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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS — PAGE 9

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JULY 3, 2026 — AUGUST 6, 2026

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!



Patrick O'Connor Photo

The Mission Church Grammar School held graduation for the 6th grade Class of 2026 on Thursday morning, June 11 at the Mission Church. Congratulations to the following seventeen graduates; Percylia Coicou, Gabriella DeSesso, Shea Dutson, Yohana Fekadu, Zyaire Golden, Khrystall Lara, Brayden Lopez, Dhillan Manoo, Jade Massiah, Myla Mclean, Quincy Miller, Bradley Perez, Ayden Rascoe, Avery Robinson, Olivia Rodriguez-Stamm, Maximiliano Suazo, Thomas Trinh.

Planning department hosts public meeting on former New England Baptist site project

By ADAM SWIFT

A proposed multi-family housing development on Parker Hill Avenue has raised concerns from residents about the density of the project, the potential for more student housing, and the overall impacts of development on parking and traffic in the neighborhood.

There were also concerns raised that the project should be moving forward under the large project review process, and not the small project review application that was filed in February. The Boston Planning Department sponsored a public meeting on Monday, the second on the Parker Hill Avenue project.

Savage Properties, a Boston development company, is proposing the development at 85 Parker Hill Ave., along with additional

residential developments at 11-11A and 36 Parker Hill Ave.

The property was once a dormitory for nurses at New England Baptist Hospital, and then senior housing before its sale to Jason Savage last year.

At the meeting, the development team said the project scope will be dropping from 114 units, as originally proposed, to 103. The project will also include more larger units, with eight three-bedrooms, and one additional parking space, raising the total from 10 to 11.

The project also includes an indoor bike parking space for each unit, and 24 exterior bike spaces.

"That's the biggest change, we basically reduced a bunch of the smaller apartments and

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MBTA prepares for July 4 celebration with free rides after 8:30 pm, expanded service and more

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The MBTA has announced that fares will again be free this year on bus, subway, ferry, Commuter Rail, and the RIDE on Saturday, July 4, 2026, after 8:30 PM.

With this year's Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular as the signature July 4 event of the "MA250" initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the greater Boston region is expecting to welcome hundreds of thou-

sands of attendees for one of the country's largest Independence Day celebrations. To accommodate the anticipated increase in ridership, the MBTA is encouraging travelers to plan their commute in advance and reminding riders of its holiday service

schedules. The MBTA's July 3 (observed holiday) and July 4 service schedules are available at MBTA.com/holidays.

"The MBTA is excited and ready to welcome visitors from around the Commonwealth and the country as we celebrate the

birth of our nation here in Boston where the beginning of the American Revolution took shape. Whether you're attending parties, barbecues, or other celebrations, leave the driving to us

Continued on page 2

City kicks off Fourth of July celebration at Boston Harborfest

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Back for America's 250th birthday is Boston Harborfest presented by Citizens, one of the nation's largest 4th of July celebrations. From July 2-4, hundreds of thousands of attendees are expected to enjoy events and activities throughout Downtown Boston and along Boston Harbor, including Thursday's kickoff ceremony, access to historical sites, free live music, and fireworks.

Media will be provided on-site access for photography, interviews, and reporting at all Boston Harborfest events and activities, and full details can be found on the Boston Harborfest website, www.bostonharborfest.com. Interviews can be arranged upon request. For further information regarding this event, please contact Chandler Pettigrew at 617-204-4219 or cpettigrew@conventures.com.

WHAT: The 44th Boston Harborfest, presented by Citizens, is Fourth of July celebration in the City of Boston with cultural events, live music, and historical reenactments.

WHEN: Thursday, July 2 – Saturday, July 4

WHO: Open to the public, with performances from the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band, the 215th Army National Guard Band, The Pace Keepers, Michelle Brooks-Thompson will perform.

Thompson, the 198th Army Band, Houston Bernard, the U.S. Navy Band Northeast, the Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drums, and more.

WHERE: Christopher Columbus Park, Downtown Crossing (Summer Street), Copley Square and Boston Harbor.

SPONSORS: This year's event is graciously supported by sponsors Citizens, Conventures, Downtown Boston Alliance, SugarBee Apples, Hamilton Watches, NRG, PHX Hydration Energy, Zespri Kiwi, Floor & Décor, Renewal by Andersen, Snapple, and Spot Hero. See below for more information about key events and media opportunities at Boston Harborfest:

Thursday, July 2

Boston Harborfest officially kicked off on Thursday, July 2, setting a patriotic tone for the weekend's celebrations. The day began at the Summer Street Stage in Downtown Crossing, where public officials and hospitality leaders hosted a ceremonial cake cutting accompanied by music from the 198th Army Band. Throughout the afternoon, visitors enjoyed live local music, engaged with costumed historical re-enactors, and visited Christopher Columbus Park to help paint "A City Woven Together," an interactive commu-

nity mural celebrating America's 250th anniversary.

The excitement continued into Thursday evening at Christopher Columbus Park with a patriotic concert by the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band. In a unique twist to the historic celebrations, crowds also gathered for a Guinness World Record attempt to see the greatest number of people drinking Snapple at the same time. The opening day culminated in a spectacular Harborfest

Fireworks display launched from Long Wharf, lighting up the Boston Inner Harbor and officially ushering in the holiday weekend.

Friday, July 3

• Live Entertainment at Summer Street

1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: Summer St. Stage (Downtown Crossing)

Musical acts Annie and the Fur Trappers, PK and the Mighty Seven, World Premier Band, and The MBT Music Experience featuring Michelle Brooks-Thompson will perform.

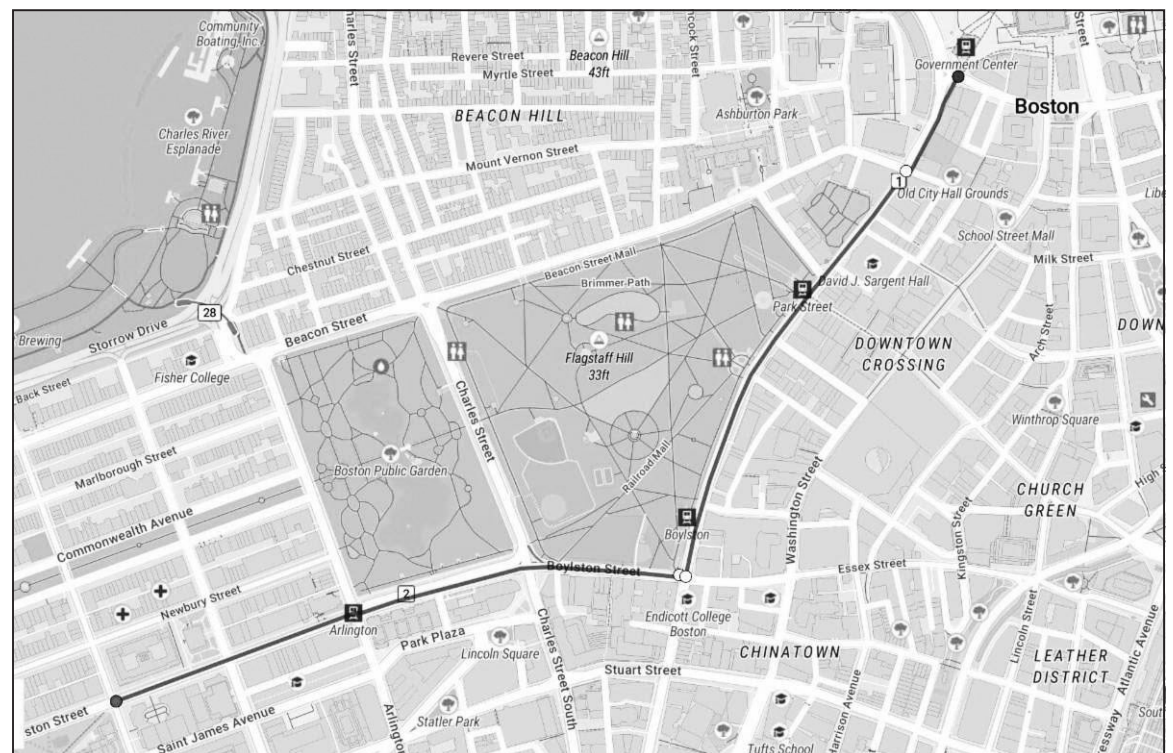
son will perform.

• Macy's Great American Fashion Show

1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Summer St. Stage (Downtown Crossing)

The Macy's Fashion Show in Boston, MA is an annual event showcasing the latest fashion trends from top designers. It features a vibrant atmosphere with music, lights, and runway presentations, attracting fashion

Continued on page 3



The parade route for the Fourth of July procession beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 4.

MBTA

Continued from page 1

and take the T," said Interim Secretary of Transportation and MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "With other big events in the region taking place this summer like the World Cup and Sail Boston, the MBTA continues to prove that bold investments and careful planning make public transportation a vital and essential part of economic vitality of our region. Thank you to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, our Legislative partners, local and municipal leaders, and the work of our dedicated workforce for their preparations during special events like these. We're proud to provide extra service this Fourth of July to help the public celebrate safely this summer."

July 3 (Observed Holiday) Service Information

• Subway: The Red, Orange, Blue, and Green lines will operate a Saturday holiday schedule.

• Bus and Silver Line: All routes will operate a Saturday holiday schedule.

• The RIDE: All RIDE services will operate a Saturday schedule.

• Commuter Rail: All lines will operate a weekend schedule.

• Ferry: All ferry routes will operate regular weekday service.

• The Charlie Service Center will be closed on July 3.

July 4 Service Information

• Subway: The Red, Orange, Blue, and Green lines will operate a Saturday schedule with increased service from 3 PM through the end of service.

• Bus and Silver Line: All routes will operate a modified Sunday schedule with extended evening service.

• Commuter Rail: All lines will operate a weekend schedule. Passengers should note that

the majority of the last trains of the evening will leave North Station and South Station at their advertised times between 11:30 PM and midnight. If fireworks are delayed, trains will leave up to 30 minutes after the close of the fireworks.

Keolis Customer Service agents will be present at North, South, and Back Bay stations to support passengers.

Passengers are encouraged to purchase the MBTA's special \$10 Holiday Weekend Pass for unlimited travel all three days of the long weekend.

Passengers should note that bikes are not allowed on board after 8:30 PM.

