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THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

TASTE OF FENWAY RETURNS



DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS
Fenway Forward hosted the annual Taste of Fenway on Sept. 24 transforming Kilmarnock Street to Richard B. Ross Way into the food festival. Many local eateries joined in the festivities. Shown above Cask 'n Flagon setting up their buffalo chicken dip.

Shown left, residents enjoy a snack. See more photos on Page 8.

Fenway CDC changes name to Fenway Forward

By Sun staff

Following a year of strategic planning and input from the community members, Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) officially changed its name last week to Fenway Forward.

The name change comes alongside the recent release of a dynamic four-year strategic plan (2026-2029), according to the soon-to-be 52-year-old nonprofit which offers affordable housing, resident services, and workforce development programs in the Fenway neighborhood and beyond.

In October 2024, the organization now known as Fenway Forward launched a community-centered strategic planning process to guide its work through 2029. Led by a 12-member Strategic Planning Committee, the organization engaged more than 200 stakeholders, including

neighborhood leaders, community and institutional partners, public officials, residents, and board and staff members via a series of focus groups, interviews, and community listening sessions.

“Building on decades of advocacy, our strategic plan envisions a Fenway neighborhood where people from all walks of life can live, study, work—and most importantly—belong,” Steve Farrell, executive director of Fenway Forward, said in a press release. “Together with our neighbors in the Fenway, we will turn these plans into real outcomes: more affordable housing, vibrant public spaces, stronger community programs, and greater equity.”

As a result of the strategic planning process, Fenway Forward has developed five strategic priorities to shape and guide its

(FENWAY FORWARD, Pg. 2)

Kate Ferris Richardson assumes helm of Community Boating

By Dan Murphy

Kate Ferris Richardson recently assumed the reins of Community Boating, Inc., taking over as executive director of the long-standing nonprofit that offers inclusive sailing on the Charles River, but she first came to CBI as a teen sailor in the early '90s.

Growing up on the North Shore, Ferris Richardson, would

regularly take the commuter rail into the city during her summer and school vacations, and it was during one of these excursions when a friend from Revere introduced her to CBI, where she could spend the day sailing for a nominal fee.

“I learned to sail elsewhere, but as a teenager at Community Boating, I learned something even more important than boat

handling - that the water can belong to everyone,” Ferris Richardson wrote in an email. “CBI’s noncompetitive, open environment gave me the space to simply enjoy ‘messing about in boats.’ That openness taught me sailing could be about community and participation, not competition.”

Prior to replacing recently retired Charlie Zechel in the leadership role at CBI, Ferris

Richardson had been working as an undergraduate medical education coordinator for Harvard Medical School programs at Mass General Hospital. She previously worked as a music teacher at Massachusetts public schools and has also volunteered in the nonprofit sector, including currently serving as the finance committee chair at the Boston

(KATE FERRIS, Pg. 7)



COURTESY COMMUNITY BOATING, INC.

Kate Ferris Richardson, the newly named executive director of Community Boating, Inc.,

EDITORIAL

A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN BENEFITS NO ONE

As this is being written, it would appear as though the federal government is set for another government shutdown this week.

Republican-controlled majorities have been responsible for most of the shutdowns over the past 30 years, starting with the Newt Gingrich-led shutdown in 1995-1996.

This time however, it will be the Democrats in the U.S. Senate who will be responsible for a shutdown. Even though the Dems are in the minority, the arcane Senate rules require that 60 votes are needed to pass a stop-gap spending bill to avoid a shutdown. The Republicans have only 53 votes, which means that at least seven Democrats are needed to approve the spending resolution that would keep the government open.

We certainly agree with the Democrats' position that funding should be reinstated for healthcare insurance subsidies for lower and middle-income Americans. But the Democrats lost all three branches of government in the November election -- and elections have consequences.

Both sides already are predictably pointing the finger at the other for the shutdown, but the vast majority of Americans could care less who is to blame. That is something that the politicians just never seem to understand -- and which explains why so many Americans are so disillusioned with politics today.

IT'S VACCINE SEASON FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

With the fall and winter months approaching, this is the time of year when health experts urge seniors over the age of 65 to get their annual flu and COVID-19 shots.

The benefits of both vaccines are huge for even the healthiest of seniors and far outweigh the rare risks of side effects. (If a person is concerned about the possibility of side effects, they should consult their doctor.)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in most flu seasons, 70% to 85% of flu-related deaths occur in people 65 and older.

This past winter (the 2024-2025 season), it is estimated that there were approximately 27,000 deaths from the flu and at least 610,000 hospitalizations for influenza. (And who wants to go to a hospital these days?)

Another important reason to get an annual flu vaccine is that researchers have known for more than a decade that the flu vaccine confers major protection for seniors that can help reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes, particularly in individuals with existing heart disease,

Those findings were confirmed in another study in a 2023 meta-analysis that showed a significant reduction in the risk of heart attacks and cardiovascular deaths among those who are vaccinated.

As for COVID-19, unvaccinated older adults are at great risk for severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and death, even if they have had COVID shots in the past.

Although the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is in our rear-view mirror, there still were an estimated 47,000 COVID-related deaths in the U.S. in 2024, of whom the majority were senior citizens. In addition, seniors over the age of 65 accounted for two-thirds of COVID hospitalizations in 2024. (And again, can you imagine a fate worse than being in a hospital these days?)

The third shot that seniors should get (after consultation with their doctor) is the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine. Although not as common or as deadly as the flu and COVID-19, the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (just the name alone gives us the creeps) causes severe respiratory illness that can lead to death and hospitalization, especially in older adults and those with underlying health conditions, for which the vaccine provides great protection.

An estimated 6000-10,000 Americans died from RSV infections in 2024 and many thousands more were hospitalized, with the vast majority being senior citizens.

A nice thing about the RSV vaccine is that it's a one-time shot -- it does not need to be given annually like the flu or COVID-19 vaxes. So you can get it now, and it's one-and-done.

Vaccines are THE best means by which our senior citizens (who should consult with their doctor about side-effects) can protect themselves (and we're in that cohort) from the debilitating and deadly effects of influenza, COVID-19, and RSV -- and now is the time to do it.

GUEST OP-ED

What's become of South End History?

By Alison Barnet

Recently I was startled to see that the building that replaced Morse Fish is called The EL. Could that possibly refer to the elevated Orange Line that used to run on Washington Street? Yes, it does.

Although I've missed the El every day of my life since it was torn down in 1987, I would not memorialize it with a high-rise condo building. And I think it's ironic that it's right across the street from the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, which couldn't have been more negative about the train.

Roman Catholics believed the Yankee transit authority had built the El to thwart them—a story that still circulates. As the

El ran down the middle of Washington Street, it tilted toward the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, and parishioners claimed its roar interrupted mass.¹

When I went to the Greek festival at St. John the Baptist's church the other day, I saw a large ad for The El, showing grills and patio furniture on the roof with the tower of the Cathedral in the background. Nothing about St. John's. Didn't the church protest the blocking of its windows?

There have been several big losses in recent South End history, including the Harriet Tubman House, the South End library, and Morse Fish. Wouldn't "The Morse" or "The Fish" have been the new name, given what's going on with South End names?

History is getting stranger and stranger. The Quinzani Bakery site is The Quinn, a building on Harrison Ave. "The Harris." There's The Lucas (Holy Trinity Church), The Cosmopolitan (Immaculate Conception Church), Ink Block and SoWa.

Joking around in Olympia Flower the other day, I was saying that if a tower went up there—God forbid—it would probably be called The Olymp. Foodie's would become The Foo, the Animal Rescue League's new building The Animal (sounds like mafia), the Buttery The Butt and Washington Street The Wash. Pineapple can stay.

