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# East Boston

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### THE BLIZZARD OF '26

The Blizzard of 2026 brought 65 miles per hour winds and approximately 18 inches of snow to East Boston on Monday. With a snow emergency and parking ban in effect beginning Sunday at 2 p.m., some residents had the unpleasant experience of having their vehicles towed during the storm. In the photo above, a tow truck operator lifts an illegally parked vehicle Sunday night for its journey to a designated municipal lot or tow yard. The Boston Public Schools canceled classes for Monday and Tuesday as Eastie residents dug out from the major storm. In the photo (right), the low-visibility conditions on Chelsea Street are shown during the storm.



## Winning proposals of the participatory budgeting initiative announced

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Participatory Budgeting (OPB) announced the winning projects of the second cycle of the Participatory Budgeting Initiative, "Ideas in Action." The eight winning proposals reflect priorities identified and selected by Boston residents and will direct \$2.2 million in community-driven investments across the City.

The winning proposals in-

clude: Immigrant Legal Defense Fund, Neighborhood Fresh Food Access Initiative, Bridging the Gap: Assistance for Housing Stability, Immigrant Career Pathways: Bridging Language and Employment, Green My Block, Workforce Training Programs Focused on Trades, Youth Financial Literacy and Empowerment Workshops, and Small

See PROJECTS Page 3

## Licensing Board approves five liquor license upgrades for beer and wine

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Boston Licensing Board recently approved five applications from beer and wine licensees upgrading to non-transferable all alcoholic beverages licenses. The approved applicants include Life Time and Trident Booksellers in the Back Bay, Mi Pueblito

Orient Heights in East Boston, and Little Sage and Pappare Ristorante in the North End. The Licensing Board will send the five applications to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for investigation and final approval.

See LICENSES Page 14



971 Saratoga St., Orient Heights  
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## Ruggiero Family Memorial Home

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# East Boston

## Times-Free Press

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# Forum

## WE ARE SO DONE WITH WINTER

When winter finally released its icy grip last week, with temperatures reaching above freezing for the first time in weeks, we had figured the worst of this winter season was behind us. Needless to say, that was wishful thinking.

As native New Englanders, by no means were we so naive as to believe that Mother Nature would fail to have a few surprises remaining for us.

When March 1 starts to roll along on the calendar, we always are reminded of the proverb we first learned as young children at Our Lady of Grace parochial school in Everett: "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb."

So we were well-aware that nasty weather still lay ahead. We were braced for a lion, but we weren't expecting a prehistoric beast.

So we were both incredulous and exasperated as we listened to the weatherman's increasingly-dire predictions for a major weather event headed our way as this weekend approached.

We've all become familiar with the relatively-recent meteorological term of "bombogenesis" to describe the rapid intensification of a storm system that seems to take on a life of its own.

But we did not anticipate the fury of this week's blizzard that had such a wide impact and that caused so much misery for so many of us.

We well remember the Blizzard of '78, the No Name Storm of 1991 (also known as The Perfect Storm), and the Snowmageddon Winter of 2015.

We took all of those major weather events in stride. As impactful as they were, they were simply annoyances for us at the time. But we were younger then, and youth has a way of brushing aside even the harshest of circumstances -- a four-foot drift looks like a playground instead of a back injury waiting to happen.

Despite the frigid temperatures, we still ran outside almost every day throughout this winter, even in the face of daily, single-digit wind chills. We were determined not to let Ol' Man Winter get the better of us.

But truth be told, this winter season of 2026 has pushed us over the edge. The "lion" finally bit us -- and Florida suddenly seems very appealing.

## WHY HASN'T THE NHL BANNED FIGHTING?

Our love of hockey dates back to the 1960s, the golden era when "Bobby Orr and the Big, Bad Boston Bruins" (that was the title of a book that we've had since our youth) ruled the hockey world and the B's were the toast of the town.

We recall the bad blood between the Bruins and some of their notable opponents, the Canadiens and the Rangers (among others), and well recall the game when Derek Sanderson got into a fight with a member of the Chicago Black Hawks -- Sandy pulled off an opponent's jersey and then, while skating around the rink, jersey in hand as if it were a trophy, tossed it into the stands (in Chicago!).

Fighting was not merely just a part of the game, it was even expected. Each team had its "enforcer" who could be expected to take a run at the other team's star player, which in turn would trigger a retaliatory run by the enforcer on the other side, and mayhem inevitably would be the result.

We were just youngsters at the time and just accepted it as "part of the game." It was a time when goalies still didn't wear masks and certainly no player wore a helmet.

Times have changed. Goalies wear expensive masks and every player is helmeted. Teams no longer devote a roster spot to an enforcer and rates of fighting have decreased significantly.

But fighting remains a part of the game and is tolerated to an extent not seen in any other sport. The fans still lust for blood and cheer with every punch. ESPN shows the highlights of every fight.

We were thinking about this as we were watching -- and thoroughly enjoying -- the Olympic hockey matches these past two weeks. It was so nice to watch a game with no flights and none of the chippiness and illegal hits that are trademarks of the NHL. The teams just skated relentlessly up and down, without the long delays caused by brawling and fighting.

Fighting remains a vestige of pro hockey's brutal past -- and in our view, the sooner the NHL bans it all together (which it could easily do with harsher penalties than just a five-minute major), the better.

The time has come to retire the Rodney Dangerfield joke, "I went to a fight the other night, and a hockey game broke out."