The RIDE: All RIDE services will operate a modified Sunday schedule.

Ferry:

• Harbor Loop ferries will have no service.

• Hingham/Hull/Logan to Boston ferries will operate a

Saturday/Sunday schedule.

• East Boston, Charlestown, and Lynn ferries will operate a weekend schedule.

• Winthrop and Quincy ferries will operate on a weekend schedule on the combined Winthrop/Quincy route.

Enhanced Security Measures and Safety Tips for Riders

The MBTA encourages the public to help maintain a safe and family-friendly environment while riding the T. Additional MBTA staff, Transit Ambassadors, Keolis personnel, and Transit Police will be deployed throughout the system to assist with safety, wayfinding, boarding, paying for fares, and schedule information.

The MBTA Transit Police Department will have an enhanced presence throughout the system to respond to any incidents.

To report an emergency, dial 911 or call the MBTA Transit

Police Department at 617-222-1212. Riders are reminded that emergencies can also be reported with the SeeSay app on iPhone or Android device. The SeeSay app is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and riders can expect a response within a few minutes of a report.

The MBTA stresses the importance of celebrating responsibly on public transit. Vandalism and disorderly conduct can create safety hazards, delays, and additional cleaning costs—which can divert valuable resources away from essential maintenance services and improvements that benefit all riders.

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

Boston Harborfest

Continued from page 1

enthusiasts, industry professionals, and shoppers.

- Boston Harborfest at Christopher Columbus Park
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: Christopher Columbus Park

Enjoy an afternoon of performances by Sweet Harmony and DJ Christjawn, as well as children's activities within the breezy confines of Christopher Columbus Park.

- A City Woven Together, an Interactive Community Mural
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: Christopher Columbus Park

Boston Harborfest and presenting sponsor Citizens invite visitors to stop by the interactive mural installation, Boston 250: A City Woven Together, and help complete a community artwork celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Saturday, July 4

- The City of Boston's Fourth of July Procession

9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.: Copley Square to Downtown Crossing

The brief ceremonial parade steps off from Copley Square to the Granary Burying Ground for a wreath laying on the graves of patriots and continues through Downtown Crossing to the Old State House, where the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company will continue its tradition of reading of the Declaration of

Independence from the historic site's balcony.

- Annual Oration

11:00 a.m.: Faneuil Hall

The Annual Oration began in 1771 to commemorate the anniversary of the Boston Massacre but eventually evolved into an event to celebrate independence.

- Middlesex County Volunteers Fife and Drums Concert

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Downtown Crossing

The historically inspired ensemble performs throughout the neighborhood, bringing authentic folk music and iconic patriotic hymns from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.

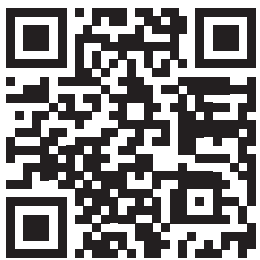
- Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.: Esplanade

An annual tradition, the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular will delight the masses with an evening concert and fireworks display.

For a full schedule of Boston Harborfest please refer to our website: <https://www.bostonharborfest.com/schedule/>

Boston Harborfest is produced and organized by Boston Celebrations, Inc., a non-profit organization operated by Boston-based Conventures. The 44th Boston Harborfest will take place from July 2-4 across Downtown Boston and Boston Harbor. The event has been a proud summer tradition of arts, culture, and entertainment for more than four decades, enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of guests from Boston and beyond. For the latest event details, schedules, and programming announcements please visit www.bostonharborfest.com, and follow event updates on the Harborfest Facebook page, @BOSHarborfest on X, @bostonharborfest on Instagram, or follow the conversation using #BostonHarborfest.



Scan to view a detailed map of the parade route on your device.

Animal Rescue League of Boston shares tips for keeping pets safe amid Fourth of July celebrations

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Celebrating the Fourth of July can be a source of stress for some pets, and the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is reminding owners to keep an extra eye on their furry friends. Fireworks can be especially stressful for pets, as, unlike other loud noises, such as thunderstorms, animals cannot sense when fireworks will go off. ARL says it's important that pets have ID tags with current contact information, and recommends microchipping, which makes it easier to find your pooch in the event that they run off.

Dr. Hannah Donnelly, Lead Veterinarian at ARL's Boston Veterinary Care, and Laney Nee, Canine Behavior Manager at ARL, are available to speak on the subject.

Here are steps to keep pets safe during the festivities:

1. For pets that are easily spooked by bright flashes, owners can keep them in a room without windows. Setting up a quiet space for them and turning

on a TV, soft music, or a white noise machine can drown out loud noises. While dogs are most easily affected by fireworks, keep an eye on cats and other small pets throughout the weekend.

2. Owners can prepare for a night of loud noise by taking their dog for a long walk or playing with them for an extended period. This helps burn off excess energy and calm nerves before the firework shows begin. It's best to leave them at home and ensure all gates, doors, and windows are closed.

3. Shelters across the country see an average of 30% more lost dogs from July 4-6. The month of July is the most dangerous for pet disappearances. ARL recommends microchipping your pets to ensure a higher likelihood of being reunited with your pet in the event that they go missing.

4. For questions about how to best handle your pet's anxiety, call ARL's free Pet Behavior Helpline at (617) 226-5666 or email behaviorhelpline@arl-boston.org. ARL also offers several reduced-fee microchipping clinics

through the Wellness Waggin® and microchipping services at their full-service veterinary clinic, Boston Veterinary Care.

Pets are family. This belief is at the heart of everything we do at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. ARL is the first female-founded animal welfare organization in Massachusetts and is proud to carry on a legacy of kindness and compassion, helping more than 20,000 animals annually since 1899. Recognized for innovative, award-winning programs that go beyond sheltering, ARL addresses the root causes of the issues facing animals and the people who love them. By partnering with communities, ARL helps animals heal and thrive, keeps pets and people together, and protects animals from harm. Because there is no government funding for this important work, animals must rely on people like you to get the care they need, when they need it most, 365 days a year. For more information, visit arl-boston.org and follow ARL on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.



City of Boston
Planning
Department

The City of Boston's Planning Department invites residents to participate in planning that will help shape the future of the City.

You can sign up to receive Planning Department emails and learn about opportunities to get involved here:

bosplans.org/GetInvolved



BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://www.instagram.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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Hill Happenings

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY

BY MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

General Brigadier Enoch 'Woody' Woodhouse was honored on June 18 by the Red Sox June 18, when he threw out the ceremonial first pitch prior to the Red Sox-Blue Jays game at Fenway Park.

Woody, a World War II hero, put some mustard on the pitch, utilizing the old-fashioned windmill windup, tossing the ball to Sox catcher Connor Wong. Woody was accompanied by his wife, Stella, who looked marvelous on television.

Boston Mayor John 'Honey' Fitzgerald made the initial Fenway Park ceremonial first pitch upon the opening of the famous park April 20, 1912, when the Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders, 7- 6. Honey Fitz was the grandfather of our 35th President, J.F.K.

Mike McIntosh, from West Roxbury was victorious in his first pro bout at Fenway Park on June 6.

A cheering crowd, including several Mission Hill spectators, saw McIntosh, a 140 pounder, defeat Steve Farrar in a four-round decision.

I'm reminded of the great sportswriter, Red Smith, who said, "Boxing is a rough, dangerous and thrilling sport, the most uncomplicated of athletic

competitions, and at its best, one of the purest of art forms."

McIntosh was artful, using a plethora of short jabs and body punches throughout the contest. Mike Cosby, from Mission Hill was among the Fenway Park throng who enjoyed the bout.

Back in the day Mike was the superb right fielder on the famous Owls Nest team in the M.H. Softball League.

Condolences to the family of Joe Goode, who passed away last month.

Joe was a nice man, and I have fond memories of him when he was my neighbor at 32 Tobin Court.

Joe, a Boston Trade School graduate, was a hard-working Local 17 sheetmetal worker.

R.I.P., Joe, who lived in Easton and leaves his loving wife of 56 years, Maureen (Sullivan) Goode, and the couple's two children, Joe and Maureen.

I attended a first-rate birthday party for Randace Rauscher last month, attended by more than a hundred people at the Jamaica Plain Veterans Post.

It was a milestone birthday for Randace, who lives in Jamaica Plain, and was the Director of J.P. Main Streets when Tom Menino was Mayor.

The Michael Greenstein Ensemble provided great music and



Prominent singer, songwriter Rick Berlin and Randace Rauscher at J.P. Veterans Post at Randace's birthday party.



Anna Walsh and Randace Rauscher at J.P. Veterans Post at Randace's birthday party.

notable special guest, singer and songwriter Rick Berlin, sang 'Force of Nature' to the classy birthday lady.

It was nice meeting Randace's delightful sister, Edna McGoldrick, a lawyer from New York. Randace previously lived in Mission Hill and occasionally stops in Mike's Donuts to check on the boys.

Randace's best friend, Kacy Hughes, did a superb job organizing the event, and the food was delicious.

Congratulations to Wesley Lynch, an excellent 10-year-old Mission Hill baseball player who was selected to the R.B.I. All Star team.

The R.B.I. League is sponsored by the Red Sox. Baseball

is in the Lynch's family genes. Trevor Lynch, 14, plays for the Mission Hill Pirates and 18-year-old Dylan Lynch plays in the Dorchester R.B.I. League.

Young Kian Lynch is eager to get back on the field while recovering from an injury.

Lauren Alden, a civil engineer student at UMass Amherst, landed a nice summer internship at Suffolk Construction in Boston.

Lauren enjoys her Mike's Donuts and visits the shop before work. Her dad is Eric Alden, president of Longwood Properties in Mission Hill and president of Mission Hill Main Streets.

Lauren's twin sister, Kendall Alden, studies neuroscience at the University of Vermont.

Along with their intellect, the twins have captivating looks and sweet dispositions.

Eric and lovely Christine Alden are justifiably proud parents.

Condolences to the family of Billy Chalifoux, who passed away last week.

I knew Billy since the old days in the Mission Hill project, and he later served in the U.S. Air Force. Billy was bright and earned a master's degree in engineering.

Billy, who was recently dealing with health problems, was a good guy, and he'll be missed.

Every summer, several Mission Hill party-seekers take a mini-trip to Jo's Nautical, a popular tavern in Hull, and the date this year is July 24.