Alison Barnet is a South End resident and author of four books.

FENWAY FORWARD (from Page 1)

programs and initiatives over the next four years: "expand[ing] local organizing and advocacy efforts to advance housing justice and guide development in the community; significantly increase[ing] the supply of affordable and sustainable homes, while fostering stability, belonging, and quality of life for residents in [the organization's] properties;

foster[ing] deep community engagement, increased visibility, and broad-based community support for [the organization's] mission and programs; and invest[ing] in the people, resources, and tools required to advance and sustain [the organization's] strategic priorities," according to a press release.

"Building on more than

five decades of dedication to our mission, 2026 will be about laying the groundwork, raising our visibility, strengthening our systems, and deepening our relationships with residents, partners, and supporters," added Farrell.

Visit fenwayforward.org/ for more on Fenway Forward.

SEND YOUR NEWS

The Boston Sun encourages readers and residents to submit their local news! Engagements, weddings and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Submitting does not guarantee publication that week. Content will be printed on a space available basis. Items should be e-mailed to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com & deb@thebostonsun.com

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Text or attachments emailed to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com OR deb@thebostonsun.com are preferred.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FREE PLAYDATE SET FOR OCT. 4 AT THE ADVENT SCHOOL

The Advent School, located at 15 Brimmer St., will host a free, family-friendly playdate on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10-11:30 a.m.

Kids can explore the school's library, get creative in the beloved Atelier, and run around on the amazing playground—little siblings are welcome, too. It's also a wonderful way for parents in the area to meet and get to know each other while discovering more about Advent's progressive, Reggio-inspired approach to PreK–Grade 6 education.

WLP'S SPAGHETTI DINNER RETURNS OCT. 9 TO FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL

Women's Lunch Place's annual Spaghetti Dinner will take place 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, in the grand ballroom of the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, located at 138 St. James Ave. This year's event is called 'At the Table Together.'

Visit <https://womenslunchplace.org/spaghetti-dinner> to reserve a seat for the event, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

FALL CLEANUP OF PETERS PARK SET FOR OCT. 12

Friends of Peters Parks is organizing a Fall Cleanup on

Sunday, Oct. 12, at noon at the park (meet in the field next to the dog park).

Volunteers of all ages and skills are welcome to come pitch trash in preparation for the fall, and if so desired, they are welcome to bring their own gardening gloves.

Donations in support of the park can also be sent to: Friends of Peters Park, P.O. Box 181137, Boston, MA 02118, or by visiting www.peterspark.org.

'NIGHT(MARE) IN THE STACKS' EVENT COMING OCT. 31 TO COPLEY BPL

The Boston Public Library Fund has announced the return of 'Night in the Stacks,' now transformed into 'Night(mare) in the Stacks: Celebrating Boston's Spooky Stories.'

For the first time, the evening will take place on Halloween night—Friday, Oct. 31, from 8 p.m. to midnight—at the Central Library in Copley Square. The event is hosted by the Emerging Leaders, young Bostonians dedicated to supporting the Library's crucial role in the city.

Guests will step inside the historic McKim Building and discover a one-of-a-kind celebration where they can explore every haunted corner. Tickets include an open bar; curated small plates and desserts; live music and dancing; tarot card readers and a wandering haiku poet; and exclusive access to the BPL's new

exhibition, 'Revolution! 250 Years of Art + Activism,' which opens just days before the event, as well as a tax-deductible donation to the Boston Public Library Fund.

Proceeds from Night(mare) in the Stacks support the Boston Public Library's free programs and services, empowering learners of all ages and backgrounds across the city.

Tickets are available now, with prices increasing as Halloween approaches. Visit www.bplfund.org/nits to learn more and purchase your tickets.

CHARLES GATE FARMERS MARKET OPEN SUNDAYS

The Charlesgate Farmers Market returns this summer to Charlesgate Park. The market will be held Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until October 12 under the Bowker Overpass at Commonwealth Avenue between Charlesgate East and Charlesgate West with easy access from the communities of the Back Bay, the Fenway and Kenmore Square.



BPPA Block Party celebrates first responders and their families for a day of fun and festivities

Special to the Sun

The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association and their families took over Lansdowne Street on Sunday, September 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a day of BPPA appreciation. The BPPA Block Party was created by Mitcom, the Lyons Group, and the BPPA to give thanks and recognize the hardworking men and women who make up the BPPA.

Hundreds of BPPA members and their families were in attendance for the inaugural event, which included live music, food, and games. Lansdowne Street was closed to the public for this special event, which featured:

- Family Fun Zone:
 - Carnival games, caricatures, balloons, face painting
 - Snow cones, cotton candy, pretzels, popcorn
- Bites
 - Pizza Station at Game On
 - Reuben Egg Rolls at Lansdowne Pub
 - Bleacher Dogs at Bleacher Bar
- Grill Zone
 - BBQ Ribs
 - Hot Dogs
 - BBQ Chicken
 - Black Bean Burgers
- Music
 - DJ Jessica at Game on from 11a-3p
 - Line Dancing at Loretta's Last Call from 11a-3p
 - DJ Trizz at Bleacher Bar from 11a-4p
 - Run for Covers at Bills Bar from 11a-3p



Mayor Wu talks with residents during the block party on Lansdowne Street.

- Barry Goudreau's Engine Room at Lansdowne Pub from 2-4p
- Sweets
 - Mini Apple Fritters from Back Door Donuts
 - Whoopie Pies
 - Candied Apples
 - Apple Cider Donuts

There will also be access to the outfield at Fenway Park for the families to be on the field of the historic ballpark. Opening remarks will take place from 11:30a until noon where sponsors will speak and BPPA President Larry Calderone will welcome families.

Sponsors of this year's event include: Subaru of New England, Mittcom, Kings, Gordon Food Services, Needham Bank, Budweiser, Game On, Bleacher Bar, Loretta's Last Call, Back Door Donuts, Bill's Bar, and Lansdowne Pub.

Registration now open for Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament Nov. 7-9

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department have announced that registration is open for the 2025 Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament and Festival, returning to Moakley Park in South Boston this November. The tournament will take place on Friday, November 7 through Sunday, November 9, 2025.

Young athletes from across Boston will compete for the title of "Boston's Best" in both competitive and recreational divisions. Teams must register by

Friday, October 17, 2025, with final rosters due by Friday, October 31, 2025.

Tournament play will be organized into two divisions. The Premier League Division (Competitive) will feature 7v7 play with a maximum roster size of 12, including Grades 3/4, Grades 5/6, and Grades 7/8 teams for both boys and girls. The EFL Division (Recreational) will also feature 7v7 play with a maximum roster size of 12 and will include Grades 3/4, Grades 5/6, and Grades 7/8 teams for both boys and girls. Teams are required to provide their own uniforms. All

participants will receive exclusive Mayor's Cup swag.

New this year, the 2025 Mayor's Cup will debut the Challenger Division, reflecting Boston's commitment to inclusive and accessible youth sports. In partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester, the Challenger Division will expand opportunities for children with disabilities to join the tournament. Games will be played on Saturday, November 8 at Moakley Park, and families, friends, and community members are

(MAYOR'S CUP, Pg. 5)



Members of the BPPA and their families enjoying the block party on Lansdowne Street.

DOYLE AT *The Vendome*



Over 120 years ago, my great-grandfather, James H. Doyle, was the first Doyle to wield a gavel in Boston, as Chairman of the Board of Aldermen. His gavel remains in our family today. We are thrilled to announce the opening of our permanent home at The Vendome—a new era of Doyles and gavels in Boston.