## Celebrate Women's History Month on the Freedom Trail

Special to the Times-Free Press

This March, the Freedom Trail® Foundation will honor Women's History Month with the return of the Revolutionary Women Tours. The tours will help residents and visitors discover the indomitable women who took part in the American Revolution, and the generations of women that followed, inaugurating their own struggles for freedom and equality.

The Freedom Trail Revolutionary Women Tours invites people of all ages to walk the Freedom Trail and explore four centuries of revolutionary women who changed history. These 90-minute tours feature tales of the early religious rebellions of Anne Hutchinson and Mary Dyer, abolitionist movements of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, landmark achievements of Black pioneers Phillis Wheatley and Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, prolific writings of

Abigail Adams and Louisa May Alcott, dynamic speeches of Margaret Sanger and Susan B. Anthony, and more. Walk the paths these influential women treaded, while visiting the places where their voices were heard, works published, and were laid to rest.

The tours also feature official Freedom Trail historic sites from the site of the Great Elm on Boston Common, where women paid the ultimate price for refusing to conform to puritanical values, to the Granary Burying Ground, where those who fought fiercely for independence are remembered alongside their revolutionary male counterparts, the Old Corner Bookstore and Old South Meeting House, where women made change through the power of literature and the spoken word. Revolutionary Women Tours cul-

See FREEDOM TRAIL Page 10

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**Projects//** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Business Development Resource Program.

As part of the participatory budgeting process, residents submitted ideas for how the City should allocate \$2.2 million. Community members then helped shape and refine proposals alongside city staff for the voting phase. Following a public voting period, residents selected the projects that will receive funding beginning the spring of 2026.

“Participatory budgeting continues to demonstrate what is possible when residents have a direct voice in shaping Boston’s future,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The projects selected this year reflect our communities’ focus on housing stability, immigration support, workforce opportunity, youth empowerment, small business growth, and climate resilience. We are grateful to every resident who participated and look forward to implementing these investments across our neighborhoods.”

Participatory budgeting was established following voter approval of a ballot measure in 2021. Mayor Wu and the Boston City Council adopted the ordinance establishing the office in 2023. Each year, funding from the City’s operating budget is invested in one-time and non-recurring community-driven projects across Boston.

The process is open to all Boston residents aged 11 and older, regardless of citizenship status. Voting is available in multiple languages and accessible both online and in person, with outreach conducted in partnership with community-based organizations and City departments to ensure broad participation. This cycle, a total of 4,841 votes were collected from residents across the city.

“Through collaboration with community partners, guidance from the Office’s External Oversight Board, and partnerships with City departments, we worked to build on the success of the inaugural cycle and strengthen accessibility and equity in this second round,”

said Renato Castelo, Director of the Office of Participatory Budgeting. “We look forward to advancing implementation to ensure these investments are delivered effectively and translate into measurable progress across the city.”

Each of the eight winning proposals will receive dedicated funding, and relevant departments will oversee its implementation. Details on each proposal are to the right.

The Office of Participatory Budgeting will work with the lead departments on next steps for implementation later this year.

The Office of Participatory Budgeting (OPB) provides an official point of entry for Boston residents to contribute to the City’s budget process. OPB continues to advance its mission by furthering public engagement and direct democratic involvement, building collective capacity on issues of racial and social justice, and aligning with the City’s goal of achieving and embedding equity and inclusion into City practices.

Rank	Votes	Proposal	Funding	Lead Department
1	3733	Immigrant Legal Defense Fund	\$400,000	Office of Immigrant Advancement
2	3035	Neighborhood Fresh Food Access Initiative	\$500,000	Office of Food Justice
3	2805	Bridging the Gap: Assistance for Housing Stability	\$200,000	Mayor’s Office of Housing
4	2091	Immigrant Career Pathways: Bridging Language and Employment	\$300,000	Office of Workforce Development
5	1930	Green My Block	\$100,000	Office of Green Infrastructure
6	1661	Workforce Training Programs Focused on Trades	\$300,000	Office of Workforce Development
7	1556	Youth Financial Literacy and Empowerment Workshops	\$250,000	Center for Working Families
8	1202	Small Business Development Resource Program	\$150,000	Office of Small Business

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# FRIENDS OF THE MARYELLEN WELCH GREENWAY HOST LUNAR NEW YEAR EVENT

The Friends of the Maryellen Welch Greenway celebrated Lunar New Year on the Greenway with a special Lion Dance performance by Kwong Kow Chinese school.

Children enjoyed crafting horses, symbolizing the Chinese zodiac animal for 2026. Prosperity red envelopes filled with chocolate coins were handed out along with orange

slices and Chinese cookies all symbolically bringing everyone good luck and health in the New Year!

Special thanks to East Boston Public Library and Sa-

mantha Wu Topolski, Suleima Chan and Yesenia Martinez. For more information about the Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway log onto [www.maryellenwelch.org](http://www.maryellenwelch.org).



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## THE TALL SHIP AT THE RINK GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING

On Wednesday, February 11, 2026, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce proudly welcomed The Rink at the Tall Ship, the newest addition to the East Boston waterfront. Host Charlie Lerner led the well-attended celebration, joined by his family, state and local officials, representatives from Massport, skilled trades professionals, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and many dedicated community supporters.