The occasion, which is organized by Mike King from Calumet Street and now living in Hull, has been dubbed 'Mission Hill Day.'

With nice weather, the group hangs out on the patio outside the bar. There'll be tall tales told, reminiscing, and laughs; in fact, the king of the one liners, John 'The Shoe' McCann will be attending.

Back in the old days, the Shoe was called 'The Henny Youngman of Mission Hill.'

If you don't want to drive, you can take the boat from Long Wharf.

Tony 'Amps' Pitts and John Jackson, two great Mission Hill men, were acknowledged at a State House ceremony last week for their guidance and for being superb role models to our youth.

Amps, a basketball referee for 45 years, received the 'Unsung Titus Award,' named after longtime UMass Boston basketball coach and AD Charlie Titus.

John Jackson, who has mentored kids at the Tobin Community Center for years, received the Rodney Hughes Award, named after the late and beloved man from the Mission Hill project. John is retiring at the end of July.

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com

MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

From all of us at MHMS
Enjoy Your Summer!

Mission Hill Main Streets

1542 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 232 0182
missionhillmainstreetboston@gmail.com
<https://explore.missionhillmainstreet.com>



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Boston Real Estate Leader John L. Hall II to be honored for philanthropy and service on behalf of older adults

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Rogerson Communities is pleased to announce that storied Boston real estate developer John L. Hall II will be recognized with the Charles E. Rogerson Award, the organization's most prestigious honor.

Hall's distinguished career in real estate spans more than three decades. He is principal and co-founder of Hall Properties and also serves on the board of directors of HallKeen Management, which oversees a wide portfolio of affordable and mixed-income housing across

the Northeast. Previously, Hall spent 19 years as Executive Vice President at Carpenter & Company, where he was involved with the development of notable commercial projects such as the Fiduciary Trust Building at 175 Federal Street, the Charles Hotel and Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, and the Ritz-Carlton Condominiums in Boston.

Hall's long-term engagement in nonprofit governance, community leadership, and education throughout Greater Boston underscores a mission-aligned dedication to improving quality of life across generations. Hall

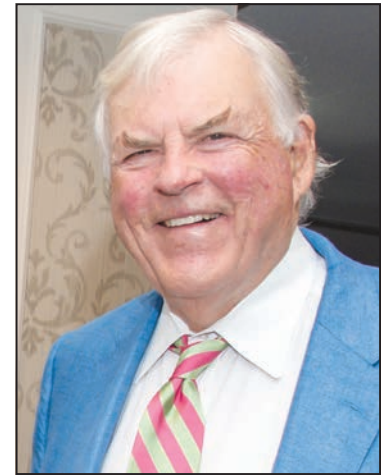
has been a Trustee of Children's Hospital, Corporator of the Boston Children's Museum, Trustee of Proctor Academy, and Chairman of the Board of the Park School. He is also a Director of the Brookline Bank.

Hall has been a steadfast supporter of Rogerson Communities for more than a quarter century, starting in 2000. Since then, he has deepened his involvement with the organization by serving on its board of directors for 17 years.

"We are delighted to recognize John with the Charles E. Rogerson Award," said Presi-

dent and CEO Walter Ramos. "In addition to being a generous supporter of Rogerson over the years, he has provided invaluable guidance as a member and leader of our board. His expertise, his accomplishments, and his philanthropy stand as examples for all of us, and we look forward to celebrating with him at Welcome Home this fall."

Named for former Board President Charles Rogerson, whose leadership catalyzed the organization's growth early in the 20th century, the Charles E. Rogerson Award is annually bestowed upon a Bostonian



John L. Hall

who truly embodies the Rogerson mission. Charles Rogerson's legacy inspires individuals, foundations, and corporate sponsors to demonstrate heart, strength,

Continued on page 7

Parker Hill project

Continued from page 1

combined them to make more larger apartments," said project architect Patrick Mixdorf. "So of the 103 total apartments, there are eight three-bedroom apartments, and all of those fall under the inclusionary (zoning) requirements for the city, so all of the large apartments we have created fall under those guidelines."

Longtime Mission Hill resident and former Mission Hill Planning Commission President Mitch Hilton said the residents understand the need for new housing and welcome new residents.

"I feel this is the wrong development for this location," said Hilton. "I asked the city staff to come up and examine, take the trolley, walk up the equivalent from Huntington Avenue. I would estimate it is the equivalent of about six blocks straight uphill ... it is at the top of a very steep hill."

Hilton said the location is surrounded by narrow streets with effectively no parking.

"The proposal is at 103 units; it's a beautiful old building," he said. "The developer, Mr. Savage, has developed housing on the Hill, and he's developed it well in some instances."

The development of the former Boston Clutchworks site on Tremont Street by Savage was an example of a project by Savage that is convenient to public transportation, Hilton said.

"You can bill this as being close to the Green Line, but I refer again to the steepness of that

hill," said Hilton. "To suggest 103 units in a beautiful old building where a much, much smaller number would have been appropriate, saleable ... Mr. Savage can make money on the project ... but 103 units tucked away in this quiet corner of Mission Hill, up on the top of a hill surrounded by narrow streets is the wrong project for the wrong place."

Fisher Avenue resident Richard Giordano said he also opposes the project as presented, but did thank the developer for reducing the number of units and including more three-bedroom units and studios in the latest version of the proposal.

"The project is just too dense and unsupportable with the number of spaces," he said. "I think it would be a much better project if the internal courtyard proposal was completely removed and there was no new building put in."

Giordano also referred to his original letter of opposition to the project, where he noted that the developer has already gained approval for two other residential projects on Parker Hill Avenue.

"Those two projects are being built on existing parking lots," said Giordano, noting that some residents in abutting buildings use those lots for parking.

Looking at the three Parker Hill Ave. projects combined, Giordano said there will be approximately 210 units with a total of 36 parking spaces. He said he is concerned that the city's planning department has not looked at the multiple projects holistically and taken into account the impact it will have

on the neighborhood.

Giordano also raised concerns about the units being rented to undergraduate students, asking that the developer sign an agreement that the units not be leased to undergrads at all.

"He's done that in the past, and we ask him to do that again," he said.

Jack Gilman of the city's planning department noted that the past uses of the Fisher Hill Avenue site were also high density.

"The structure of the building is not changing much besides the (courtyard) addition; it is really sticking mostly to its previous density use, but I understand," said Gilman.

Giordano countered that the addition of the units within the courtyard means the project is increasing the density on the site.

Pat Flaherty, the executive director of Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, said the organization supports housing and development that is appropriate to the neighborhood.

"We support housing that is helping us to have a stabilized, family-friendly neighborhood versus student and undergraduate student housing," said Flaherty. "This is denser than its previous use, and that is disconcerting; as we said in our previous letter, we believe the planning department erred when it determined that this was small project review versus large project review."

Flaherty said the change of use should have triggered the large project review, and that the large project review provides

for a more detailed review of the proposal.

Flaherty said that while she was grateful for the larger inclusionary zoning units for families, she noted that the family units could well be within a larger development that will be housing for students.

"I think it is against the mayor's efforts to move students back to campus and build family-friendly housing," said Flaherty. "This developer could still make a return if this was not being marketed to undergraduates. We have worked with this developer in the past to come to an appropriately contextual

development that was restricted from undergraduate student housing, and I think we could get to a project – this could be a jewel in the neighborhood."

Planning department officials noted that the project remains under review and that staff will continue to provide feedback on the project.

The project could be before the Boston Planning and Development Agency board in July, depending on the resolution of staff comments on the project, according to planning department staff.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

One Bringham Circle Plaza

1620 Tremont Street Boston

6:00 PM — 8:00 PM

FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE



- **Soul of Boston** – 6/18/2026 (6/24 rain date)
- **MBT Experience** – 7/9/2026 (7/15 rain date)
- **Soul Amazing** – 7/23/2026 (7/29 rain date)
- **Lucky 13** – 8/6/2026 (8/12 rain date)

Rain dates for each concert will be the following Wednesday after the scheduled date and same time.



SPONSORED BY: **One Bringham Circle**



Full listing of ship locations released for Sail Boston 2026

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Sail Boston is proud to announce berthing locations for the July 11-16 festival, where ships from around the world will tie up in Charlestown, Downtown, and across Boston’s Seaport. Following the Meet Boston Parade of Sail on July 11, ships will be led to the berths where they will be based for the remainder of the festival. A full listing is posted below, and the ship map

is available for exploring both in the Sail Boston 2026 mobile app, and at www.sailboston.com.

Among the top locations are Seaport, where ships will be within walking distance of the Sail Boston Festival, located at 302 Northern Avenue. The Amerigo Vespucci of Italy and Libertad of Argentina will rest just steps from the Festival. A temporarily built “Wharf 8” will be accessible by the Boston Harborwalk behind the Leader

Bank Pavilion, and host Ernestina Morrissey (the State Ship of Massachusetts), Juan Bautista Cambiaso of the Dominican Republic, Lynx from Nantucket and HMS Gladen from Sweden.

Class A ships Gorch Fock of Germany, Sudarshini of India, and Sagres from Portugal will be berthed at the historic Boston Fish Pier, while the two largest ships in the fleet, BAP Union of Peru and Esmerelda from Chile will highlight the ships berthed

at the newly refurbished Commonwealth Pier. Charlestown will host 18 ships, including Mircea from Romania and Dar Młodzieży from Poland at Pier 4, and US Coast Guard Eagle behind the Constitution at Pier 1.

