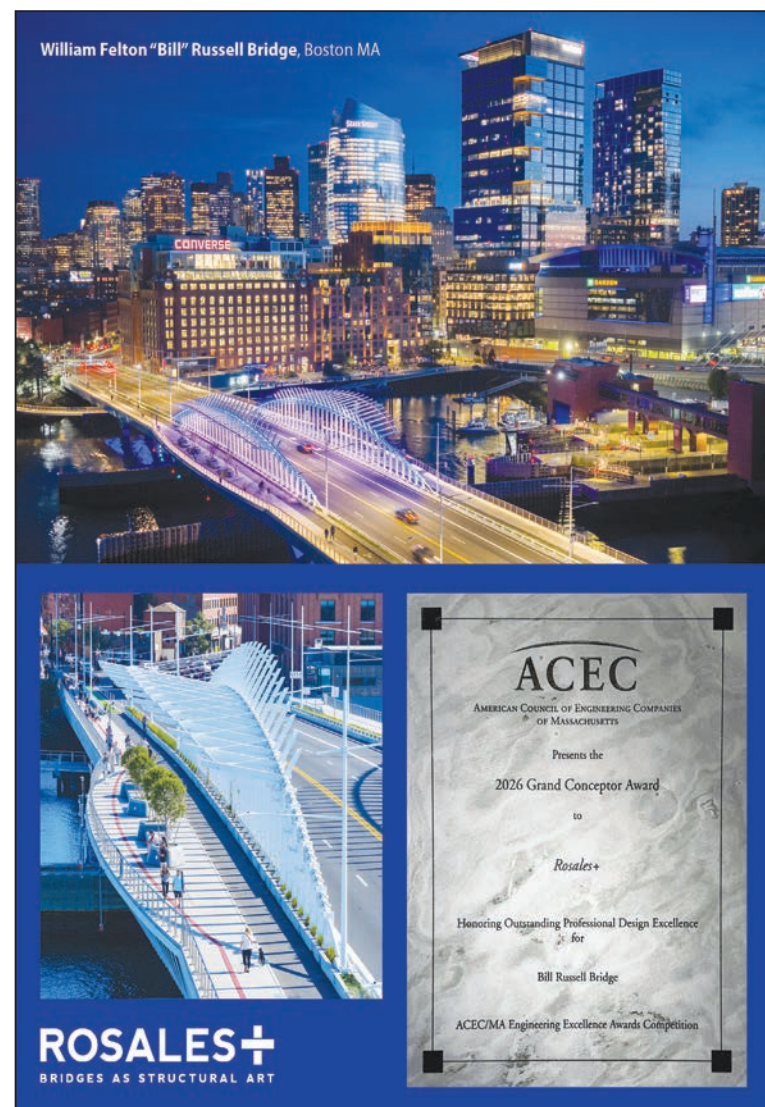
The new William Felton 'Bill' Russell Bridge, which links Charlestown to the North End across the Boston Harbor, was recently awarded the ACEC/MA Grand Conceptor Award - the highest honor bestowed upon engineering projects by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts.

The new Russell Bridge, named after Russell, the late Boston Celtic legend, and designed by venerable Beacon Hill bridge architect Miguel Rosales, replaced a century-old truss bridge over the harbor. The structure features wide sidewalks, along with the first cycle tracks on a bridge in Boston. The elegant design of the piers and the overall architecture draw inspiration from the adjacent Zakim Bridge, also designed by Rosales. The bridge offers curved overlooks and open spaces at the center of the navigation span. These zones with outstanding

water views feature seating, a trellis, and landscaping/plantings, enhancing the experience for all uses along the waterfront.

"It is gratifying to be recognized with the top engineering award in Massachusetts. The iconic bridge has profoundly transformed the area. We extend our sincere gratitude to the City of Boston and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for their unwavering support and visionary leadership in crafting a unique bridge that instills a profound sense of pride within the city and beyond," said Rosales.

Since its completion, the bridge has served as a new gateway connecting the historic neighborhoods of the North End and Charlestown. This iconic multimodal bridge exemplifies the successful collaboration between Bridge Designers Miguel Rosales/Rosales+, the Engineer of Record Benesch, and Contractor J. F. White Contracting Co., showcasing outstanding architectural and engineering attributes.