The event honored the history of the Tall Ship and introduced The Rink as part of the Navy Yard Hospitality Group. The program included official citations, welcoming remarks, words of congratulations, and a ceremonial ribbon cutting.

The Chamber encourages everyone to visit The Rink at the Tall Ship, located at Pier 1 in East Boston, and enjoy this premier waterfront destination offering food, drinks, and now wintertime fun for all.

-----  
Gran Inauguración y Corte de Cinta de The Rink at The Tall Ship

El miércoles 11 de febrero de

2026, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston dio la bienvenida con orgullo a The Rink at the Tall Ship, la más reciente incorporación al paseo marítimo de East Boston. El anfitrión, Charlie Lerner, encabezó la concurrida celebración, acompañado por su familia, funcionarios estatales y locales, representantes de Massport, profesionales de oficios especializados, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston y numerosos miembros de la comunidad que brindaron su apoyo.

El evento rindió homenaje a la historia del Tall Ship y presentó The Rink como parte del Navy Yard Hospitality Group. El programa incluyó proclamações oficiales, palabras de bienvenida, mensajes de felicitación y un corte de cinta ceremonial.

La Cámara invita a todos a visitar The Rink at the Tall Ship, ubicado en el Muelle 1 de East Boston, y a disfrutar de este destino costero de primer nivel que ofrece comida, bebidas y ahora también diversión invernal para todos.



Host Charlie Lerner led the well-attended celebration, joined by his family, state and local officials, representatives from Massport, skilled trades professionals, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and many dedicated community supporters.

## Harbor View Neighborhood Association Meeting agenda

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on March 2, 2026, at 6pm. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street which is also handicap accessible and an elevator is available for your convenience if needed. which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs.

La proxima reunion de Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en dos de marzo a las 6pm. La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Puede entrar a la junta por la entrada principal en la calle Byron la cual puede ser utilizada por personas con discapacidades y tiene un elevador si es que es necesario para

evitar las escaleras.

Agenda

Welcome/Introduction

Carlos Garcia (5min) East Boston liaison, Office of Neighborhood Services will report on any items of importance. His contact information is carlos.garcia@boston.gov or 617-308-5725.

Announcements: The Shamrock Splash is set for March 8th at Constitution Beach. Free Monthly Community Dinner at Sacred Heart Parish March 11, 2026, at 5pm-7pm. McLean Park, playground construction to begin in spring 2026. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our members, March 17, 2026. Zoning Board virtual meeting: 60 Byron Street, March 10, 2026, 9:30am. Eastie Farms CSA 2026 subscribe today. Eastie Farm Fig/Fruit Tree event, March 7, 2026, at 12noon at Chelsea Street location. Please remember Grace Church Food Pantry for any donations of food or money.

Station 7 Police Report Captain Bickerton, Sgt. Cintolo, Officers Mosley and Alvarez.

Boston Data Explorer Toni

Noble shares the Boston Data Explorer website for insights into City spending, lobbying, crime, fire incidents and so much more. Please try the website yourself before the meeting so you can ask questions. The site is: <https://bostondata.info/>

Boston Scores Executive Director John Maconga will give a brief overview of last year's achievements at Scores Field and outline plans for the upcoming year starting in March.

Massport Service Area Project Anthony Guerriero, Deputy Director Federal Affairs and Community Relations Massport Authority and his team will update the community on the next steps in this project. In addition, we'll discuss the Byron Street Greenway accessibility project.

Columbus Day Parade updates. El Parche, McLean Park

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on April 6, 2026. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna> or check our website at [harborvieweastboston.com](http://harborvieweastboston.com) or [board@harborviewna.org](http://board@harborviewna.org)

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# OBITUARIES

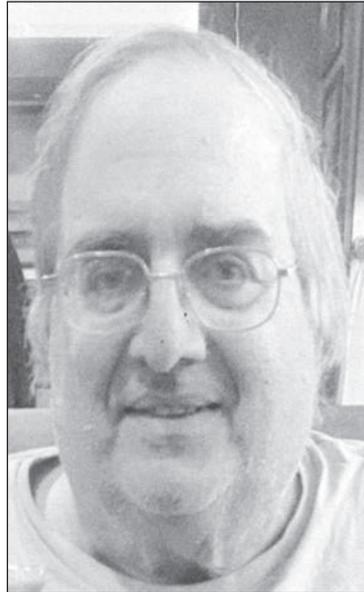
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## Michael James Vozzella

Of Revere

Michael James Vozzella of Revere passed away on February 15, 2026. He was the beloved son of the late Angelo and Louise (Zollo) Vozzella. Michael was a devoted brother to Charles Vozzella and Angela Vozzella of East Boston and Saugus. He is also lovingly survived by many cherished aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews who will forever hold his memory in their hearts. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Michael's name may be made to Sacred Heart Church, 45 Brooks St, Boston, MA 02128. A Memorial Mass will take place on Saturday, February 28th at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Church in East Boston. Family and friends are kindly



asked to meet directly at the church. To leave an online condolence visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Faye Pelosi

Of East Boston and Winthrop

Faye (Consolo) Pelosi of Winthrop and East Boston passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on February 21, 2026.

The beloved wife of the late Joseph R. Pelosi, she was the devoted mother of Richard Pelosi and his wife, Lisa, Joanne Gallagher and her husband, David and the late Joseph Pelosi and his surviving wife, Teresa; cherished grandmother of Michelle and her husband, Michael, Kristina, Nicole, Richie and his husband, Tim, Matthew, Michael and great grandmother of Jack.