In our business, we are entrusted by generations of collectors and families to share their legacy and tell their stories. We invite you to join us in writing this next chapter of DOYLE in Boston by sharing your stories.

We are here for you at every stage of your collecting journey. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home, DOYLE at The Vendome!

Laura Doyle, CEO

290 Dartmouth Street, Boston, MA 02116
617-999-8254
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Vibrant Harvest Festival and Auction returns Nov. 13

Special to Sun

Women's Lunch Place (WLP) and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) will host the Harvest Festival & Auction on Thursday, Nov. 13, from

6 to 8:30 p.m., at WLP's welcoming space on 67 Newbury St. This festive evening brings neighbors and friends together to enjoy a delicious harvest of seasonal dishes, wine, and craft beers while supporting their local

community. Attendees can bid on a wide array of Silent Auction items - from sports tickets and fine dining to unique local experiences - and shop an art gallery filled with beautiful works created by WLP guests.

The event celebrates two organizations committed to strengthening the social safety net and uplifting those most in need. WLP provides nutritious meals, advocacy, housing support, and essential services to more than 2,300 women each year. NABB, a cornerstone of Back Bay life since 1955, works to foster a vibrant neighborhood and, through its Homelessness Task Force, promotes understanding and solutions for homelessness in the city.



Pictured, left to right, are Conrad Armstrong, Roger Letso, Suzanne Letso, Susan Taterka, and Erin McCarthy at last year's Harvest Festival & Auction.

Enjoy food, drinks, and spirited bidding, while making a tangible impact at this year's Harvest Festival & Auction. Tickets and sponsorships are available at womenslunchplace.org/nabb.



DEREK KOUYOUMIJAN PHOTOS

Rep. Jay Livingstone, Ellie Starr, and Anne Jackowitz are seen at last year's Harvest Festival & Auction.

55 Bus Route Coalition collecting petition signatures to lobby for extended service

By Dan Murphy

The 55 Bus Route Coalition is collecting petition signatures in support of getting longer hours implemented immediately on the 55 line.

"Fenway residents overwhelmingly want to see longer hours for the 55 bus," said Jamie Culbertson, a Fenway Forward (formerly Fenway CDC) community organizer who facilitates the 55 Bus Route Coalition. "We hope our petition can capture that neighborhood support as we advocate to the MBTA to implement a longer schedule."

The MBTA suspended service on the 55 bus route when the pandemic hit. Service on the line was later restored in June

2021, although the daily hours were reduced to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., from the previous hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The last stop on the line was also changed to Copley Square from Park Street at that time.

The 55 line could see its hours of operation expanded, including during weekday peak hours, while connecting the West Fenway neighborhood to Copley Station, however, as a component of the MBTA's ongoing Bus Network Redesign program.

Visit <https://c.org/GfhRns8b-NJ> to sign the petition.

To learn more about the 55 Bus Route Coalition, email Jamie Culbertson at jculbertson@FenwayCDC.org.



Seen left to right at last year's Harvest Festival & Auction are: Martyn Roetter, Nancy Armstrong, Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, Deb Bulkeley, Elisabeth Morris, and Kathy Young.

MAYOR'S CUP (from Page 3)

encouraged to come cheer on the athletes.

The Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. For more information, please contact Woodley Auguste at (617) 961-3084 or woodley.auguste@boston.gov.

Learn more and register for the 2025 Mayor's Cup Soc-

cer Tournament at boston.gov/parks-sports. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks visit boston.gov/parks, call (617) 635-4505, join our email list, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, Instagram, and @parks.boston.gov on Bluesky.

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From the Back Bay Architectural Commission

Welcome new staff and BBAC Commissioner

Special to the Sun

Welcome Jacqueline Vanegas

Jacqueline Vanegas joins the Office of Historic Preservation as a Preservation Planner. Within her role, she oversees the South End, St. Botolph, and Bay Village historic districts.

She holds a B.A. in History and Political Science from the University of Florida and an M.A. in History from Florida State University. Before moving to Boston, Jacqueline was active in developing inclusive and sustainable historic preservation initiatives in the state of Florida. She was awarded the Historic Preservation Scholar Award by the Florida Trust for Historic



Jacqueline Vanegas

Preservation in 2025. Jacqueline is fluent in Spanish and has working proficiency in Portuguese.

In her free time, she enjoys exploring Boston's coffee shops, playing soccer, and cheering on her alma mater's football team –

the Florida Gators.

Welcome Commissioner Lisa Tharp!

The Office of Historic Preservation welcomes Lisa Tharp as the newest Commissioner serving on the Back Bay Architectural Commission. She was nominated by the Neighborhood Association of The Back Bay. Lisa is the Principal of Lisa Tharp Design, an award-winning Boston-based studio she founded in 2011, recognized for its full-service approach, sustainable furniture collection, and eco-friendly paint line. Her work has been widely published and honored with induction into the New England Design Hall of

Fame, multiple Bulfinch Awards, Best of Boston Home, and the Metropolis Planet Positive Award. A member of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art and formerly of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay's Architecture Committee, she is also an Architectural Digest Pro Featured Designer. Prior to establishing her practice, she held senior leadership roles at Time Life Video & Television, HBO, and Kraft General Foods, where she drove nationally rec-



Lisa Tharp

ognized marketing, media, and product innovations.

BBAC sets virtual public hearing for October 8

Special to the Sun

The Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) has scheduled a revised virtual public hearing for Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held virtually only and not in person. The public can participate by going to [HTTPS://WWW.ZOOMGOV.COM/J/1611511985](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1611511985) or by calling 301-715-8592 and entering Meeting ID #161 151 1985. Written comments or questions can also be submitted to BACK-BAYAC@BOSTON.GOV.

The hearing will begin with the

Design Review Public Hearing at 5:00 PM.

Design Review Applications

The following design review applications are scheduled for review:

- 46 Newbury Street (APP # 26.0289 BB): Applicant Alexander Lalire proposes to install two flagpoles at the Berkeley Street Elevation and one flagpole at the Newbury Street elevation, all displaying flags with the tenant's name.

- 9 Arlington Street (APP # 26.0309 BB): Applicant Casey Patterson proposes work to waterproof the foundation, including trenching, and removal and replacement of an existing tree and landscaping.

- 6 Arlington Street (APP # 26.0292 BB): Applicant Mona Bonnot proposes to raise and install a new chiller and existing generator at the roof.

- 4 Marlborough Street (APP # 26.0293 BB): Applicant Guy Grassi proposes to extend the

height of a previously approved elevator headhouse at the roof.

- 383 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0155 BB): Applicant Timothy Burke proposes to replace rubber roofing, expand an existing roof deck, redesign an existing penthouse, and add a pergola at the roof.

Administrative Review/Approval

A section of the meeting is delegated to the ratification of items approved by commission staff. This process is for work involving ordinary maintenance, repair, restoration, or replacement that has a minimal impact on a building's appearance. Applicants whose projects are listed under this section NEED NOT APPEAR at the hearing.

Following the hearing, a Determination Sheet will be issued to present at the Inspection Services Department as proof of project approval when applying for permits. The electronic building-permit application, as annotated by commission staff, will serve as the Certificate of Appropriateness, valid for one year from the hearing date.

Projects listed for Administrative Review/Approval include:

- 167 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0305 BB): At roof replace rubber membrane roof and skylights, repoint chimneys and repair existing roof decks.

- 181 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0296 BB): At front facade repair entry steps.