Rowes Wharf at the Boston Harbor Hotel will host Oosterschelde of the Netherlands and Kalmar Nyckel of Delaware, while the Moakley Courthouse will host nine ships from the East Coast, and mostly from Massachusetts. Fan Pier will host four ships, including the Mayflower II from Plymouth and Elissa from Texas. The gray-hulled USS Arlington will be located at Black Falcon Cruise Terminal and joined by TS Patriot State, the official training vessel of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Ship viewing from the piers is open from 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. from July 12-15, and ship boarding is widely welcomed within these windows and at the Captains’ discretion. Ship viewing and boarding on July 11 will be dependent upon each ship’s arrival time to the berth, and its ability to prepare to host guests. Most ships should be ready for

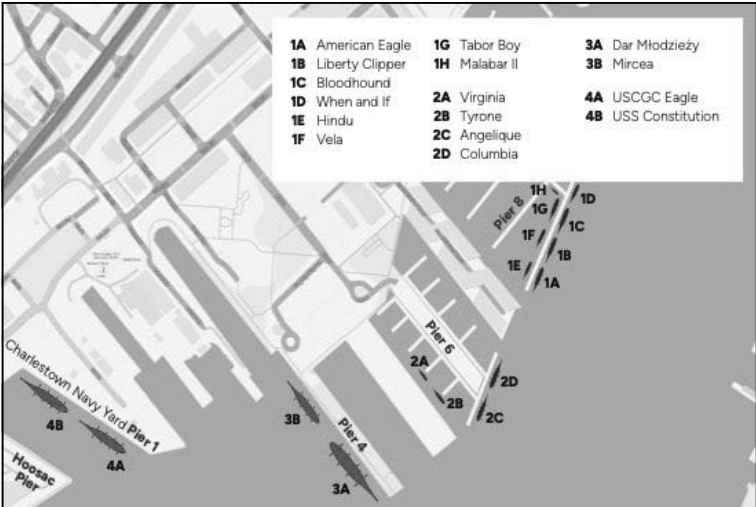
visitation by 5:00 p.m. Boston Fish Pier opens for viewing and boarding at 12:00 p.m. on July 12 and 2:00 p.m. on July 13-15.

To learn more about Sail Boston and the Sail 250 Regatta, visit www.SailBoston.com or follow us on Facebook and Instagram and join the conversation using #SailBoston.

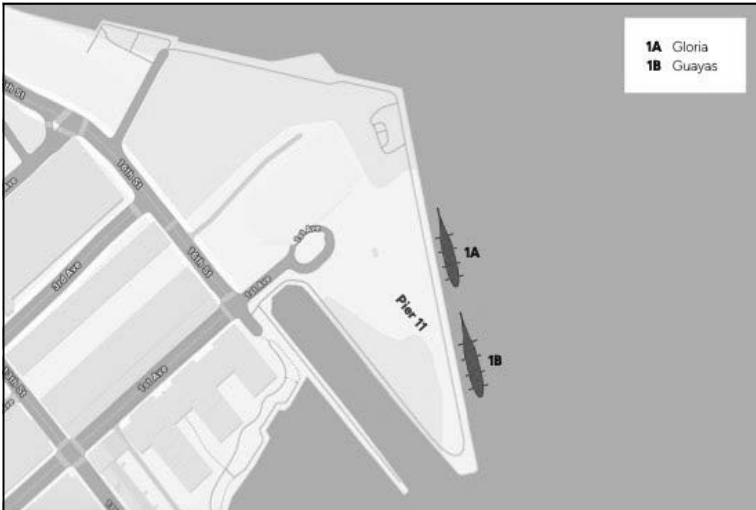
Since 1992, Sail Boston, Inc., a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization, has hosted more than 475 international tall ships and vessels of interest to Boston and many Massachusetts coastal communities. Sail Boston, Inc. endeavors to develop programs that provide economic development and cultural enrichment for citizens, businesses, and visitors in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For more information on Sail Boston, Inc. and Sail Boston 2026, please visit SailBoston.com.

Sail250® is a global gathering of Tall Ships to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States. With stops in New Orleans, Norfolk, Baltimore, New York City, and Boston, each stop will gather crew, cadets, and visitors for an unforgettable experience in celebration of our nation’s birthday.

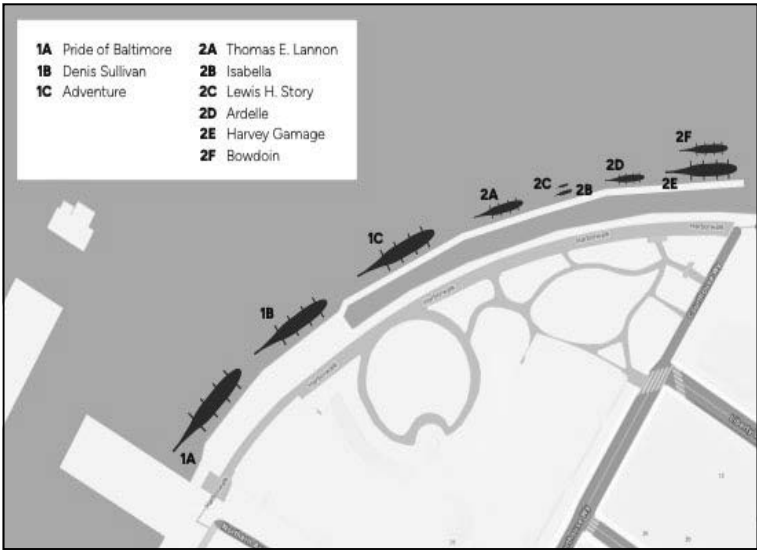
NAME	CLASS	COUNTRY	HOME PORT	BERTHING LOCATION	LENGTH
USS Arlington (LPD 24)		United States	Norfolk, VA	Black Falcon	684'
TS Patriot State		United States	Buzzards Bay, MA	Black Falcon	525' 1"
Gorch Fock	A	Germany	Kiel	Boston Fish Pier	292'
Sagres	A	Portugal	Lisbon	Boston Fish Pier	293' 8"
INS Sudarshini	A	India	Kochi	Boston Fish Pier	177'
USS Constitution	A	United States	Boston, MA	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 1	305'
USCGC Eagle	A	United States	New London, CT	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 1	295'
Dar Młodzieży	A	Poland	Gdynia	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 4	357'
Mircea	A	Romania	Constanta	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 4	266' 4"
American Eagle	B	United States	Rockland, ME	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	123'
Angelique	B	United States	Camden, ME	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 6	130'
Bloodhound	B	United States	Provincetown, MA	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	98'
Hindu	B	United States	Provincetown, MA	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	80'
SSV Tabor Boy	B	United States	Marion, MA	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	115'
Tyrone	B	United States	Rockland, ME	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 6	73'
When And If	B	United States	Key West, FL/Salem, MA	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	80'
Columbia	A	United States		Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 6	171'
Liberty Clipper	B	United States	Boston, MA	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	125'
Malabar II	C	United States	Vineyard Haven, MA	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	42'
STV Vela	B	British Virgin Islands	Gorda Sound	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 8	112' 1"
Virginia	B	United States	Bath, ME	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 6	65'
ARC Gloria	A	Colombia	Cartagena	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 11	212' 3"
BAE Guayas	A	Ecuador	Guayaquil	Charlestown Navy Yard - Pier 11	257'
Capitán Miranda	A	Uruguay	Montevideo	Commonwealth Pier	210'
Esmeralda	A	Chile	Valparaíso	Commonwealth Pier	371'
BAP Unión	A	Peru	El Callao	Commonwealth Pier	378' 11"
Bluenose II	A	Canada	Lunenburg, Nova Scotia	Fan Pier	143'
Elissa	A	United States	Galveston, TX	Fan Pier	205'
Mayflower II	A	United States	Plymouth, MA	Fan Pier	106'
Spirit of Bermuda	B	Bermuda	Hamilton	Fan Pier	118'
Adventure	B	United States	Gloucester, MA	Moakley Courthouse	137'
Ardelle	B	United States	Gloucester, MA	Moakley Courthouse	72'
Bowdoin	B	United States	Castine, ME	Moakley Courthouse	88'
Denis Sullivan	B	United States	Milwaukee, WI	Moakley Courthouse	137'
Harvey Gamage	B	United States	Portland, ME	Moakley Courthouse	138'
Isabella	C	United States	Gloucester, MA	Moakley Courthouse	51'
Lewis H. Story	C	United States	Essex, MA	Moakley Courthouse	35'
Pride of Baltimore II	A	United States	Baltimore, MD	Moakley Courthouse	157'
Thomas E. Lannon	B	United States	Gloucester, MA	Moakley Courthouse	93'
Kalmar Nyckel	A	United States	Wilmington, DE	Rowes Wharf	141'
Oosterschelde	A	Netherlands	Rotterdam	Rowes Wharf	164'
Amerigo Vespucci	A	Italy	La Spezia	Seaport Pier 5	331'
ARA Libertad	A	Argentina	Buenos Aires	Seaport Pier 5	341' 3"
Ernestina-Morrissey	A	United States	New Bedford, MA	Seaport Wharf 8	156'
HMS Gladen	B	Sweden	Stockholm	Seaport Wharf 8	129'
Juan Bautista Cambiaso	A	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	Seaport Wharf 8	178' 6"
Lynx	B	United States	Nantucket, MA	Seaport Wharf 8	122'
Adirondack II	B	United States	Boston, MA	N/A	80'
Adirondack III	B	United States	Boston, MA	N/A	80'
Captiva	B	United States	Boston, MA	N/A	45'
Fame	B	United States	Salem, MA	N/A	72'
Liberty Star	C	United States	Boston, MA	N/A	67'