Family and friends will honor Faye's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Sunday, March 1st from 1 to 5 p.m. and again on Monday morning



at 8:30 a.m. leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church in East Boston for a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass celebrating Faye's life. Faye will be laid to rest with her beloved husband and son at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. To leave an online condolence visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Maple Sugaring at DCR

Special to the Times-Free Press

DCR is offering maple sugaring programs at parks across the state. Learn how to make maple syrup, a skill learned from Indigenous people from the northeast. Activities vary depending on location but include identifying maple trees, tapping trees, and gathering sap.

All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.

Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request.

### Maple Sugar Days

Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15

Blue Hill Reservation  
11 Hillside Street, Canton MA

Preregistration required: Maple Sugar Days

Join us for a fun and informative guided exploration into all things maple sugar! Learn about the fascinating local history of maple sugaring and the evolution of the practice over hundreds of years. Learn how trees are tapped and practice drilling yourself, and finish your tour inside our aromatic



sugar shack where you will see (and smell!) just how maple syrup is made! Families and curious adults are welcome!

Please preregister for a time slot for this event, and please arrive promptly at your chosen time.

### Maple Sugarin' Days

Saturday, March 14, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Breakheart Reservation  
177 Forest Street, Saugus, MA

Meet inside Visitor Center

Join us for this FUN annual event! Experience the process of maple sugarin' from tapping a tree to sampling real maple syrup. Our hands-on tour includes the history of maple sugaring from Native Americans to today, tree identification & tapping, wood splitting, the evaporator and a tasting station! For more information, call (781) 233-0834

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# OBITUARIES

## Matteo Casciato

He will be remembered as a man of great strength who lived his life with unwavering integrity

Matteo Casciato, of East Boston, passed away peacefully on February 20, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 89 years old. He leaves behind a legacy defined by honor, discipline, and a fierce devotion to his family.

Born in Italy, Matteo was a man of profound resilience and intellect. A dedicated scholar, he earned a Master's Degree in Advanced Education and achieved mastery of the Italian, Spanish, French and Latin languages. He was a published author of two books that offered a poignant and scholarly look at his experiences growing up in Italy during the era of Fascism, preserving the history of that complex time for future generations.

He was the devoted and beloved husband of his late wife, Rosa; the two were happily married for nearly 60 years, a union that began in their native Italy and flourished in America. He immigrated to provide a better life for his family, working for over 30 years at State Street Bank until his retirement.

A man whose "word was golden," he spent his life shar-

ing his heritage, teaching Italian at the Dante Alighieri Society and maintaining a long-standing membership with the CDC (Community Development Center) in East Boston, where he cherished annual family gatherings at the Sea Crest Resort. He found his greatest joy in his garden and in the traditions of his homeland—crafting homemade wine, tomato sauce, pickled eggplants, sausages and olives. Though he took no part in the cooking, he had a fabulous appetite and was the greatest admirer of his wife's table. He will be remembered as a man of great strength who lived his life with unwavering integrity.

Matteo was the beloved husband of the late Rosetta "Rosa" (Cordisco) Casciato. He was a devoted father to Anthony Casciato and his wife, Sabrina of Stoneham, Leonardo Casciato of East Boston, Christina Passariello and her husband, Steven of East Boston and Anna Maria Ruggiero and her husband, Robert of East Boston. He was predeceased by his cherished infant daughter, baby Angela. He was the dear brother of Italia Cannar-



sa and the late Michele Casciato, and Luigi Casciato, all from Italy. Matteo was a proud and loving Nonno to Matteo, Ottavio, Nicolas, Michael, Alessandro, Matthew, Dominic and Emilio and a treasured Great Nonno to Matteo Jr. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews who will miss him dearly.

Family and friends will honor Matteo's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Friday, February 27th from 9 to 11: a.m.

before leaving in procession to St. Anthony's Church in Revere for a 12 noon funeral mass. Services will conclude with Matteo being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery with his beloved wife, Rosa. May they rest in peace. Born in Italy, Matteo was a man of profound resilience and intellect. A dedicated scholar, he earned a Master's Degree in Advanced Education and achieved mastery of the Italian, Spanish, French, and Latin languages. He was a published author of two books that offered a poignant and scholarly look at his experiences growing up in Italy during the era of Fascism, preserving the history of that complex time for future generations. He was the devoted and beloved husband of his late wife, Rosa; the two were happily married for nearly 60 years, a union that began in their native Italy and flourished in America. He im-

migrated to provide a better life for his family, working for over 30 years at State Street Bank until his retirement. A man whose "word was golden," he spent his life sharing his heritage, teaching Italian at the Dante Alighieri Society and maintaining a long-standing membership with the CDC(Community Development Center) in East Boston, where he cherished annual family gatherings at the Sea Crest Resort. He found his greatest joy in his garden and in the traditions of his homeland—crafting homemade wine, tomato sauce, pickled eggplants, sausages, and olives. Though he took no part in the cooking, he had a fabulous appetite and was the greatest admirer of his wife's table. He will be remembered as a man of great strength who lived his life with unwavering integrity. To leave an online condolence, visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

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## The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy announces its 2026 winter programming lineup

Special to the Times-Free

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy announced its 2026 winter programmatic lineup, featuring interactive light displays, seasonal attractions, and new family-friendly experiences designed to bring energy, wonder, and community to Downtown Boston throughout the cold-weather months.