(BBAC, Pg. 7)

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Secret Service Boston EBT fraud, card skimming operation prevents estimated loss of \$16.7 million

Special to the Sun

The U.S. Secret Service, along with local and state law enforcement partners from throughout the Boston area, concluded a three-day outreach operation aimed at combatting illegal payment card skimming and Electronic Benefit Transfer fraud.

Law enforcement personnel between Sept. 23-25 visited 700 businesses throughout the greater Boston area checking for and removing illegal skimming devices from ATMs, gas pumps and point-of-sale terminals. Twelve teams of Secret Service analysts, partnered with local

and state agencies, recovered 16 illegal skimming devices during the operation, preventing an estimated potential loss to the government of \$16.7 million.

They also distributed educational materials about Electronic Benefit Transfer fraud and skimming to businesses to help them better identify the warning signs of illegal skimming devices in their point-of-sale terminals, gas pumps and ATMs.

This outreach operation was conducted by the U.S. Secret Service, along with the Massachusetts State Police, Boston Police Department, Cambridge Police Department, Concord Police

Department, Everett Police Department, Harvard University Police Department, Lynn



This skimming device covers the entire faceplate of a card terminal.

Police Department, Malden Police Department, Topsfield Police Department, Westwood Police Department and Worcester Police Department. Personnel from Homeland Security Investigations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Food and Nutrition Service also took part in the operation.

“The U.S. Secret Service - Boston Field Office, along with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners, are steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding the nation’s financial infrastructure and protecting our communities from fraud-



An example of one of the POS skimming devices recovered during the outreach operation.

sters,” said Special Agent in Charge Randy Maloney, of the

(SKIMMER, Pg. 8)

KATE FERRIS (from Page 1)

Yacht Club in Marblehead.

In her new role with Community Boating, Ferris Richardson now wants to continue to impart onto others her lifelong love of sailing while promoting CBI’s motto and core mission of ‘Sailing for All.’

“CBI makes sailing and water access possible for everyone. You don’t need to own a boat, have prior experience, or spend a fortune - just bring your curiosity and willingness to learn,” wrote Ferris Richardson. “Whether you want to try windsurfing, sailing, kayaking, or connect with a diverse and welcoming community, there’s a place for you here.”

Unlike many other sailing programs, CBI keeps costs for participants remarkably low,

with membership costs for youth starting as low as \$1 for the summer, and adult memberships are also designed to be accessible.

“Boats, instruction, and safety support are included, removing financial and logistical barriers that usually keep people off the water,” added Ferris Richardson. “CBI is Boston’s public gateway to the water. CBI serves the entire city - offering boats, lessons, and access to anyone who wants to sail.”

But CBI also offers much more besides sailing, according to Ferris Richardson, with other programming that includes windsurfing, kayaking, environmental science, leadership development, and community events.

“For young people, CBI is

often their first chance to learn responsibility, teamwork, and confidence on the water,” wrote Ferris Richardson. “For adults, it’s both a way to learn new skills and to join a welcoming, multi-generational community.”

CBI is also strengthening its partnerships with local schools, area community organizations, and nonprofits across Boston to ensure its programs reflect the city’s diversity of the city, including “outreach to neighborhoods where sailing may not be part of the family story, so more young people see themselves in this space,” added Ferris Richardson.

Today, CBI has three main priorities, according to Ferris Richardson, which include “keeping our programs accessi-

ble, strengthening our facilities on the Charles, and expanding community partnerships.”

Ferris Richardson wrote: “We are working with [the Department of Conservation and Recreation] as part of our public/private partnership to replace the original roof of the boathouse and exploring how to strengthen our HVAC capabilities in our community spaces since we serve so many Boston residents in the hottest months of the year.”

Moreover, CBI is looking forward to welcoming more participants to its youth STEM programming, including its Robosub, Environmental Science, and Microscopy courses for youth. The organization, said Ferris Richardson, also seeks to

“ensure that individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities can fully participate, with adaptive boats, equipment, and instruction.”

And Ferris Richardson wants to remind the public that CBI, which is accessible via bike, car, on foot, or by public transportation, including the MBTA’s Green, Blue, and Red lines, is open through Nov. 1.

“Whatever your mode of transportation, you can get to

our front door,” wrote Ferris Richardson. “Bring a light jacket and come play on the river with us this fall (also known as Boston’s second summer).”

Visit community-boating.org for more on Community Boating, Inc.

BBAC (from Page 6)

- 184 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0272 BB): At rear elevation repaint window sills.

- 195 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0285 BB): Repair front entry steps, repair masonry and repaint window trim.

- 205 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0317 BB): Repair rubber membrane roof.

- 222 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0232 BB): At rear elevation repoint masonry.

- 232 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0306 BB): At rear elevation remove existing compressor at second story wall and relocate to ground level at enclosed courtyard.

- 236 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0280 BB): At front facade replace five non-historic wood windows with historically appropriate wood windows.

- 295 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0283 BB): Replace fourteen seventh-floor one-over-one vinyl windows with one-over-one wood windows.

- 534 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0308 BB): Replace seven ninth-floor wood windows in-kind.

- 815 Boylston Street (APP # 26.0213 BB): Repair existing roofing at penthouse.

- 46 Commonwealth Avenue (APP # 26.0058 BB): Install

brick pavers at rear parking area.

- 283 Commonwealth Avenue (APP # 26.0241 BB): Replace rubber roof, slate and copper gutters and downspouts in-kind, and repoint masonry.

- 342 Commonwealth Avenue (APP # 26.0286 BB): At front facade repoint and repair masonry, repair and repaint ironwork, and repair bay window.

- 66 Marlborough Street (APP # 26.0316 BB): Work to repair existing windows including use of temporary lift.

- 287 Marlborough Street (APP # 26.0249 BB): At front facade replace soffit at Mansard roof in-kind.

- 348 Marlborough Street (APP # 26.0244 BB): At roof install heat pump.

- 364 Marlborough Street (APP # 26.0266 BB): Replace six non-historic windows with historically appropriate wood windows.

- 381 Marlborough Street (APP # 26.0264 BB): At front facade replace copper gutter and roof slate in-kind, repoint masonry, and replace rotted wood trim in-kind.

- 217 Newbury Street (APP # 26.0238 BB): At front facade replace wall sign at lower retail space.

- 267-269 Newbury Street

(APP # 26.0216 BB): At front facade repair gutter and masonry.

Other Agenda Items

The hearing will also include: Ratification of the August 13, 2025, and September 14, 2025, Public Hearing Minutes.

Advisory Review for 223 Beacon Street (APP # 26.0288 BB), where applicant Kyle Strovechia proposes to remove existing fire escapes and add a window in between two existing dormers at the Mansard roof’s rear elevation.

For questions, please contact commission staff at 617.635.1935 or BackBayAC@boston.gov.

ANNUAL TASTE OF FENWAY RETURNS



Derek Kouyoumijan photos

‘Taste of the Fenway,’ sponsored by the organization formerly known as Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) and now called Fenway Forward, returned on Wednesday, Sept. 24, with the outdoor festival again transforming , from Kilmarnock Street to Richard B. Ross Way, into a lively celebration of community

and food, featuring some of the neighborhood’s most celebrated restaurants and award-winning chefs. . Proceeds from the event support the mission of the organization rebranded as Fenway Forward to promote workforce development, affordable housing, and essential services, and resident leadership programs in the Fenway area.



SKIMMER (from Page 7)

Boston Field Office. “This pro-active operation, and those like it around the country, highlights the level of cooperation needed

to combat the criminal enterprises that perpetrate these callous acts.”

The multi-jurisdictional operation may be used as a model for other areas around the country where EBT fraud and skimming is prevalent.