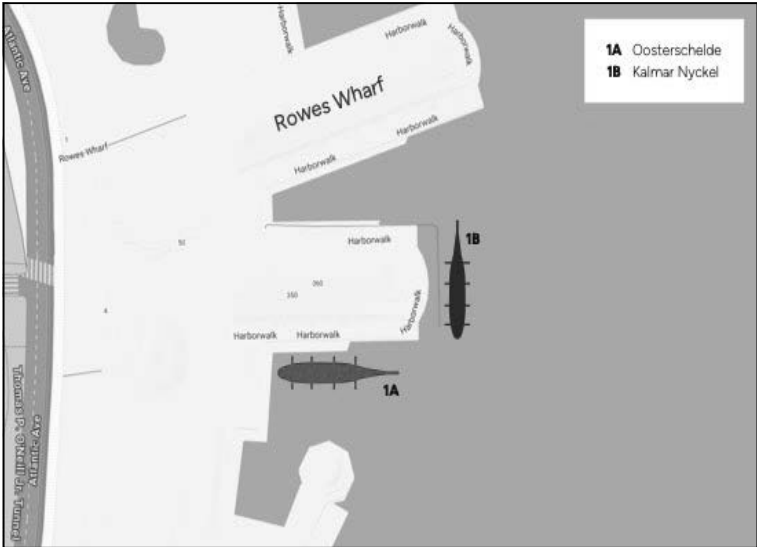
Charlestown Berths Piers 1-8



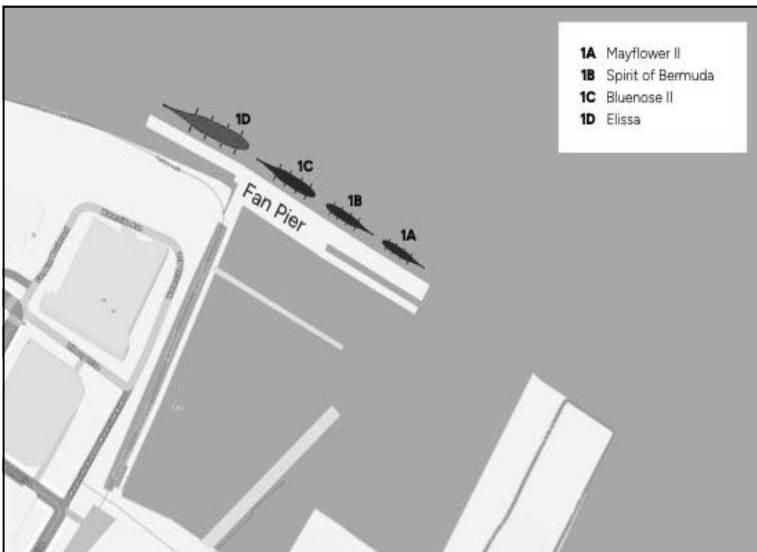
Charlestown Berths Pier 11



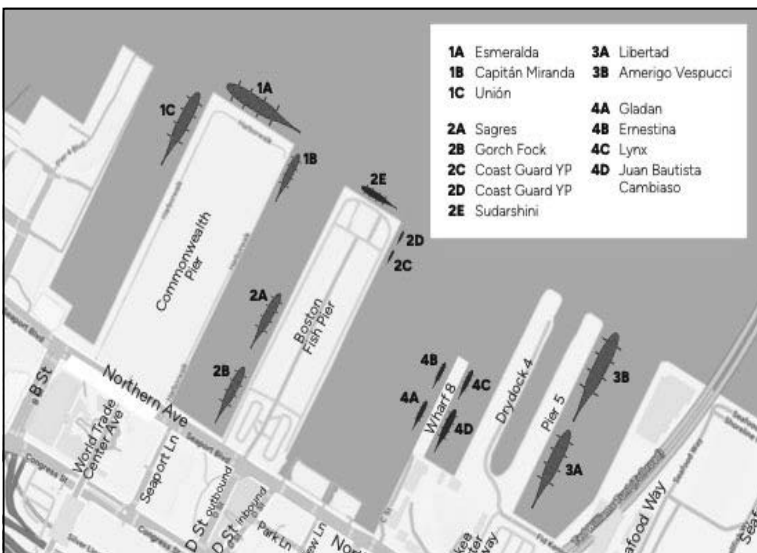
Berths at Moakley Courthouse.



Downtown Berths.



Berths at Fan Pier.



Berths in the Seaport.

John Hall

Continued from page 5

and compassion for older adults.

Rogerson’s mission is focused on low-income older adults—a community routinely overlooked and one that is outgrowing available support. The need for affordable housing and services that allow this community to age with dignity is the bedrock of the organization’s ambitious five-year strategic plan.

“Few needs are more pressing, and few causes more worthy, than addressing the crisis in affordable housing and care for older adults,” Hall said. “Rogerson Communities has been a champion of this cause in Massachusetts for generations. I’m proud of our accomplishments on behalf of older adults in the Commonwealth, and humbled to have been selected for this

honor.”

The Charles E. Rogerson Award honoree list includes Sec. John Kerry, Gov. Michael Dukakis and Kitty Dukakis, Hon. William Weld, Brit d’Arbeloff, Lee Pelton, Jack Connors, and Hon. Charlie Baker.

Hall will be celebrated at Welcome Home, Boston’s premier fundraising event for older adults, on October 8, 2026, at Boston Harbor Hotel.

About Rogerson Communities
Rogerson Communities provides affordable homes, memory care, senior living, and adult day health solutions for older adults in Massachusetts. A resource to the community since 1860, today we serve more than 2,000 older adults across 25 communities and programs, providing a diversity of individuals with greater independence and longevity.

Rogerson’s mission is to en-

hance the well-being of older adults by elevating housing, community, and care to address their needs as they age. Our goal is a world where every older adult feels valued and can age with dignity in their community. More information can be found at rogerson.org.

Rogerson Communities’ Welcome Home is Boston’s largest and most anticipated event in support of our community’s at-risk older adults. Now in its 27th year, the gala brings together our Commonwealth’s leaders and visionaries to raise awareness for the issues facing this vulnerable population.

Some 300 guests are expected to attend, including community and business leaders, philanthropists, corporate sponsors, and local influencers. Proceeds from Welcome Home will directly support the Rogerson mission.



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Mission Hill's Baker Center receives Historical Marker

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Baker Center for Children and Families, a nationally recognized mental health organization dedicated to improving the quality of mental health care for children, officially unveiled its Everyone250 Historical Marker on Wednesday, June 24, joining the citywide initiative commemorating Boston's role in the 250th anniversary of American independence. The ceremony brought together Dr. Robert Franks, President and CEO of

The Baker Center; Dr. Imari Paris Jeffries of Embrace Boston; community leaders; advocates; and supporters to recognize the organization's more than century-long legacy of advancing children's mental health and serving families across Greater Boston.

The unveiling recognized more than a century of The Baker Center's contributions to children's mental health and its enduring role in serving Boston families while continuing to shape the future of care. Founded in 1917 as Judge Baker Chil-

dren's Center, The Baker Center has expanded access to care for generations of children and families across Greater Boston, providing evidence-based care, special education, and community-based mental health programs that bridge science and practice. Over more than a century, The Baker Center has helped shape the field of children's mental health through groundbreaking innovations, including the development and testing of The Modular Approach to Therapy for Children (MATCH). MATCH is a globally recognized evidence-based therapy model that remains one of The Baker Center's most influential contributions to mental health care.

Reflecting on The Baker Center's historical significance and enduring impact on Boston, Dr. Robert Franks said, "History is not simply about where we've been, it's about how we choose to serve, lead and build community moving forward. We are proud to be part of that story, honored in that celebration, and be part of that history of Boston."

A parent whose son attended Manville School – The Baker Center's therapeutic day school for those who experience emotional, neurological and/or learning difficulties – shared moving



The Historical marker.

remarks about her family's experience with the program. Historian Dart Adams also shared an overview of the site's historical significance to the surrounding Mission Hill neighborhood and Boston's mental health care landscape as a whole.

"The Baker Center's support of children and families is a collaborative effort. It considers the individual. The Baker Center emphasizes treatments backed by science and research, which are proven to work through a

historical track record spanning over 100 years," said Boston historian, Dart Adams. "And not only does The Baker Center provide direct support to families, they have also trained professionals in the hopes of producing qualifying therapists who can effectively treat our youth and inform how they're treated across the nation."

The event comes as part of the Everyone250 Monuments and Markers initiative, which honors historically significant sites across the city and highlights underrepresented histories. The campaign brings together over 200 partner organizations across the arts, culture, and civic sectors through public art, storytelling, and community-driven programming.

"Oftentimes, we have to rely on our community institutions to be the anchor tenants of our neighborhoods. Organizations like The Baker Center have helped shape who we are as a city. Recognizing this work through Everyone250 ensures these stories, and the people and communities they've served remain an essential part of Boston's history," said Imari Paris Jeffries, President & CEO of Embrace Boston/Everyone 250.

"For more than 100 years, The Baker Center has stood alongside children and families in Boston, and this recognition reinforces the importance of preserving that legacy while continuing to build a stronger future for generations to come," said Dr. Robert Franks, President and CEO.



Dr. Gary Lyon, Vice President of Culture and External Affairs, The Baker Center; Dr. Robert Franks, President & CEO The Baker Center; Dr. Imari Paris Jeffries, President & CEO, Embrace Boston.



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Wed July 29 7 PM DCR Hatch Memorial Shell	Fri July 31 7 PM Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain	Sat August 1 3 PM Twelfth Baptist Church, Roxbury
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Verdi Requiem
Wed August 5 | 7 PM
DCR Hatch Memorial Shell

Organ Symphony & Fountains of Rome
Wed August 12 | 7 PM
DCR Hatch Memorial Shell

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What's Happening on Main Streets

Happy 4th of July weekend!

BY COURTNEY WRIGHT

Last month, the 2026 Legacy Business Awardees were announced, and this year Mission Hill has two businesses being recognized- Boston Building Resources and the Mission Bar and Grill. Legacy businesses are those that are longstanding, independent enterprises that make a strong contribution to the residents, communities, and neighborhoods of Boston. Each year, Boston celebrates 30 recipients from across the city for this honor and hosts a celebration to honor each awardee. The ceremony this year was held on June 1st at the Bruce C. Boiling Building in Nubian Square – we had a beautiful evening for it and a great turn out. It was nice to see business owners out in different contexts and get to meet the families and friends behind the businesses we know so well. I am working on a larger feature for this year's recipients but in the meantime, please stop by and offer congratulations.

In addition to the Legacy Business Awards, June was also Caribbean Heritage Month, and the Cultural Affairs office ran a program called "Free bites across the City" with over 25 participating Caribbean restaurants around Boston. Flames was one of the locations and it's been exciting to hear from people who came by the area to enjoy their Jamaican patties and other tasty bites. In addition to great food that was offered, the initiative was more about supporting our Caribbean-owned small businesses- an effort that I hope continues past June, introducing residents to the rich diversity of their cuisine. Stop by Flames and try for yourself!

If you've walked or driven around the last couple of months, you've noticed that there is construction seemingly everywhere-

notably in Brigham Circle at the former Santander location. Chase Bank is moving into the former Santander space that's currently being updated (the windows are a welcome addition!) and the bank hopes to open this branch location on or about July 15th- pending any construction delays. The construction crews have been a welcome addition to the lunch crowds at local restaurants- a trend I hope continues as other new developments begin to take shape on Huntington (RTH's new building, etc).

In other business news, there will be an Abutters meeting this Monday, July 7th at 7 p.m. regarding the new market at 1484 Tremont who are seeking a new all alcohol package store license. The purpose of this meeting is to get community input and listen

to the residents' positions on this proposal. It will be held virtually on zoom. Please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/calendar/mission-hill-1484-tremont-street-abutters-meeting> for the link to attend on Monday evening.

In very exciting business news Flann O'Brien's is coming back! Owners are working to bring the popular Irish pub back to its previous home, the former Yellow Door space which closed this past January.