Continuing the Conservancy's commitment to vibrant placemaking year-round, this winter's programming transforms The Greenway into a playful, illuminated landscape where residents and visitors alike can explore, connect, and celebrate the season.

### WINTERACTIVE on The Greenway: Trumpet Flowers by Amigo & Amigo

As part of Downtown Boston Alliance's annual WINTERACTIVE exhibition, the Conservancy is excited to present Trumpet Flowers by acclaimed design studio Amigo & Amigo at Dewey Square through March 2026. Trumpet Flowers is supported by the Greenway Business Improvement District (BID), and features luminous, trumpet-shaped blooms inspired by vintage gramophones and musical instruments. The glowing sculptures will create a warm and whimsical gathering place, inviting passersby to pause, interact, and experience art in an unexpected winter setting.

### The Frostival Ferris Wheel on The Greenway with Extended Carousel Hours

For the first time, the Greenway Conservancy plans to host a 76-foot gondola Ferris Wheel adjacent to the Greenway Carousel during the month of February 2026, as part of Meet Boston's city-wide winter campaign, Boston Frostival. The Frostival Ferris Wheel on The Greenway will offer riders sweeping views of Boston Harbor and the North End, adding a spectacular new winter attraction to Downtown Boston.

To complement the Frostival Ferris Wheel on The Greenway, the Greenway Carousel will extend its season through February, giving families another

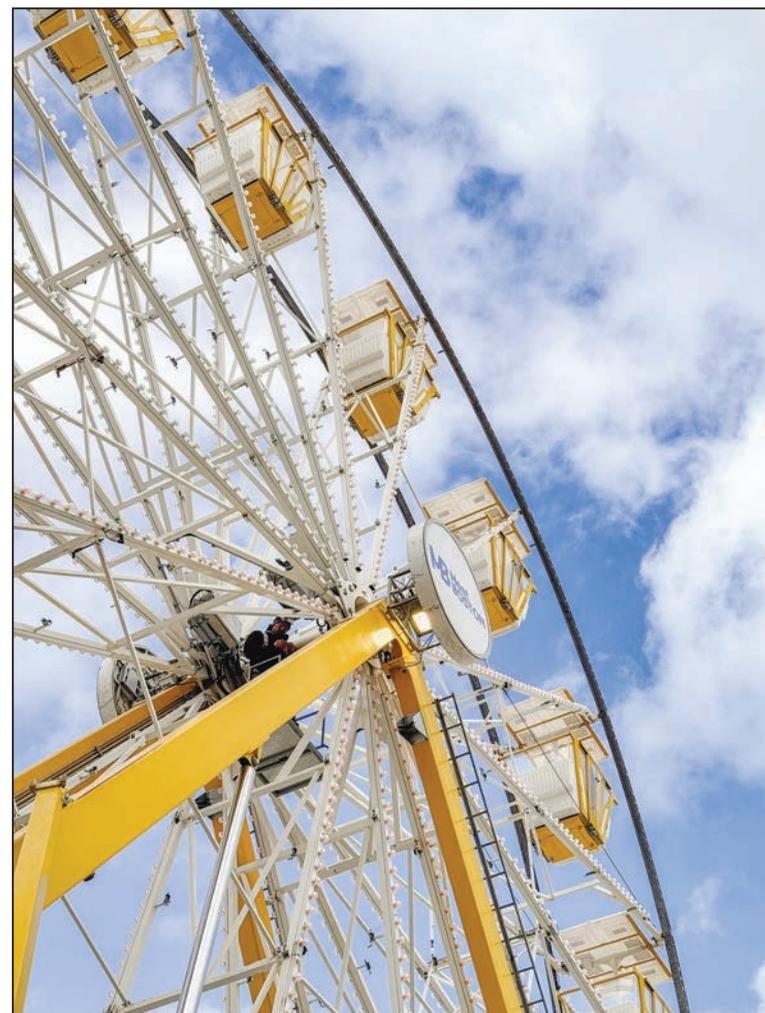


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The Frostival Ferris Wheel.

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whimsical way to experience the park during Boston Frostival and enjoy harbor-inspired rides in the heart of winter.

Both the Greenway Carousel and the Frostival Ferris Wheel will feature complimentary community days courtesy of Highland Street Foundation, where riders both young and old can enjoy a spin on either attraction for free.

The Carousel will be free to ride on Thursday, February 19, from 12 to 8 p.m., and the Ferris Wheel will be free to ride on Friday, February 20, from 12 to 9 p.m.

If your organization is interested in sponsoring a free day of fun, you can reach out to us at [eventproposals@rosekenedygreenway.org](mailto:eventproposals@rosekenedygreenway.org).

### Introducing the Greenway Winter Playway Map

This winter, the Conservancy will debut a new Greenway Winter Playway Map, designed to help families explore The Greenway and Downtown Boston even as temperatures drop and snow begins to fall. The playful guide will highlight winter-friendly routes, activities, and points of inter-

est, encouraging children and caregivers to stay active and curious all season long. A limited number of printed copies will be available for a limited time at the Greenway Carousel, and families can also download a printable version via the link above.

### Winter Lights in the North End

To brighten the darker months, festive Greenway Winter Lights will return to the North End, sponsored by the Greenway Business Improvement District (BID), transforming the park into a glowing evening destination. The illuminated displays will enhance the seasonal atmosphere and provide a welcoming backdrop for winter strolls, neighborhood visits, and after-dinner walks through the city.