Criminals often steal EBT and other payment card numbers by installing illegal skimming devices on ATMs, gas pumps and merchant point-of-sale terminals. Scammers use skimming technology to capture card information from EBT cards and encode that data onto another card with a magnetic strip. It is estimated that skimming costs financial institutions and consumers more than \$1 billion each year.

Law enforcement agencies have seen a nationwide increase in skimming particularly targeting EBT cards. EBT fraud targets the nation’s most vulnerable communities. Each month, money is deposited into government assistance accounts intended to help families pay for food and other basic items. This enables criminals who steal card information to time their fraudulent withdrawals and purchases around the monthly deposits.

There are several precautions consumers can take to protect themselves:

- Inspect ATMs, point-of-sale terminals and other card readers. Look for anything loose, crooked, damaged, or scratched. Do

not use a card reader if anything appears unusual.

- Whenever possible, use tap-to-pay technology or use debit and credit cards with chip technology.

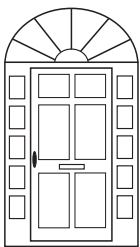
- If using a debit card at a gas station, run it as a credit card to avoid entering a PIN number. If that is not an option, consumers should use their hand to hide their PIN to block scammers who may be using tiny pinhole cameras above the keypad area to record entries. Use ATMs in a well-lit, indoor location, which are less vulnerable targets.

- Be alert for skimming devices in tourist areas, which are popular targets.

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CITY PAWS

Surrogate Dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

"I have a dog like that at home." Every year, we hear this from a few students whose family dogs are Westies. We'll bet that people who walk more popular breeds like Golden Retrievers or Labrador Retrievers hear it more often.

We're happy to let the lonely kid have a few minutes of Poppy time. They often ask if we need help walking her or puppy sitting. While we don't need those services, others might want to do some reference checks and hire a student to help with their dog chores. It could be a win-win situation for the young person, a surrogate for the dog they miss, and for the dog's family, an extra dog walker when needed. It can also be the start of a long-term friendship.

We also meet visitors to Boston drawn to our dog. Two women were walking down the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and one of them looked at Poppy and said, "I miss my dog!" We invited her over for some surrogate puppy therapy and enjoyed learning a bit about her and how she was spending her time in Boston. Seeing the city through the eyes of visitors can make you appreciate what we have here.

If your dog laps up the extra attention these encounters produce, consider taking a walk on a college campus. These are often lovely places to stroll, complete

with trash cans, benches, interesting architecture, artwork, and students who miss their dogs.

Volunteer Programs

There are more formal ways that you and your dog can volunteer to serve people who will benefit from time with a dog. Since most organizations that arrange these volunteer opportunities have strict guidelines, we suggest you begin by reviewing the requirements and the training needed for both of you to become great volunteers.

For example, a Canine Good Citizen certificate is a great first step to working with volunteer organizations. The time you put into classes and testing for this will also make day-to-day life with your dog happier and less stressful. Again, this is a win-win part of volunteering. In Massachusetts, the MSPCA offers this service.

FriendshipWorks is a Boston-area organization whose mission is "...to reduce social isolation, enhance the quality of life, and preserve the dignity of older adults in Greater Boston. We have more than four decades of experience recruiting, training, and placing volunteers to provide support and assistance to elders." One of the ways they achieve this is through their Pet-Pals volunteer teams, which visit

(CITY PAWS, Pg. 10)



Students, away from home and their family dog, appreciate those who allow a few minutes of surrogate dog time.

Celebrate Jacques Pépin's 90th birthday while supporting Community Servings program

Special to Sun

Community Servings will offer an unforgettable evening on Thursday, Nov. 13, at the nonprofit's headquarters at 179 Amory St. in Jamaica Plain to honor legendary chef and philanthropist Jacques Pépin on his 90th birthday while supporting the Teaching Kitchen at Community Servings.

Enjoy a French-inspired menu prepared by Teaching Kitchen trainees and graduates under the expert guidance of Chef Eric Spitz. (While Jacques Pépin won't be in attendance, the event will celebrate his legacy through timeless dishes crafted in his honor.)

Highlights of the event menu will include chicken Liver Mousse, toasted baguette, frisée, radicchio, and fennel salad; beef daube, pomme purée, glazed carrots or fall vegetable risotto; a French cheese course, preserves, dried and pickled fruits, crostini; and a dessert course by Teaching Kitchen graduate and Omni Boston Hotel Seaport Pastry Chef Alexa Ortiz.



COURTESY OF COMMUNITY SERVINGS

Chef Pépin and Teaching Kitchen trainee Celina at Community Servings.

Each entry is a suggested donation of \$50 and automatically enters the guest into a promotional drawing for one table of four at the dinner. Four winners will receive this giveaway, although no donation or purchase is necessary to enter or win the drawing. Winners may invite three guests to share an evening of French cuisine and fine wine

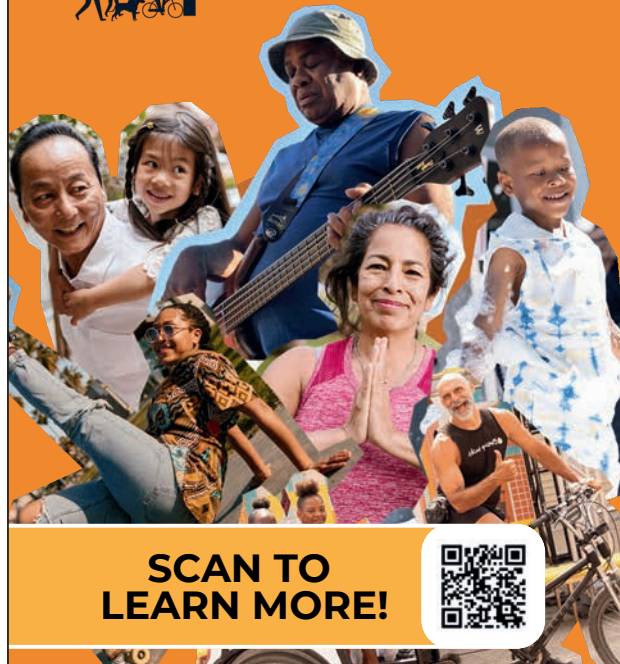
inspired by Chef Pépin and prepared by Teaching Kitchen trainees and graduates under Chef Eric Spitz.

Visit <https://app.betterunite.com/communityservings-celebratechefjacquesppins90thwithafrenchfeastforacause> to purchase tickets and for more information on the event.

OPEN STREETS BOSTON 2025

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**MATTAPAN
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Between River St. & Babson St.
Streets close at 8 a.m.

NOVEMBER 2

**JAMAICA PLAIN
CENTRE ST.**

Between Lamartine St. & South St
Streets close at 9 a.m.

CITY of BOSTON

BOSTON.GOV/OPEN-STREETS

Communities will determine the future of social cannabis consumption in state

By Ava Callender Concepcion and Bruce Stebbins

On Sept. 12, members of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission visited the City of Chelsea as part of a series of visits to municipalities across the Commonwealth to educate and engage with state and local leaders, planning and public safety officials, and prospective social consumption businesses about the new license types that will be coming to the Commonwealth.

Regional outreach is just one of our many efforts to gather feedback from stakeholders who will be at the front lines of implementing on-site cannabis consumption in our state. After eliminating a proposed pilot program in 2023, the Commission got to work conducting surveys, holding listening sessions, meeting with numerous stakeholder groups and touring locations in California and Colorado to inform our vision for these license types. On Sept. 29, the Commission will ultimately complete our review and finalize the social consumption rules, incorporating perspective we received along the way, including during a public comment period and hearing hosted by the Commission at its Worcester offices earlier this month.