COURTESY OF ROSALES + PARTNERS TRANSPORTATION DESIGN

Real Estate Transfers

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

BUYER 1 SELLER 1 ADDRESS PRICE

BACK BAY

Reservitz, David	Cutter, Sasha C	175 Commonwealth Ave #B	\$2,775,000
Fidyk, Christopher S	Duplisea, Meghan	210 Beacon St #3	\$1,750,000
Patrice Costello Metz Ret	226 Marlborough Street N	226 Marlborough St	\$1,890,000
4-6 Newbury Owner LLC	4-6 Newbury Jsre Tic LLC	4-6 Newbury St Retail	\$55,350,000
Osborn, Megan	Goldman, Julie	675-675A Tremont St	\$1,250,000
Bouhlal, Mohammed R	405 Washington Street LL	405 Washington St	\$219,500

BEACON HILL

11 West Cedar Street LLC	West Cedar Rt	11 W Cedar St	\$2,650,000
Siefers, Kent	Haskel, William M	22 River St #8	\$2,400,000
Lee, Dongeun	Sundar, Jagane	33 Irving St #4	\$460,000
Sestar LLC	52 Temple Street LLC	52-52A Temple St	\$4,025,000
Mahboobi Hauser T	Maher, Kathleen	6 Whittier Pl #14G	\$437,000
Shea, Brian J	Mulcahy, Diane	9 St Charles St	\$3,045,000

DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT

Chen, Jiayu	Dong, Rui	1 Franklin St #3110	\$2,000,000
Johnson, Jeffrey P	Braun, Daniel P	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4604	\$2,800,000
Gaughen Jr, Robert H	Lucchino, Stacey J	370-380 Harrison Ave #12F	\$3,681,500
Kaitlin E Salyer T	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #14E	\$2,799,000
Keen Re Solutions Inc	Hawkins Anna Est	44-46 Edgewood St	\$740,000
Orfanos, Emma	Guertin, Allison J	519 Harrison Ave #D314	\$543,000
Snow, Massiel	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #3908	\$2,800,000
Forrest, Richard D	South Sta Res Invest LLC	682 Atlantic Ave #4011	\$1,425,000
Meier, Kevin	Serrano, Dianyvot	88 Hudson St #303	\$227,117

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

141 Ws3 Rt	David M Antos Trust	141 Worcester St #3	\$2,295,000
Heriz, Michael	Dibona, Anthony	2 Cumston St #2	\$2,580,000
Munini, Steven L	Wigder, David	255 Northampton St	\$964,000
Bradford-Gulec, Jesse	Mills, Nicole A	263-265 Northampton St #206	\$451,561
Steinberg, Robert B	David J Arsenault Ret	30 E Concord St #2	\$3,030,000
Fera, Alexa Della	Larivee, Brian J	77 Worcester St #4	\$1,920,000



The window in the last clue is on 45 School Street, better known as Old City Hall. This building was designed by the architectural firm of Bryant and Gilman and was completed circa 1865. Today's answer is from a Library of Congress photo that was added to their collection when the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

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



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Over 160 Boston artists and arts leaders attend budget hearing to reject proposed 27 percent cut to arts and culture funding

Special to the Times

More than 160 artists, teaching artists, arts leaders, and representatives from arts organizations across Boston gathered last Thursday, April 30 at Boston City Hall to advocate for the restoration of the City's FY2027 Arts and Culture budget during a nearly four-hour long City Council budget hearing.

The budget hearing chaired by City Councilor Benjamin Weber last Thursday at 2:00 PM in the Iannella Chamber drew such a large turnout that the room quickly reached capacity, becoming standing room only. Due to the overwhelming attendance, staff established an overflow area where additional advocates watched the proceedings via livestream.

Attendees delivered testimony urging City Councilors to reject the proposed 27% reduction to the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. The proposed \$1.2 million in cuts come as Boston faces a broader budget gap of nearly \$50 million driven by rising costs in areas such as public safety, health care, and snow removal. The proposed cuts would eliminate critical community-based grants, reduce staff capacity within the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, and disrupt the city's Artists in Residence program.

"A budget is a moral document. It tells us more clearly than anything else where our priorities lie," said Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez, a professional stage manager in the City of Boston. "It is incredibly disheartening to learn that the arts are not a priority in the City of Boston."