The REDNOSE Holiday Lights & Decor team installed the lights in the park and used more than 3,000 bulbs to illuminate the pergolas in the North End! The lights will be on view through February 23.

"We hope these winter pro-

See GREENWAY Page 9

## FRESH AND LOCAL

### Eat your roots

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

This column began as guidance on eating seasonally by including lots of root vegetables in your winter menus. Then Ed suggested we also include the ties that many cultures have to specific root vegetables.

He was right. His Italian family never included rutabaga in their meals. However, it was often on the tables of Penny's Irish family, and it was a must for holiday meals. Moreover, her family often referred to it as "Swede."

#### Familiar Roots

You may not have considered how many of your food choices come from family history. Most of us have a few universally loved roots in our pantry: potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, beets, and sweet potatoes, which are having their moment in the sun.

If you have Asian ancestors, your supplies might include ginger, galangal, turmeric, ginseng,

water chestnut, lotus root, and daikon.

Climate and growing conditions often make root vegetables a staple in a given area. In Eastern Europe and the Scandinavian countries, ancestors survived on what they could grow and store for their diets. Those diets are heavy in potatoes, turnips, parsnips, and beets.

Some tropical cultures embrace cassava, jicama, yams, and salsify. Without realizing it, you may be using other root preparations like arrowroot, tapioca, and horseradish.

#### New Flavors

Shopping trips to supermarkets and stores catering to other cultures have enabled us to try Jerusalem artichokes, kohlrabi, rutabaga, turnips, celeriac, parsnip, and burdock. Some of these are popping up in traditional produce sections, making it easy to buy a sample to add variety to your winter roots.

#### Root Preparations

We most often roast, boil, and

mash our root vegetables, or add those that can be eaten raw, such as radishes, carrots, turnips, rutabaga, kohlrabi, and celeriac, to slaws and salads.

However, as you venture into unfamiliar territory, check because some roots, such as cassava, are toxic unless cooked properly. Cassava, like many roots, has multiple names. Some people know it as yuca, manioc, mandioca, and tapioca.

You might introduce new root combinations, such as mashed potato and rutabaga. We use this to top baked dishes like shepherd's pie. And the next time you make coleslaw, consider enhancing the celery flavor with celeriac and adding color and tang with radishes and shredded daikon.

In soups and stews, root vegetables add bulk, nutrition, and color. Cut a new root to a size that will cook at about the same time as your carrots and potatoes, or add a new flavor, such as fennel, to the base of onions and



Rutabaga is a root vegetable we always keep on hand for soups, stews, or as a mashed side dish.

celery as you sauté them.

Roasted whole potatoes and sweet potatoes serve as the base for a meal when we stuff them with everything from canned beans and sausage stuffing to leftovers.

#### Ancestral Dialogue

In Food and Wine, Chef Kevin Gillespie explained how a trip to Scotland changed his attitude toward cooking. "It reframed my cooking not as personal expression, but as ancestral dialogue. To be a future ancestor, I realized, is to carry forward not only one's own story, but the stories of those who endured, adapted,

and fed others before us."

As you choose the root vegetables and recipes to cook, share the stories of your personal connection to some of them with your friends and family. If, like us, you love learning about other food traditions, expand your selections to include those of other cultures and pass them forward as well. Cooking and dining can be a form of armchair travel and mini-adventures into history and the unknown.

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

# More snow shoveling? Don't let blizzard cleanup blow out your back

## Tips you may not know to avoid injury when shoveling back-to-back snowstorms

Special to the Times-Free Press

Winter is here with a vengeance, and at this point in the season a lot of shovelers are already feeling it in their aching backs and other body parts. Those living along the East Coast who are experiencing the bombogenesis blizzard are surely dreading cleanup after yet another winter storm. To avoid putting too much stress on the body, an expert at the University of New Hampshire offers some little-known tips on how to stay physically safe when digging out.

Storm after storm, repetitive shoveling can take a toll on not only the back but also the knees, shoulders, wrists and heart. To avoid any serious injuries, Dain LaRoche, professor of kinesiology and associate dean for research at UNH, shares some do's and don'ts that you may not know to stay physically safe at any age.

"While it seems simple, shoveling is actually a deceptively high-risk task, similar to other occupational tasks that re-

quire frequent lifting of heavy items," said LaRoche. "It's important to be aware of how to hold the shovel, how to lift the snow and to take it slow."

Here are some things most people don't realize:

- The Shovel:
- The shovel head should be kept as close to the body as possible to reduce impact on the lower back.
- Try to keep the torso as vertical as possible and lift with the legs.
- Ergonomic shovels that have a bend allow the shovel head to be closer to ground and can help minimize bending.
- How to Shovel:
- Pushing snow is better than lifting.
- Avoid twisting to throw snow sideways, try to shovel snow straight ahead.
- Try to minimize how high you lift the snow which can increase the workload on back and shoulders. Avoid lifting above the waist.
- Swap arms periodically to

distribute the weight across the body's muscles.