The Commission has had social consumption regulations in place since 2019; however, a statutory fix was needed to expand the ways in which cities and towns may opt in to hosting such establishments within their borders. Initially municipalities could only do so through a ballot referendum, but the passage of Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2022 enabled communities to opt in through a local by-law or ordinance change as well.

Our latest regulatory revisions

aim to ensure that three business models that may eventually make it onto the books will be viable, while providing access to spaces where consumers and patients can use cannabis freely and without stigma—while maintaining public health and safety. Striking that careful balance is a monumental task, so it has been important that we have had a cross-section of input while we work to establish a framework that will work for Massachusetts.

In Chelsea, we enjoyed a fruitful discussion about the possibilities of social consumption and the safeguards needed to make sure it is successful with State Rep. Judith A. Garcia, Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher, Fire Chief John Quarteri, Police Chief Keith Houghton, and Public Health Director Flor Amaya, among others. The visit concluded with a tour of Trinity Naturals, an LGBTQ+, women- and social equity-owned licensed Marijuana Establishment in Chelsea.

In an effort to advance the Commission's mission to ensure those who have been most harmed by the War on Drugs have opportunities to benefit from the regulated cannabis industry, social consumption licenses will be exclusively available, for a limited time, to participants of the Commission's equity programs as well as micro-businesses.

Additionally, to ensure these venues and events are safe destinations for Massachusetts residents to consume regulated product, the Commission has also incorporated a number of precautions such as:

- No licensed social consumption business will be allowed to serve alcohol or tobacco;

- Employees will have to take dedicated training to recognize drug and alcohol impairment;

- Licensees will be required to offer customers a “cool down” space if they consume too much or have an adverse reaction;

- Sales of cannabis products must cease 30 minutes before the business' closing time;

- Licensees will need to make food and non-alcoholic beverages available because some research has shown that consuming food and cannabis may mitigate the intoxicating effects;

- All licensees will have to have an approved transportation plan to assist impaired customers;

- Businesses must comply with strong ventilation requirements where cannabis will be smoked in-doors, plus any personal protective equipment requested by any employee;

- Product menus will list estimated onset times to prevent overuse; and

- As usual, strict ID policies will be enforced to prevent anyone under age 21 from consuming.

We kicked off our statewide Social Consumption Municipal Series in April, and so far, Commissioners and staff have visited Haverhill, Holyoke, Provincetown, and Somerville—in addition to the most recent tour in Chelsea. We are in the process of planning outreach to other municipalities that are considering the possibilities that social consumption has to offer.

Ultimately, it will be up to municipalities to determine how social consumption will fit best into the fabric of their community. Will residents be best served by consumption options that are available within an existing Marijuana Retailer or Cultivator, in partnership with a non-cannabis business (such as a performance venue or yoga studio), or within a limited event? Nothing will be able to move forward without the city or town first opting in, updating zoning and bylaws, and considering a host community agreement with the licensee.

With social consumption on the horizon, it is an exciting time for Massachusetts' regulated industry, and we know many

are eagerly awaiting its arrival. It's important to note that unregulated on-site consumption is already happening in the Commonwealth. These licenses offer legacy business owners the opportunity to transition to the legal market, for new consumers to try new products with the help of support staff, a legal pathway for patients and adults to consume cannabis if their housing does not allow it, and a destination for communal consumption away from the general public.

While we continue to work diligently towards the promulgation of these regulations, our work will not end there. We look forward to continuing to engage with all stakeholders as these businesses take shape and to educate the public about what is coming next for social consumption in Massachusetts.

Commissioner Ava Callender Concepcion and Acting Chair Bruce Stebbins were appointed to serve as Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commissioners in 2021 for their expertise in public safety and regulated industries, respectively.



Members of the Cannabis Control Commission shown at a recent meeting held in Chelsea.



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CITY PAWS (from Page 9)

seniors in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

If you and your dog are great with children, consider volunteering with a reading to dogs program. Youngsters with difficulty reading are often more comfortable reading to a dog.

You can learn more about this and other opportunities at the Pet Partners website (<https://petpartners.org/>). You can also check with your local school or library to see if they have a program in place.

Above and Beyond

We often think of the dogs that assist in emergencies as professionals who belong to first responders or municipal governments. Some of them do, but others are family pets with a lot of training. Search and rescue dogs and human teams are vital in saving lives and finding bodies in the aftermath of emergencies.

We see them at work in news reports as they support the professional disaster relief workers. And, when the first responders return home, another group of

volunteer therapy dogs can be a source of stress relief for these valuable professionals.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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MBTA announces October service changes

Special to the Sun

The MBTA has announced service changes in October on the Green and Orange lines.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/PlannedWork. 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, @MBTA_CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

On the Green Line:

The MBTA will perform continued work on the Green Line on the Union Square, Medford/Tufts, and Riverside branches in October to install Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS) infrastructure. When complete, GLTPS will combine vehicle and wayside equipment to avoid train-on-train collisions, incorporate speed enforcement, and more.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place:

- Green Line service will be

suspended between North Station and Union Square as well as Medford/Tufts beginning at approximately 8 PM through the end of service on Friday, October 3, and continuing through the entire weekend, October 4 – 5.

- Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace trains between North Station and Medford/Tufts.

- Riders should note there will be no shuttle bus service to Union Square. Green Line Union Square Branch riders can instead use area bus routes:

- Route 109 is the best alternative for riders. As a Frequent Bus Route operating every 15 minutes or better, the 109 operates between Union Square and East Somerville on the Medford Branch. Route 109 also connects to Sullivan Square on the Orange Line and to Harvard on the Red Line for a faster travel time to downtown Boston.

- Riders may also utilize Route 91 between Union Square and East Somerville on the Medford Branch. The 91 also connects to Sullivan Square on the Orange Line and Central on the Red Line for a faster travel time to downtown Boston.

- Riders may also utilize Route

87 between Union Square and Lechmere.

- Accessible van service will be available at Magoun Square. Riders can request this service by seeing onsite personnel.

- Green Line service will be suspended between Kenmore and Riverside beginning at approximately 8 PM through the end of service on October 24 and all day, every day for the following seven days, October 25 – 31.

- Free and accessible Express and Local shuttle bus services will replace trains between Riverside and Kenmore.

- Express Shuttle: Shuttle buses will make all stops between Riverside, Woodland, Waban, Eliot, Newton Highlands, and then run express to Copley.

- Local Shuttle: Shuttle buses will make all stops between Riverside and Kenmore except Beaconsfield.

- There will be no shuttle service at Beaconsfield. Riders are encouraged to travel instead to Dean Road on the C Branch, which is less than a quarter mile away (or about a four-minute walk).

- Riders may change between each shuttle bus option at Newton Highlands.

- Riders who typically board

or disembark at Reservoir are encouraged to instead consider traveling to Cleveland Circle on the C Branch, which is less than a tenth of a mile away (or a two-minute walk).

- Riders using shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Government Center from Riverside should budget at least an additional 30 – 45 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

On the Orange Line:

The MBTA will continue signal upgrade work on the Orange Line in October. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA will significantly increase operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for riders.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspensions will take place:

- Orange Line service will be suspended between North Station and Forest Hills for three days, October 11 – 13.

- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops between Forest Hills and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line.

- Riders should note that there will be no shuttle bus service between Back Bay and North Station. Riders are encouraged to utilize parallel Green Line

service between North Station and Copley for travel through the downtown area. The MBTA will increase Green Line service during this time to accommodate anticipated increases in ridership.

- Riders are also encouraged to consider the Commuter Rail for fare-free service between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station.