Speaking about Flann's- "It was a place where you kind of got lost in," he said. "You would go in for a brunch, right, and you're hanging out, you're watching whatever, and before you know it, it's 6 o'clock. That getaway feel is "kind of what we want" to bring back", said Scott Prince- who you most likely know from the Puddingstone- who will be

managing the revived space and concept. Prince said that after he found out that Yellow Door was closing, he brought the idea of bringing Flann's back to Ray Butler and Michael Vaughan, who run The Banshee as well as Brick & Beam Tavern in Quincy. There was a hearing on June 24th about the transfer of the former liquor license which was met with excitement and no outstanding pushback. I will be curious to hear when it becomes official- congrats Flann's folks! They are hoping to have it open by the end of the year.

Finally- I hope everyone has been enjoying the World Cup and all the much-needed life it has brought to our City! The games are being shown in just about every establishment in the neighborhood with a T.V. so I hope that you will linger a little longer for

lunch or dinner and stay to watch a game and enjoy food and drinks. With downtown getting most of the tourists for the event- we are hopeful that those in MH and surrounding will come and gather at local establishments and bring some of those vibes and excitement to our beloved spots in Mission Hill. Keep your eyes peeled on social media for which businesses are showing which games and other relevant info.

In beautification news, over the next couple of months, we have some exciting updates. Thanks in part to a grant from the Back of the Hill CDC, we will be expanding Project Place's street cleaning and sweeping program to include the business corridor at the corner of South Huntington. We hope to add a planter or two as well. Speaking of planters- the pansies that are currently adorning the planters are not made for this kind of heat- as you may have noticed on some of those in brighter areas. We will be changing out the planters over the next couple of weeks to more summer-weather-tolerant plantings. Thank you to all of the businesses and individuals that help keep them alive and let me know what there are any issues (thank you Nancy Ahmadifor for always keeping your eyes out!)- it truly takes a village, I appreciate it.

I also wanted to remind everyone about the 311 app and it's uses for reporting graffiti, overflowing trash cans, etc. There has been a lot of graffiti across the city as of late and Mission Hill is sadly no exception. While a lot has been cleaned already- the situation is like whack-a-mole and takes constant reporting. If you see it- please report it to 311.

If you need anything or have a question, don't hesitate to reach me at missionhillmainstreets-boston@gmail.com



Shown above and to the right are from the Legacy Business Awards held on June 1.

The photo outside is of the owner and managers and their families for the Mission Bar and Grill and the indoor photo is for Boston Building Resources.



Ward 10 Democrats release endorsements for upcoming election

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Earlier this week, the Boston Ward 10 Democratic Committee voted to endorse the following candidates before the 2026 primary. Ward 10 is located primarily in the Mission Hill

neighborhood, with portions also extending into the Jamaica Plain and Fenway neighborhoods.

2026 Endorsements

Ed Markey for US Senator, Massachusetts
Ayanna Pressley for US Con-

gress, 7th District

Maura Healey for Massachusetts Governor

Kim Driscoll for Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor

Andrea Joy Campbell for Massachusetts Attorney General

Diana DiZoglio for Massachu-

setts State Auditor

Bill Galvin for Secretary of the Commonwealth

Jordan Korgood for Governor's Council, District 4

Liz Miranda for Massachusetts State Senator, Second Suffolk

Chynah Tyler for Massachusetts House of Representatives, 7th Suffolk

Samantha Montañó for Massachusetts House of Representatives, 15th Suffolk

Stephanie Everett for Suffolk County Register of Probate

Tanabata Celebration 2026: Japanese cultural performances and wishes

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Kaji Aso Studio celebrates the beloved TANABATA summer celebration outside at Symphony Park, 39 Edgerly Road, on Tuesday, July 7th starting at 12:00pm. Throughout the after-

noon visitors can write wishes to tie to bamboo branches in the Tanabata tradition. There will be a series of Japanese Cultural performances including a poetry reading inspired by Tanabata (12:15pm); a flower arranging demonstration by Jonette

Nagai (1:00pm), a tea ceremony demonstration by Kaji Aso Studio (2:00pm); a koto music performance by Sumie Kaneko (3:00pm); and a Japanese calligraphy demonstration by Michiko Imai (4:00pm). This program is free and open to the public.

This program is supported in part by a Berklee Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Grant; and in partnership with Friends of Symphony Park. Special thanks to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Kaji Aso Studio general pro-

gramming is also supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

Mayor Wu signs city order to expand property tax relief for older homeowners

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu, this week, joined City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, Mass Senior Action, local elected officials, and residents to sign a city order that lets Boston adjust the senior property tax break each year to keep up with the cost of living. Under this change, the income and assets limits for the senior exemption will rise annually with inflation, based on the federal Consumer Price Index. The new limits will allow more older homeowners to qualify starting on July 1, 2026.

"Helping seniors age in place means keeping them connected to homes, neighborhoods, families, and support networks, and this order provides real relief to older homeowners at a time when costs keep rising," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to Councilor Louijeune for championing this effort and to the entire City Council for their partnership in supporting our older homeowners."

The City of Boston currently offers a senior property tax exemption under the 41C program, which provides property tax relief for older adults based on age, income and asset thresholds. These thresholds are fixed unless increased by local action

and have become outdated for many municipalities across the state due to inflation and rising costs for residents and families.

"Investing in our seniors is more than a debt of gratitude, it's a commitment to Boston's future," said City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune. "I am proud to have led the effort to adopt Clause 41D, helping protect older homeowners today while strengthening the promise that future generations will also be able to age in place, remain rooted, and continue shaping the neighborhoods they call home."

Adopting Clause 41D will help preserve property tax relief for Boston's older adult homeowners who are at risk of losing eligibility as inflation affects their income and savings. This order was led and filed by City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, co-sponsored by City Councilors Brian Worrell and Ben Weber, and unanimously approved by the Boston City Council. This announcement builds on Mayor Wu and the City's work to address affordability, protect residents and families from rising costs, and provide much-needed relief and assistance to older residents across neighborhoods.

"Adding an annual cost of living increase will help people stay eligible for the 41C exemp-

tion as their Social Security adjusts with inflation," said Emily Shea, Boston's Age Strong Commissioner. "This is important because our older residents deserve the opportunity to age with dignity in the communities they helped build."

This new order will take effect on July 1, 2027 and applicants can begin to apply with the Taxpayer Referral Assistance Center. Income limits for residents will be posted on the City's Assessing Department website on July 1, 2027. Nearly half of Boston's senior homeowners are severely housing cost-burdened, paying more than 50 percent of their income to housing costs. Ultimately, the City of Boston will have the ability to determine the final rate for the fee, collection method, and any exemptions that may exist.

Specifically, this order would: Increase the fixed income with social security amounts from \$25,980 to \$26,687 if single and from \$38,970 to \$40,031 if married and increase total assets from \$40,000 to \$41,080 if single and \$55,000 to \$56,485 if married; and broaden eligibility by replacing the fixed limits with

a percentage increase of the CPI.

Since 2022, the City has also included an expansion of the senior tax exemption in multiple filed home rule petitions to improve quality of life and protect older Boston residents. Through these efforts, the City has worked to secure expanded property tax relief for low-income seniors by modifying the eligibility criteria for the 41C program and increasing the exemption. These changes, if they were implemented by the State, would provide the City with flexibility to modernize the criteria and provide much-needed and sustainable financial assistance to a vulnerable population.

"Far too many seniors across Boston struggle with rising property taxes. We deeply appreciate Mayor Wu, Councilor Louijeune, and the City Council for doing all they can to expand relief," said Lillie Bryan, President of the Boston Chapter of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. "Clause 41D will protect seniors from losing access to the help they need by raising the income and asset limits each year to reflect the cost of living. We must now build on this victory to reach

more seniors who need help, and we call on the legislature to pass Boston's Home Rule petitions."

This action also builds on Mayor Wu and the City's long-standing efforts to amend state laws to address the housing crisis and provide predictability for residents. Earlier this year, Mayor Wu signed the City's Transfer Fee Home Rule Petition, a proposal to create a new local funding source for affordable housing. Passed by the Boston City Council on April 15, 2026, the petition is with the State Legislature for consideration. The proposal would allow Boston to apply a fee of up to 2% on real estate transactions over \$2 million, with the first \$2 million exempt to limit impacts on middle-class homeowners. The Mayor has advanced similar proposals in 2021 and 2023 and continues to pursue the transfer fee as a tool to help build more affordable housing across Boston. Last year, the City also refiled an expanded residential tax relief package that aimed at providing financial assistance to Boston residents impacted by sharp increases in their property tax bills.



Mayor Michelle Wu greets members of the Mass Seniors Action Council and signs ordinance that takes up 41D for Boston's property tax exemption.

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Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon



DCR News & Updates

Get out and Explore! 2026 Park Passport Challenge aims to get residents into state parks

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today announced the return of its Park Passport Challenge, inviting all residents and visitors to explore the state's parks, forests, playgrounds, watersheds and more through a free statewide scavenger hunt. Participants can collect stamps from 12 featured DCR properties between June 20 to November 1, while discovering some of the unique places that make up the state park system. Participants who collect a stamp from at least one park will be entered to win prizes.

"Our public lands belong to everyone, and the Park Passport Challenge is a fun and engaging way for people of all ages to experience the incredible variety of outdoor spaces we care for across Massachusetts," said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle. "Every property has its own story, from quiet forest trails and scenic reservoirs to playgrounds, beaches and mountain views. I hope this challenge gives families and friends a reason to discover somewhere new, spend time in nature together, and make memories that bring them back to our parks again and again."

The Park Passport Challenge is free and open to all members of the public. To get started, participants can pick up an official Park Passport from any of the 12 participating DCR properties that have a visitor center, or by printing one out from DCR's website. Once a Park Passport

has been obtained, participants can begin collecting Park Passport Challenge stamps, which are unique to each location and kept in locked yellow boxes at each of the 12 properties. Stamp boxes are not hidden and are placed in locations that are accessible for participants of varying ages and abilities. Additionally, Park Passports, as well as all written materials associated with the Challenge, are available in the six most common spoken languages in Massachusetts.

Combinations to unlock each stamp box can be found on all official Park Passports. The exact location and code for each stamp box are listed on DCR's Park Passport Challenge webpage. All stamp boxes are accessible from dawn until dusk unless stated otherwise.