Speakers at the hearing emphasized the creative sector's substantial economic and social

impact. Boston's creative industries contribute an estimated \$15 billion annually to the local economy. Additionally, 18% of Boston residents report that the creative economy is their primary source of income, 7.5% report it's their secondary source of income, and the city's creative workforce has grown by 5.2% since 2021, demonstrating its continued expansion despite ongoing funding challenges. Creative industries support the employment of 70,000 workers in Boston.

"The proposed \$1 million cut in arts funding is not just a cultural decision, it's an economic one," said Kim Dawson Ohiomoba, Executive Director of GrubStreet. "That loss shows up in very real ways. It shows up in fewer customers at neighborhood restaurants before and after performances, and it shows up in fewer dollars circulating through small businesses in neighborhoods like East Boston, Roxbury, and Dorchester, communities where arts organizations often serve as economic anchors."

Advocates also situated the proposed cuts within a broader national and statewide context of instability for the arts sector. Over the past year, federal actions have significantly disrupted cultural funding, including widespread grant terminations and staff layoffs at the National Endowment for the Humanities, efforts to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and proposals to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts in the federal FY2027 budget. In early 2026, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting voted to dissolve following federal funding cuts, further destabilizing the national

cultural infrastructure.

At the same time, the arts sector continues to recover unevenly from the COVID-19 pandemic. The expiration of ARPA funding, declining private philanthropy, and reduced earned revenue have compounded financial strain. Data from SMU DataArts shows that Massachusetts cultural organizations reduced their budgets by an average of 12% in 2022, with earned revenue down 34% and attendance declining 47% since 2019. Contributed income has also dropped significantly across individual, corporate, and foundation sources, with particularly sharp losses among larger organizations and performing arts groups.

"All eyes are on Boston right now for reasons other than the 250th and sports. City funding signals that art matters," said Kate Gilbert, Founder and Executive Director of the Boston Public Art Triennial. "Every time I go to a new foundation, a new donor and they're really excited about public art, they say, is the city funding you? And I have to say yeah they are. I don't want to go to them and say the city just reduced the budget by \$1 million."

Testimony underscored the broader community consequences of the proposed cuts, particularly for youth and historically underserved communities. Advocates argued that reductions to arts funding would further erode access to creative opportunities, workforce development pathways, and culturally relevant programming at a time when the sector is already under strain.

"Divesting from arts and culture is an investment in our division," said Oompa, a Boston-based rapper, educator, and

creative entrepreneur. "We don't have a talent, intelligence or hustle problem, we have an infrastructure problem. This isn't just arts funding, this is cultural economics and workforce development. Restore the \$1 million, but don't just restore the budget - build an infrastructure that makes this conversation obsolete. Not just more events, but more ownership of the establishments that produce them, more access to capital that allows creatives and cultural workers to scale, that makes a partnership of our relationship to our city

not one of servitude."

The advocacy effort was organized and led by Arts Activate Boston, a coalition of arts and culture leaders in Boston. They spent the last two weeks mobilizing Boston's arts sector to attend the hearing and give testimony. Organizers continue to urge creative workers and residents to engage with City Council members and advocate for the full reinstatement of the arts and culture budget ahead of the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1.

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.
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	

Naked man arrested after breaking into Myrtle Street home

By Times staff

A Myrtle Street homeowner reportedly came downstairs on the morning of Saturday, May 2, to find a naked man sitting on his living-room couch and an apparent crack pipe.

According to published

reports, the homeowner, who was at home with his children, contacted police immediately after he discovered the victim inside his residence at about 8:20 a.m. Officers then located the suspect, later identified Janel Roman, age 28, of Boston, seated on a toilet in the home's third-

floor bathroom.

Roman was transported to Nashua Street Jail for booking on charges, including of vandalism, open and gross lewdness, and putting lawful residents in fear by breaking and entering during the daytime with intent to commit a felony.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Local spring produce: Many ways!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

There are many delicious reasons to visit farmers' markets in the spring. During the next couple of weeks, some local farmers' markets will open for the summer season. A few are located near MBTA stations and serve a larger community of shoppers, including Copley Square, Davis Square, and Kendall Square.

Once upon a time, there was little on offer at the first few markets. Today, some farms are already promoting the strawberries and other delights at their own farmstands and will bring what they can to the first markets. They now grow early-season varieties of these items in greenhouses or hoopouses.

Then again, these markets offer crops like fiddlehead ferns, asparagus, ramps, and wild garlic that make an all-too-short spring appearance. Greens of all kinds will appear next, and we suggest you consider different ways to incorporate these nutritious leaves into salads and beyond.