- Accessible vans will be available at North Station and Tufts Medical Center, serving all stations between North Station and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line.

- Riders using the shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider travelling to Downtown Crossing from Forest Hills should budget at least an additional 30 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.

The MBTA previously announced service changes in September. More information is available here.

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

Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, to address lithium-ion battery risks

Special to the Sun

Most of the electronics in our homes — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries. However, if not used correctly or damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat and start a fire or explode. In response to these potential risks, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ — has announced “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, 2025.

“Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they’re just about everywhere,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “Making sure the public knows how to use them safely is critical to minimizing the

potential risks they pose.”

According to NFPA, devices powered by lithium-ion batteries are largely used without incident. However, reports of fires and explosions involving lithium-ion batteries have been on the rise in recent years, reinforcing the importance of better educating the public about how to use, handle, and recycle them safely.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” provides the information, guidance, and resources needed to buy, charge, and dispose of/recycle lithium-ion batteries safely, with a focus on the following messages:

BUY only listed products

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets established safety standards.

- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

Charge devices safely

- Always use the cables that come with the product to charge it. Also, charge the device in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.

- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don’t charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.

- Don’t overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it’s fully charged.

Dispose Of/Recycle batteries responsibly

- Don’t throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.

- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dis-

pose of them. Visit www.call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

Fire Prevention Week is celebrated throughout North America every October and is the oldest U.S. public health observance on record. For more than 100 years, Fire Prevention Week has worked to educate people about the risk of home fires and ways to minimize them. Local fire departments, schools, and community organizations play a key role in bringing Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year and spreading basic but critical fire safety messages.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” visit fpw.org.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention

Week™ since 1922. According to the National Archives and Records Administration’s Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation declaring a national observance during that week every year since 1925. Visit www.firepreventionweek.org for more safety information.

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit nfpa.org.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The corner tower in the last clue is on 95 Berkeley Street, built in 1920. Plans have been presented to the city to convert this commercial property into residential units. The initial proposal calls for “91 residential units (26 studios, 41 one-bedrooms, 17 two-bedrooms, 7 three-bedrooms.)”

You’ll find the next clue in the Back Bay.

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



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Muskat, Irvin	Sina Int	110 Stuart St #19A	\$820,000
Mcnamara Jr, John E	Brennan, Kelsey Y	20 Isabella St #2	\$1,138,000
Veevers-Carter, Katarina	Rahma, Osama E	227 Marlborough St #4	\$535,000
August 11 Holdings LLC	Hall, Donald	236 Marlborough St #1	\$1,115,000
Qiu, Xiaoyu	Xue, Peitong	282 Newbury St #11	\$720,000
Breuel, Thomas	Zeitoun, Sami	647 Boylston St #3A	\$1,875,000
Haet, Ian L	Huber, Thomas P	92 Beacon St #54	\$875,000
BEACON HILL			
Brian E Lawner 2018 RET	Station Square LLC	1313 Washington St #309	\$700,000
Dickinson, Logan	Mcguire, Michaela	145 Charles St #3	\$1,200,000
Ulloa, Ricardo	Hilary Grove 2014 RET	449-463 Washington St #8A	\$862,500
Robert S Easton Jr RET	45 Province No 1504 Rt	45 Province St #2601	\$2,750,000
Jdg Trust-2025	Hillfort Inc	565 Tremont St #20	\$790,000
Ozisk, Ayse P	20 Jway LLC	6 Whittier Pl #150	\$545,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Hasegawa-John, Korin	Clinton, Timothy	69 Worcester St #5	\$1,900,000
Philipson, Casandra W	Hill Ft	94 W Springfield St #1	\$1,271,837
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Agarwal, Jay	Helena H Geng Lt	1 Franklin St #2412	\$1,920,000
Theo Gus Rt	Fddg-Ma LLC	376 Commercial St #4D	\$1,375,000
300 Pier 4 4k LLC	Three Rivers T2	300 Pier 4 Blvd #4K	\$1,825,000
Krauss, Jordan	Lpb Albany LLC	595 Albany St #203	\$975,000

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NeighborHealth appoints Jessica Magnotta as V.P. and Chief Human Resources Officer

Special to the Sun

NeighborHealth announced the appointment of Jessica Magnotta, MPS, HRER, as Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer. An innovative team leader with nearly two decades of experience in the healthcare sector across hospitals, physician practices, long term care, and specialty management groups, Magnotta brings a deep commitment to cultivating high-performing, inclusive workplace cultures rooted in equity, purpose, and connection. With a record of advancing talent acquisition, organizational development, and employee engagement, she has consistently delivered measurable improvements in workforce performance and culture.

“Jessica’s expertise in employee engagement and operational efficiency combined with her proven ability to cultivate high-performing, inclusive

workplaces make her well-suited for this role,” said Jamie Hazard, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. “Her extensive leadership experience will enhance our ability to support our staff and, ultimately, the patients and communities we serve. We could not be more excited to have Jessica join the NeighborHealth team.”

In this role, Magnotta will oversee NeighborHealth’s human resources strategy with a focus on attracting, developing, and retaining top talent to support the organization’s mission of delivering high-quality, accessible healthcare. Magnotta will be based at NeighborHealth’s administrative offices in Revere, Massachusetts.

“Growing up in a family of healthcare workers, I know firsthand the challenges that come with community health and I am inspired by NeighborHealth’s commitment to equitable access, quality care, and service excel-



Jessica Magnotta

lence,” said Magnotta. “I’m excited for the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated team — to strengthen HR as a true partner, support the growth and well-being of our people, and ensure every team member feels valued and connected as we carry out the mission of serving our community.”

Prior to joining NeighborHealth, Magnotta held senior

HR leadership roles across the healthcare sector, including most recently serving as Chief Human Resources Officer and Chief Administrative Officer at CarePoint Health, where she led HR operations for a 3,500-employee enterprise across hospitals and physician practices in New Jersey. Her leadership helped generate over \$1 million in annual savings through workforce realignment, while launching talent strategies and leadership development programs that significantly improved recruitment, retention, and engagement.

Magnotta holds a Master of Professional Studies in Human Resources and Employment Relations from Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Berkeley College.

Magnotta will replace previous Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Steven Snyder who served Neighbor-

Health for nearly three decades.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston’s South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.

Wu announces inaugural fall performance season of Boston Family Days

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the inaugural fall performance season of Boston Family Days, which will provide Boston students and their families with free access to live performances at Boston’s premier venues this fall. This new program builds on the success of Boston Family Days museum partnerships, expanding cultural access to performing arts institutions through free tickets, wraparound programming, and family-friendly events.

“The addition of free performing arts tickets to Boston Family Days with a spectacular fall lineup builds on a transformative program for our students and their families,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I am grateful for the enthusiastic support of our incredible partners, which has enabled the City to expand the range of opportunities to new historic heights. By offering activities to spark wonderful curiosity, and discovery in all our students, we are investing in lifelong learning in our city.”

“Boston Public Schools is committed to expanding students’ access to robust and enriching learning opportunities that encourage creativity and meaningful engagement with the

world around them,” said Superintendent Mary Skipper. “This fall, we are again proud to partner with the City of Boston and Boston Family Days to offer our students and families free access to some of the city’s most renowned performing arts institutions to experience the power of live theater.”

From October 2025 through early January 2026, participating institutions — including the American Repertory Theater, ArtsEmerson, Berklee, Boch Center, Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Huntington Theatre,

and Wheelock Family Theatre — will host designated Boston Family Days performances offering over 2,500 free tickets for Boston students and up to two guests.