Participants who have collected at least one stamp can earn commemorative stickers matching each property's stamp. Participants who collect all 12 stamps will be entered into a grand prize raffle. To collect any prize, participants must complete and submit a prize redemption form on DCR's Park Passport Challenge webpage by November 1, 2026.

Stamps are located at the following DCR properties:

Boston Region

- Charles River Reservation
Artesani Playground, 1255 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton, MA
Box GPS coordinates: 42.36469 N, 71.13751 W.
Box combination: 0810

North Region

- Great Brook Farm State Park
165 North Road, Carlisle, MA
Located near the barn.
Box GPS coordinates: 42.5577997 N, 71.3485230 W.
Box combination: 0210

- Harold Parker State Forest
305 Middleton Road, North Andover, MA
Located outside contact station.
Box GPS coordinates: 42.6159864755947 N,

71.07279486036482 W.
Box combination: 0210

- Maudslay State Park
4 Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport, MA

Located on the welcome kiosk.

Box GPS coordinates: 42.821321 N, 70.926570 W.
Box combination: 0210

South Region

- Borderland State Park
259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

Located outside the Visitor Center

Box GPS coordinates: 42.06275 N, 71.16438 W.

Box combination: 0103

Accessible during the park hours of operation (June – August, 8 am – 8 pm; September, 8 am – 70 pm; October, 8 am – 6 pm; November, 8am – 4:00 pm).

- Pilgrim Memorial State Park
79 Water Street, Plymouth, MA

Located outside on a kiosk near the public restrooms.

Box GPS coordinates: 41.95958 N, 70.66317 W.

Box combination: 0103

Central Region

- Otter River State Forest
86 Winchendon Road, Baldwinville, MA

Located outside the campground contact station.

Box GPS coordinates: 42.62565 N, 72.0796 W.

Box combination: 0612

- Purgatory Chasm State Reservation
198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA

Located on the exterior of the visitor center.

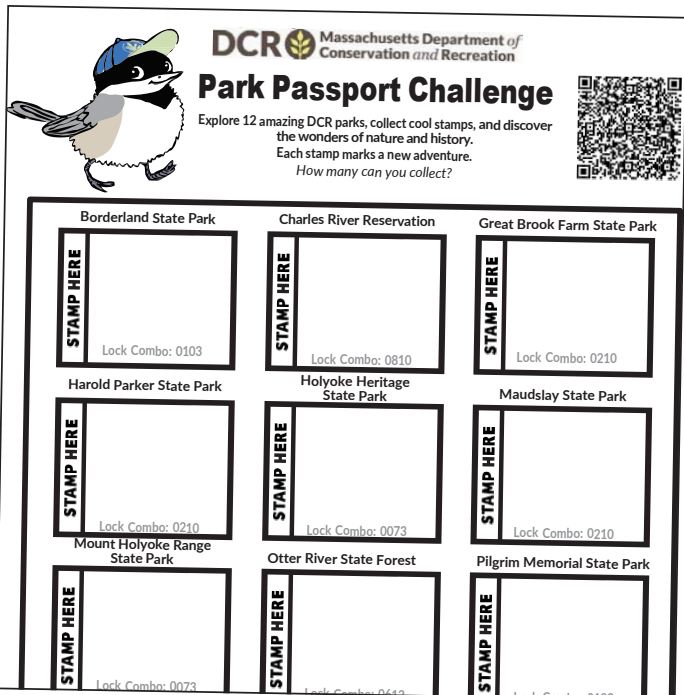
Box GPS coordinates: 42.12920 N, 71.71382 W.

Box combination: 0612

West Region

- Holyoke Heritage State Park
221 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA

Located outside the visitor center.



Box GPS coordinates: 42.48530 N 73.30098 W.
42.20522 N, 72.60699 W. Box combination: 0073
Box combination: 0073 Accessible daily from 8 a.m. to dusk.

- Mount Holyoke Range State Park
1500 West Street, Amherst, MA

Located outside the Notch Visitor Center.

Box GPS coordinates: 42.30524 N, 72.52748 W.

Box combination: 0073

- Pittsfield State Forest
1041 Cascade Street, Pittsfield, MA

Located near the park headquarters.

Box GPS coordinates:

Water Supply

- Wachusett Reservoir
265-283 Boylston Street, Clinton, MA

Box GPS coordinates:

42.402600 N, 71.687100 W

Box combination: 0612

Dogs are not allowed at Wachusett Reservoir at any time, other than service animals.

For more information or questions regarding the Park Passport Challenge, email dcppassport@mass.gov.

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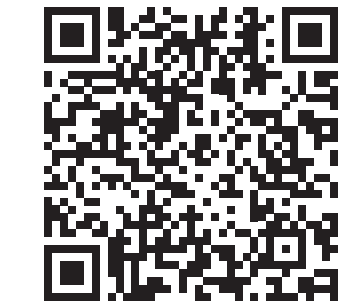
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Name	Address	Name	Address	Name	Address
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Levinson Bldg	835 Huntington Ave	Brighman Circle Chines..	728 Huntington Ave	Lillys Gourmet.....	1528 Tremont St
Neville Building.....	Huntington Avenue	The Mission Pub	724 Huntington Ave	Crispy Dough Pizza.....	1514 Huntington Ave
Robert & Theresa Parks		Stop & Shop	Tremont & Huntington	Discount Auto Part.....	1486 Tremont St
Community Building.....	Mission Park Drive	Walgreens	Tremont & Huntington	Laundromat	1460 Tremont St
Flynn House.....	805 Huntington Ave	J P Lick's.....	Tremont & Huntington	Dunkin Donut	1631 Tremont St
Huntington Market.....	818 Huntington Ave	Bank Of America	Tremont & Huntington	Solstice Café.....	1623 Tremont St
Huntington Pizza.....	784 Huntington Ave	Citizens Bank	Tremont & Huntington	Mission Hill Liquors.....	1623 Tremont St
Carman's Beauty Salon...	764 Huntington Ave	Puddingston Taven	1592 Tremont St	Flann O'Brienn's.....	1621 Tremont St
Green Coffee Shop	750 Huntington Ave	Tremont House Of Pizza.....	1590 Tremont St	Mission Hill American Legion..	1617 Tremont St
Davos Wine & Spirits	754 Huntington Ave	Subway Sandwiches	1578 Tremont St	Mission Hill Properties	1607 Tremont St
Flames.....	746 Huntington Ave	Mini Mart.....	1576 Tremont St	Mission Hill Post Office.....	
Solid Ground Cafe	742 Huntington Ave	Boston Property	1570 Tremont St		1575 Tremont St/ 1575 Longwood
Udb Uq	738 Huntington Ave	Elen Real State	1568 Tremont St	Street Apts	1575 Tremont St
Halal Indian Cuisine.....	766 Huntington Ave	Spinney Auto Insurance	1560 Tremont St	Needham Bank	Tremont St
				Bruggels Bakery	375 Longwood Ave

Jamaica PlainGazette & Mission Hill Gazette 2026 Publishing Calendar

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JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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 Mission Hill Gazette  Jamaica Plain Gazette



CITY PAWS

Summer tips for pets

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

According to Dan Leonard, a seasonal weather expert, we are facing a hot summer of El Niño and shifting jet streams. “In general, we tend to get a stronger-than-normal jet stream,” Leonard said. “This could lead to more frequent downpours and severe thunderstorms.”

Tips for Hot Days

Take walks in the cooler parts of the day. Ask your dog walker to adjust how long your dog is out in the heat. This is especially important if your dog is in fragile health, is elderly, or is a flat-faced breed susceptible to brachycephalic syndrome, a condition that makes breathing more difficult.

Carry water for your dog. Most pet supply shops sell water bottles with attached caps or covers that serve as a dog cup. There are also collapsible water dishes you can fill from a water fountain or your own bottle.

Check the pavement’s heat by pressing your hand on it for

10 seconds to determine whether it will be uncomfortable or dangerous for your dog. On hot days, let your dog walk in the shade, on grass or on dirt as much as possible to give those paws a

break.

Never leave your dog in a car in hot weather. The American Veterinary Medical Association warns, “The temperature inside your vehicle can rise almost 20°



Always carry water and a collapsible water dish you can fill from a water fountain or your own bottle.

F in just 10 minutes.” They also say, “We’ve heard the excuses: ‘Oh, it will just be a few minutes while I go into the store,’ or ‘But I cracked the windows ...’ These excuses don’t amount to much if your pet becomes seriously ill or dies from being left in a vehicle.”

Symptoms and First Aid

The experts at the MSPCA list the signs that you can use to determine if a dog or cat is in danger from heat as: heavy panting, rapid breathing, staggering, and weakness.

Here are the steps they outline for first aid: “Immediately bring the animal to a shady spot.

Cool the animal by dousing them completely with water or placing them in cool water.

Take the distressed pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Treatment for dehydration and other serious problems will be necessary.”

Dealing with Fear

There are noise issues that families with pets face in summer like blasting fireworks and crashing thunder. You can try to desensitize your cat or dog ahead

of time by softly playing recordings of the sounds that set them off while tossing a favorite toy around or doing a bit of training. Behaviorists advise watching for any adverse reactions as the volume is increased.

If the animal has a special hiding place he runs to when frightened and you consider it safe, support that choice. You can add background sound from a TV, radio, or recording to help mask outside noise. Our Poppy chooses our bathroom. We play her favorite classical guitar music to calm her, and if it is really scary, Ed will sit with her.

If commonly accepted techniques are not working, consult your veterinarian. A vet can show you how to safely use an “anxiety-wrap” or teach you how to do T-Touch Therapy. She might also prescribe a medication that will take the edge off your pet’s anxiety.

Summer is a great time to share outside activities with your dog. It only takes a bit of knowledge and preparation to be sure you are doing it in a way that is safe and enjoyable for the dog as well.

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EDITORIAL

The words that changed the world 250 years ago

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

When the members of the Second Continental Congress gathered in Philadelphia in June, 1776, it was not at all clear that they eventually would declare America's independence from England. Although the "shot heard round the world" had been fired at Concord more than a year earlier in April, 1775, and a de facto state of war existed in some regions of the colonies, many in America still held out hope that they could come to some sort of agreement with England regarding taxation and representation such that secession would not be inevitable.