- Taking smaller shovel loads will reduce the muscular load over time.
- Wet snow is significantly heavier than fluffy dry snow so take smaller 'bites' on the shovel to keep the load manageable.
- Warm up:
- Ease into shoveling until muscles warm up - muscles and tendons are less elastic when cold and may be more susceptible to injury.
- Wearing proper clothing is important to prevent overheating, sweating and causing additional strain on the cardiovascular system. Layer and remove layers as you get warm, put them back on if you get cold.
- Take a Break:
- Be sure to take breaks. If there is a lot to shovel, break it up into sections.
- Stop when feeling fatigued, strained or weak - when mechanics might be compromised.
- Heed Heart Warnings:
- Stop shoveling If you feel

lightheaded, have chest pains, irregular heartbeat, dizziness, shortness of breath, joint pain or other significant discomfort.

• Shoveling is heavy work that people may not be used to and can cause increased stress on heart, lungs and muscles.

"Shoveling makes the heart work harder because the upper body is doing intense effort while the lower body stays mostly still, which can cause blood to pool in the legs," said LaRoche.

This elevated demand underscores the importance of taking precautions during extreme winter weather events, particularly for individuals with underlying health conditions. Overall, LaRoche reminds that ideally people should engage in strengthening, stretching and cardiovascular exercises throughout the year to stay healthy and help with overall aging but also help condition the body so shoveling is not so burdensome.

LaRoche has expertise in physiology, biomechanics,

technology and human performance. His work bridges fundamental discovery with real-world application, examining how exercise and technology can enhance health and functional capacity across the human lifespan, from optimizing elite athletic performance to promoting mobility, independence, and vitality in older adults.

The University of New Hampshire inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 15,000 students from 50 states and 87 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF, and NIH, and received over \$250 million in competitive external funding in FY24 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

# Boston nonprofit awarded \$1.5 million to link high school learning opportunities to in-demand careers

Special to the Times-Free Press

EdVestors, a longtime Boston-based school improvement nonprofit organization, announced it has been awarded \$1.5 million to strengthen its city-wide effort to scale career-connected learning opportunities and deepen students' sense of purpose, belonging, and social capital. The grant is made by the Pathways Impact Fund, a national initiative of StriveTogether.

"Boston's young people bring tremendous assets, and it is our responsibility to help them see and pursue the full range of opportunities available," said Marinell Rousmaniere, CEO of EdVestors. "This investment strengthens our collective work across our city to connect students' talents and interests to real-world pathways and expand access to experiences that open doors af-

ter high school."

Anchored by over two decades of partnership with Boston Public Schools (BPS) and backed by a growing body of research, EdVestors is a critical local connector focused on driving the systems-level alignment needed to put BPS's 46,000 students on a path to economic mobility. Core to EdVestors' strategy is the recognition that students need not just skills but experiences to help them make informed choices and build connections to put those skills to work after high school. Through the New Skills Boston network, which EdVestors facilitates, enrollment in pathways programs, including health care, life sciences, and business finance has doubled in the last five years, and nearly half of the BPS Class of 2024 completed an internship by graduation.

Over the next three years,

EdVestors will expand access to high-quality career pathways for thousands more Boston students while strengthening advising, career-connected learning, and accelerated coursework across the system. Working with key partners, EdVestors will support deeper student engagement and stronger post-secondary transition supports, so more young people enroll in and complete college or career training.

"EdVestors has been a valued partner to Boston Public Schools for more than two decades, helping us strengthen the citywide partnerships that ensure our students graduate prepared for college, career, and life beyond the classroom," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "This continued support advances our shared commitment to expanding access to meaningful, career-connected learn-

ing experiences so every BPS student can discover their path and pursue their goals with confidence."

This grant award to EdVestors is part of the Pathways Impact Fund's \$7.5 million commitment to regional intermediaries working to scale high-quality pathways across five states. Backed by several of the nation's largest philanthropies, the Fund's strategy focuses on ensuring that more young people have access to high-quality advising, accelerated coursework, and career-connected learning that lead to purposeful pathways and economic mobility.

"EdVestors understands that pathways aren't just about career skills—they're about helping young people discover who they are and who they can become," said John Garcia III, executive director of the Pathways Impact Fund. "We're investing in their continued growth because this is exactly the kind of coordinated, student-centered approach we believe can transform pathways work across the country."

EdVestors' mission is to advance equitable, meaningful education that prepares every Boston student to activate their power and shape their future. EdVestors is a school improvement organization that combines strategic investments, content expertise, and collaborative implementation to drive system-level impact in Boston

schools. EdVestors works at the classroom, school, and district level, serving as a connector that partners across sectors, a champion that shines a light on the bright spots in Boston schools, and a catalyst for systems change. Since 2002, EdVestors has raised and invested over \$57 million in school improvement efforts. Learn more at [www.edvestors.org](http://www.edvestors.org).

About Pathways Impact Fund

The Pathways Impact Fund, backed by several of the nation's largest philanthropies, is a national effort to ensure more young people are on pathways with purpose, gaining the experiences beginning in high school that build momentum to fulfilling, well-paying careers and economic mobility.

StriveTogether is a national network of community partnerships that bring together neighbors, including youth and families, nonprofits, businesses, schools and more, to work toward a future where youth can thrive in their communities. Cradle to Career Network members change the way their communities work together by building connections, sharing resources and using data to put more young people on a path to economic mobility. Our work helps young people meet seven key life milestones so that they have the opportunities they need to reach their goals, and, ultimately, thrive. Learn more at [StriveTogether.org](http://StriveTogether.org).

## Freedom Trail // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

minate at Faneuil Hall, the Cradle of Liberty, which played a prominent role in both the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements.