Warm Salads

When we spot a vibrant cluster of Swiss chard on a farm stand, we grab it for one of our favorite warm green dishes, beans and greens. If your market has a bean vendor like Baer's Best Beans, you can use those. But this will work with canned beans. Penny will strip the leaves from the stems and chop both. Next, she'll sauté onions, garlic, and the diced stems in olive oil. When that mixture is al dente, the leaves join the party, along with a drained can of cannellini beans.

Bacon from Stillman's Quality Meats can star in a traditional warm spinach salad. Sauté the bacon and use the bacon drippings to make a dressing. You can either toss the spinach into the pan or pour warm dressing over it.

Hot Greens

As BBQ and Southern cooking became more popular, we found more greens that you should cook long and slow in our mar-

kets. Collards, kale, beet tops, callaloo, and mustard greens can all become wonderful hot dishes.

Culinary historian Jessica Harris describes the African tradition, "...cook them down to a low gravy." If you've ever heard the term "pot likker or pot liquor," it refers to the cooking liquid from greens, which, in times of scarce resources, was served as a drink.

Green Soups

Soups are another perfect place to add some hot greens to your menu. Many cuisines have traditional recipes that add these budget stretchers to soups with a small portion of protein. Portuguese Kale Soup can have some chorizo. Italian escarole-and-bean soup might include a little sausage. Cuban green soup has a bit of salt pork in it.

Dark, leafy vegetables offer a gold mine of nutrition. On their own, they are low in calories,



If you have questions about greens and how to use them, ask the farmer!

high in fiber, and full of folic acid, vitamin C, iron, potassium, and magnesium. They are a favorite recommendation of nutritionists to treat a variety of health issues, from being overweight to diabetes.

Next trip to the market, pick up a bunch of greens and try making a warm salad or something hot and flavorful with them. You can start with something familiar, like spinach, or go the whole hog and spend an afternoon simmering a ham

hock in a mess of collard greens.

You can find details on opening dates, hours, and vendor lists for area farmers' markets at www.massfarmersmarkets.org or www.mass.gov/info-details/farmers-markets. In addition, many markets maintain social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok.

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

Beacon Hill Art Walk returns Sunday, June 7

Special to the Times

One of Boston's most unique celebrations of the arts returns June 7, when the Beacon Hill Art Walk takes over the quiet streets and alleys of the beautiful, cobblestoned neighborhood. The one-of-a-kind Boston tradition serves as an unofficial start to the summer for many artists in and around Boston as Beacon Hill transforms into a fantastical art gallery where walls and gardens are adorned with beautiful creations. Visitors can find the perfect piece to add to their home, while musicians will be roaming throughout the neighborhood in various gardens, creating an enchanting atmosphere. There is no cost to attend the Art Walk, which runs from noon to 6:00 PM, rain or shine.

Created in 1990, the Beacon Hill Art Walk takes place in the

nooks and crannies of Beacon Hill's North Slope as residents open up their private gardens, alleyways, and courtyards and allow artists to display and sell their artwork. It is a chance for visitors to tour the private spaces of Beacon Hill while viewing original, handmade artwork. Thousands of people attend each year. The popular event in a festive atmosphere includes volunteer musicians playing in various gardens throughout the day. Around 50 artists participate, with a variety of styles, media, and subject matter. Visitors enjoy a unique atmosphere boasting bursts of colors against the background sound of live classical and folk music playing in various gardens throughout the day.

"After a long and snowy winter, we are all ready to welcome in the summer months with some

beautiful art in a tranquil setting," said Jen Matson, a Beacon Hill Art Walk Organizer. "We can't wait to welcome everyone back in June and see what our artists have been working on all year."

Visitors hoping to get the most out of the art walk are encouraged to start at either 135 Charles St. or the corner of Cambridge and West Cedar St.

The Beacon Hill Art Walk is made possible thanks to the work of dozens of dedicated volunteers. It is a fun and engaging way to give back to the thriving Boston Arts Community that helps make this such a special place to live. Anyone interested in volunteering can apply at beaconhillartwalk.com.

The Beacon Hill Art Walk will take place on Sunday, June 7, in Beacon Hill's North Slope.

LUNCH AND DINNER

ANTONIO'S

CUCINA ITALIANA

"Antonio's is a treasure for anyone who happens upon it."

—Boston Globe

Closed on Sundays for private functions

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Sun: Closed

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