However, with leading thinkers led by John Adams making the case to break free from England, the momentum to declare independence overcame even the most skeptical of the colonists.

On July 2, the delegations from 12 states voted to declare their independence (the delegation from New York did not do so until July 19) and on July 4, those delegations voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence. Massachusetts delegate John Hancock, in his role as President of the Congress, was the initial

signer of the declaration, to be followed eventually by signatories from all 13 states.

Thomas Jefferson's words in the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Declaration are among the most famous in the English language and the most widely-quoted in any language (although we should note that Jefferson's use of the word "men" was quite literal, inasmuch as it did not include women, and it certainly did not include African slaves of either gender).

However, the use of the adjective "all" was the most revolutionary aspect of the Declaration. The signers themselves consisted mostly of America's aristocratic class — Jefferson himself was a plantation owner with many slaves — but the word "all" clearly was meant to include every American of even the humblest means.

That one sentence in the Declaration upended the world order at that time and forever after. It set the stage for the French Revolution 13 years later and eventually led to the demise of monarchies throughout the world. Our democracy as we know it today rests on the premise that every citizen should have an equal voice in the operation of our government.

So as we celebrate the holiday weekend with our friends and family, let's remember that the freedoms we enjoy today all began with a few novel words written 250 years ago -- and that we never should take for granted the legacy that the Founding Fathers bestowed upon us.

Enjoy a safe & sane 4th of July weekend

When Americans celebrated the Fourth of July at the turn of the 20th century, they did so in such rowdy fashion that vandalism and destruction of both public and private property were commonplace.

This rampant hooliganism was suppressed only when public officials and the public-at-large decided that the holiday should be observed in what they termed a "safe and sane" manner.

Our Fourth of July celebrations today are much more restrained compared to those days, but far too many of us go a bit overboard in our observance of the holiday.

Drunk driving, drunk boating, drunk swimming, and using fireworks (especially while under the influence) will result in thousands of deaths and injuries across our nation this weekend — all because too many among us will have had too much to drink.

We urge our readers to make sure that they and their loved ones do not become one of those sad statistics. It is up to each of us to be responsible not only for ourselves, but also for those we care about. If someone among us is drinking too much, take their keys and make sure they are safe — none of us wants to have the regret, "If only I had stopped them from getting behind the wheel..."

We wish all of our readers a happy, safe, and sane Fourth of July.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. 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 editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

City of Boston reports continued decline in homelessness in 2026 Census

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Housing have released the results of Boston's 2026 Point-in-Time Homelessness Count, showing continued progress in reducing homelessness citywide. The annual census found a 19 percent decrease in overall homelessness since 2021, including a 31 percent reduction in unsheltered homelessness and a 28 percent decline in veteran homelessness. The findings reflect Boston's continued investments in permanent supportive housing, homelessness prevention, and pathways to stable housing for residents across the city.

The census found that 3,674 people were experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, down from 5,506 in 2025. Boston also maintained one of the lowest rates of unsheltered homelessness among major U.S. cities, with only 3 percent of people experiencing homelessness living unsheltered. There were no unsheltered families identified during the count, continuing a milestone Boston has maintained since federal reporting began in 2007.

"Boston's annual homelessness census is a critical part of our work to understand the needs of unsheltered residents,

connect individuals to services, and shape investments across housing, prevention, and supportive services," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "While cities across the country are facing tough challenges related to housing instability and homelessness, Boston is continuing to move in the right direction by creating housing, strengthening partnerships, and helping more people transition from homelessness into permanent homes."

The annual Point-in-Time Count is conducted nationwide as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Boston, volunteers canvassed every neighborhood, transit stations, parks, and other locations across the city while service providers and shelter operators collected data from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, safe havens, and domestic violence programs. The findings help guide the City's homelessness prevention and housing strategies and inform federal funding allocations.

"The Point-in-Time Count helps us understand where needs remain, while also showing the progress that is possible through coordinated housing strategies and strong partnerships," said Sheila A. Dillon,

Continued on page 15

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Mission Hill
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Stephen Quigley, President stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com
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Massachusetts House passes landmark data privacy legislation with strong consumer protections

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Massachusetts House of Representatives last month passed comprehensive legislation establishing essential consumer data privacy rights for residents of the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Consumer Data Privacy Act provides consumers with greater control over their own data. The bill increases accountability for companies and grants user data privacy protections to residents of and those present in Massachusetts. Highlights include strong privacy protections for minors and a blanket ban on the sale of precise geolocation data.

“This legislation is about ensuring that the Commonwealth’s laws keep pace with the challenges of an increasingly data-driven world, where technology is embedded in nearly every aspect of daily life. Con-

sumers deserve meaningful protections for their personal information and greater control over how that information is collected, used, and sold,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “This bill establishes common-sense safeguards for sensitive data, strengthens transparency, and promotes accountability for entities that profit from personal information – striking an important balance between encouraging innovation and protecting the privacy rights of Massachusetts residents. I want to thank Leader Moran, Chair Farley-Bouvier, and all my colleagues in the House for recognizing the importance of these critical reforms, and for voting to advance them.”

“This bill is first and foremost a consumer protection bill,” said Representative Michael Moran (D-Brighton), Majority Leader. “This bill is an important step

forward to ensure data privacy and gives consumers control of how their personal information is collected and used by companies and the right to access, correct, and delete their data.”

“The Massachusetts Consumer Data Privacy Act centers the consumer and is a must for the 21st century. Through the technology that we have come to rely on daily, companies collect and legally sell our data, including sensitive data, without our knowledge or consent,” said Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity. “The Massachusetts Consumer Data Privacy Act is a critical step to hold companies accountable, protect minors, and establish strong consumer protections. It is the result of public hearings and thoughtful deliberation with

privacy experts, advocates, and industry representatives.”

Limit Collection to What is Reasonably Necessary

The bill requires that personal data collection must be proportionate to providing requested services, and data must be protected and deleted when no longer necessary or required by law.

Data Subject Rights

Under the bill, data subject rights extend to all residents in Massachusetts. These rights include the right to access their personal information, the right to correct inaccurate information, the right to opt out of certain processes such as targeted

advertising, the right to transport personal data, and the right to delete certain information.

Protections for Sensitive Data

The bill specifies that sensitive data, as defined below, cannot be sold or shared without a user’s affirmative consent. Companies cannot sell sensitive data without additional unambiguous, affirmative consent from a consumer.

Sensitive data includes information such as biometric or genetic information, precise geolocation data, health and wellness information, reproductive and sexual health data, data of a

Continued on page 16

Winter Street

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Chief of Housing. “Since 2021, Boston has significantly reduced unsheltered homelessness and veteran homelessness while expanding supportive housing opportunities across the city. We remain focused on ensuring every resident has access to stable housing and the services needed to remain housed long-term.”

The 2026 census also showed a 20 percent decrease in veteran homelessness, continuing a long-term trend that has reduced veteran homelessness in Boston by more than 55 percent since 2011. The number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness decreased by 2 percent.

Boston also saw substantial increases in the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing. These outcomes were supported by investments in permanent supportive housing and affordable housing developments across the city and throughout the state. Since Mayor Wu took office, Boston has created 668 permanent supportive housing units to help residents transitioning out of homelessness access stable housing paired

with supportive services. These investments, alongside expanded shelter-to-housing initiatives and coordinated outreach efforts, have contributed to continued declines in homelessness even as many communities nationwide continue to face housing affordability challenges.

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

Through innovative programs like the Housing Accelerator Fund, Welcome Home Boston, and the Housing with Public Assets initiative, the City is finding new ways to create housing on public land,

convert vacant buildings into homes, and support residents in building wealth and stability. The Mayor’s focus on climate and health has also made Boston a national leader in green and energy-efficient housing. Together, these efforts are helping to make Boston a city where every resident can have a safe, stable, and affordable home, and where communities can grow stronger for generations to come.

The mission of the Mayor’s Office of Housing (MOH) is to foster healthy, vibrant, and welcoming communities for all by ensuring stable, green, accessible housing and sustainable use of land. The MOH achieves this by creating and preserving income-restricted housing, supporting residents in buying and maintaining their homes, and developing housing policies that promote access and long-term stability. MOH also works to prevent evictions, implements housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness, and works to make Boston’s housing stock healthy, resilient, and environmentally sustainable. For more information, please visit the MOH website.

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Data Privacy

Continued from page 15

minor under 18, government-issued identifiers, and data that reveals an individual’s racial or ethnic origin, national origin or citizenship or immigration status, religious beliefs, sex life, sexual orientation, status as transgender or non-binary, union membership, status as a military service member or veteran, and status as a victim of a crime.

Protection for Children and Minors under 18

The bill provides special protections for individuals under 18, including a prohibition on targeted advertising to minors.

Ban on the Sale of Precise Geolocation Data

The bill includes a ban on the sale of precise geolocation data. Restricting the trade of lo-

cation data helps protect people from surveillance, stalking, and the misuse of sensitive personal information. This protection is extended to both residents of Massachusetts and visitors, which is especially important now to protect people who travel to and within Massachusetts, including for reproductive and gender affirming health care.

Enforcement

The bill grants the Attorney General rulemaking authority and includes a private right of action. A private right of action allows consumers to hold the largest data holders accountable for any violations they may make. Rulemaking authority will allow the Attorney General to keep up with the pace of technological change and provide greater clarity in areas where it is needed.

The bill passed the House of Representatives 146-0 and now goes back to the Senate for further consideration.

FROM BOSTON, TO GLASGOW, WITH LOVE



Mayor’s Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson
Mayor Michelle Wu joined Scottish fans at The Haven in Jamaica Plain on Thursday, June 18, to sign a letter of intent with the Scottish city of Glasgow. The historic signing is the first step toward officially designating the two as sister cities next April. The event took place at Boston’s only dedicated Scottish pub, which has served as the unofficial headquarters for the visiting “Tartan Army” throughout the 2026 World Cup. Festivities at The Haven have included packed match watch parties, traditional bagpipe performances, record-breaking sales of Tennent’s Lager, and even a guest appearance by Governor Maura Healey pouring pints behind the bar.





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The Boston Unity Cup is an annual adult soccer tournament that features 32 men’s teams and 10 women’s teams right in the city at Carter Playground. The tournament kicks off on July 18th and will keep the “World Cup Fever” alive in the city for three more weeks, with evening games and finals on August 8th.

Thank you to our partners & sponsors!