“Boston Ballet is proud to welcome families to our season opener of George Balanchine’s *Jewels*. Participating in Boston Family Days is an extension of Boston Ballet’s ongoing efforts to make ballet accessible to all. We deeply believe in the transformative power of the arts, and we are excited to share the magic of live performance with our city’s youth,” said Executive

Director Ming Min Hui of the Boston Ballet.

“As we celebrate the Wang Theatre’s 100th year, we’re proud to join Mayor Wu’s Boston Family Days and welcome families from every neighborhood into the heart of the city for a wide variety of performances this fall. From our free Behind the Curtain Community Celebration to holiday favorites like *’Twas the Night Before* and *Urban Nutcracker*, we’re here to make the Boch Center a place where every Boston family belongs,” said J. Casey Soward President and CEO, the Boch Center.

“At the BSO, access to arts and culture is a fundamental value, and we are proud to stand with the Mayor and our peer organizations in ensuring that kids and their families across our city can enjoy the singular experience of live performance,” said Chad Smith, President and CEO of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The fall lineup will include family favorites such as the Boston Pops, *Annie* the musical, *Cirque du Soleil*, and dozens more. Each performance will feature free tickets for Boston students in grades Pre-K through 12, with additional opportunities for families to participate in artist talks, backstage tours, and other educational programming.

“The Huntington is thrilled to participate in Mayor Wu’s Boston Family Days. This program allows us to both expand access to families whose students are served by our robust Education Department, and to wholeheartedly welcome brand-new families into our theaters. Come to experience stories that spark imagination, amplify important voices, and connect communities. We look forward to inviting families to Fun Home later this fall, a beloved musical centered



Participants from a recent ArtsEmerson performance.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS DINNER UNDER THE STARS



Attendees line up at the entrance to the table on Mt Vernon Street that's been closed to motor traffic for the Dinner and Fall HillFest on Sunday.

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

Dinner Under The Stars is a neighborhood event held by the Beacon Hill Civic Association.

tion. Mt. Vernon Street between Charles and the Esplanade was closed to vehicular traffic as 275 neighbors dined on a communal long tables "under the stars."



Rachel Thurlow, John Flannery, Leslie Singleton Adam.



The Dinner Under The Stars Committee.

FAMILY DAYS (from Page 13)

on love, community, and the transcendent power of looking back in order to move forward," said Loretta Greco, Artistic Director and Christopher Mannelli, Executive Director of The Huntington Theatre Company.

"At ArtsEmerson, our core belief is that art catalyzes civic transformation. We are over the moon to be part of this impactful initiative that invites Boston's families to experience bold new theater and shape the conversation of what we want Boston to be. We are particularly thrilled to offer tickets to SpaceBridge, which puts young Russian asylum seekers and their American friends centerstage - showing our own young people the power of empathy and friendship," said Ronee Penoi, Interim Executive Director of the Office of the Arts & ArtsEmerson Director of Artistic Programming.

"Wheelock Family Theatre is thrilled to join the City of Boston for Boston Family Days. This program is a wonderful opportunity for us to continue our commitment to access and affordability, welcoming families to enjoy high-quality performances like Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster and Annie this fall. With 45 years of experience creating award-winning produc-

tions for audiences of all ages and one of the region's largest theatre education programs, we are proud to collaborate with the City to bring the joy of live theatre to children and families across Boston," said Nick Vargas, Executive Director of the Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University.

The fall season will be followed by a spring performing arts season through June 2026, continuing to build new audiences for Boston's performing arts institutions and expand cultural access and belonging through live arts experiences.

"Berklee is thrilled to join the inaugural Boston Family Days performing arts season. We applaud Mayor Wu's vision and share her commitment to making our stages places where Boston's young people feel at home and inspired. This November, we're opening the doors of the Berklee Performance Center for Watching the River Flow: Tribute to Dylan (11/5), A Capella Showcase (11/10), Singers Night: Tribute to Queen (11/18), Hansel and Gretel (11/20), and Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite (11/25), and welcoming families to the Boston Conservatory Theater for Little Women on 11/22," said Jim Lucchese, President, Berklee.

"The arts have a vital role to play in engaging our hearts and minds, and to building community," said American Repertory Theater Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus. "We are thrilled to be part of Mayor Wu's Boston Family Days Program and look forward to welcoming students and their families to A.R.T. in January for Wonder, a world premiere musical adaptation of the beloved novel about the power of choosing kindness."

"At Boston Lyric Opera, we believe opera is for everyone," said Bradley Vernatter, BLO's Stanford Calderwood General Director & CEO. "That's why we're partnering with the City to bring youth and families opera to schools, libraries, and community centers across the city — and why we're excited to welcome BPS students and their loved ones into the theater this season, from Macbeth in October through Daughter of the Regiment in May. Boston Family Days is the perfect capstone to BLO's partnership programs throughout the year."

Boston students and their families can register for Boston Family Days through the City's enrollment platform. Boston Public Schools students are auto-

matically enrolled. Prior to each event, registered families in the Boston Family Days program will receive ticket reservation links and instructions from the City.

"Having worked with young people, I've seen firsthand how live performance can spark something profound—opening up new ways of seeing, feeling, and imagining the world around them," said Kenny Mascary, Interim Chief of the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. "Boston Family Days is essential to removing barriers and ensuring that students and families across the city have direct access to experience that magic for themselves."

The Boston Family Days Performing Arts program is made possible through a public-private partnership between the City of Boston, participating arts organizations, and generous philanthropic and corporate supporters, including Amazon, Barbara and Amos Hostetter, Barr Foundation, Bob and Michelle Atchinson, and Jim and Cathy Stone.

The Fall performing season of Boston Family Days can be found here. Families will be emailed ticket opportunities throughout the fall.

Mayor Michelle Wu launched Boston Family Days; a pub-

lic-private partnership among the City, corporate and philanthropic partners and cultural and performing arts institutions in Boston. The program provides all students who live in Boston and two guests free access to 14 cultural institutions. On the first and second Sunday of the month, participating cultural institutions include: Museum of Fine Arts, Institute of Contemporary Art, Museum of Science, Boston Children's Museum, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo, The Museum of African American History, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Paul Revere House, Old North Illuminated, USS Constitution Museum, Revolutionary Spaces (the Old State House and Old South Meeting House), and MassArt Art Museum.

More than 65,000 Boston students and their families have already enjoyed free visits through Boston Family Days, including thousands who are experiencing these institutions for the first time.

For more information about Boston Family Days and to view the full performing arts season calendar, visit: boston.gov/bostonfamilydays.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS DINNER UNDER THE STARS



Jennifer Poverono, Amanda Davis, Julia Drubel, Allyson Ahern, and Kate Wood.



Laura Sand and Joshua Leffler.



Emory Werner and Eliza Bailey.



Robert White and Jennifer Poverono.



Diane Golabek, Lauren Carmi, Brooke and Parker Owens, Jen Howland and Giuliana Hartwell.



Karen Cord Taylor and Dan Taylor, Melissa Magner, Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan, and Laura and Bob Cousineau.



Shown (above and below) the evening was a prefect time to enjoy the start of Autumn with neighbors and friends in the ambiance of Mt. Vernon Street in Beacon Hill.



Tom Patterson, sibilings Alan and Sharon Cantor, and Lorie Conway.



Karen “Ren” Harnett and Leah Collins.



Lisa Viale and Leslee Reeder.



Eva Lichtenberger and Peter Alvrian with Frank and Alicia Manning.



Ramsay and Elisabeth Fretz.



Charles Swim, Amy Sbrolla, Michelle Lavers, Claudia Boyan, Ramsay Fretz, and Lee Combs.

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