Revolutionary Women Tours depart from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center on Saturdays and Sundays starting Saturday, March 7 at 10:45 a.m.; the tours will also be available on select Saturdays in July and August. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation's walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children, and include

a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center or online at [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org). All walking tours and specialty tours, including the Revolutionary Women Tours, are available as private tours year-round by appointment and are perfect for families, company outings, corporate activities and team building, tourist groups, and more. For additional information please visit [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org) or call (617) 357-8300.

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# Wu backs Ed Markey for Senate, praising record of delivering for Boston

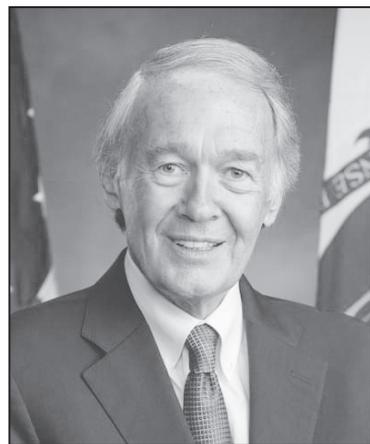
Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced her endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the Senate, citing his unwavering leadership, progressive vision, and record of delivering for the city of Boston.

“Senator Markey has been a longstanding partner for Boston families, standing strong on our values and delivering results by bringing resources and solutions,” said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. “He is a bold leader on national issues like climate, health care, and economic justice, while also delivering reliable and responsive constituent services for residents every day. I am grateful



Mayor Michelle Wu



Senator Ed Markey

for our continued partnership here in Boston and pleased to endorse him for re-election.”

Since Mayor Wu took office, Senator Markey has worked

hand-in-hand with her administration to deliver major federal investments to Boston – strengthening transit infrastructure, including \$472 mil-

lion to replace the North Station Draw One Bridge and modernize rail capacity at North Station, advancing clean energy and climate resilience efforts, supporting improvements in Franklin Park, and backing neighborhood initiatives that serve working families and young people. In partnership with Mayor Wu, Senator Markey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced the Freedom to Move Act to build on Boston’s fare-free transit pilots.

“Mayor Michelle Wu is one of the boldest and most visionary leaders in America today. I am deeply honored to earn Michelle’s endorsement,” said Senator Ed Markey. “Michelle

leads with courage, clarity, and compassion – always putting working families first and never backing down from a tough fight. Michelle and I don’t just share values – we deliver results. From confronting the climate crisis to protecting our immigrant communities, to expanding affordable housing and building a city where every neighborhood can thrive, she is shaping the future of Boston with urgency. Together, we will continue to fight back against Donald Trump’s chaos, protect our neighborhoods, and make sure Boston stays No. 1 – in innovation, in equity, and in opportunity.”

## Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical will be at Boston’s Boch Center Wang Theatre April 25

Special to the Times-Free Press

Get ready for an electrifying experience that will ignite your passion for rock ‘n’ roll!

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical, the thrilling spectacle where the timeless music of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf reigns supreme!

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical will be at Boston’s Boch Center Wang Theatre for one night only on April 25, at 7:30PM.

General on-sale begins Friday, February 13, at 10AM ET at bochcenter.org.

Featuring some of the most iconic rock songs ever recorded, Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical boasts an epic world class cast of singers, dancers, actors, accompanied by a dynamic eight-piece rock band.

This reimagined award-winning show promises to be a thrilling experience.

Bat Out of Hell – The Musical won the UK’S Radio 2 Audience Award for Best Musical at the Evening Standard Awards and was nominated for 8 LONDON WhatsOnStage Awards, including Best New Musical.

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical wowed critics and public alike when it played limited seasons at Manchester Opera House, London Coliseum, London’s Dominion Theatre, Toronto’s CAA Ed Mirvish Theatre and New York City Center. It garnered 5 stars from the

UK’s The Independent, Daily Mirror, Daily Express, Manchester Evening News, Metro.

The New York Times raved that Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical is ‘extravagant, absurd, compulsively hummable’ and Theatermania said ‘See it while you can’.

The musical also had successful runs in Canada, Germany, a residency in Las Vegas and the international tour took the show to the UK, Ireland, Germany, Australia and New Zealand.

Bat Out Of Hell became one of the best-selling albums in history, selling over 68 million copies worldwide. 16 years after the release of the original album, Steinman scored again with Bat Out of Hell II: Back into Hell, which contained the massive hit I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won’t Do That). For the stage musical, the legendary and award-winning Jim Steinman incorporated iconic songs from the Bat Out of Hell albums, including You Took the Words Right Out of My Mouth, Bat Out of Hell, I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won’t Do That), It’s All Coming Back to Me, and Two Out Of Three Ain’t Bad, as well as the previously unreleased song What Part of My Body Hurts the Most.

As the Lost boys and girls flee into the tunnels below the city from its ruler Falco, his teenage daughter Raven locks eyes with fearless leader of the Lost, the

immortal Strat, and the immensity of their love-at-first-sight-obsessions threaten to destroy both of their families. Experience the thrill of the electrifying songs of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf’s epic collaboration: “Bat Out of Hell.”

Bat Out Of Hell - The Musical has book, music and lyrics by Jim Steinman, direction by Jay Scheib, with musical supervision and additional arrangements by Michael Reed, additional choreography by Xena Gusthart, set and costume design by Jon Bausor, original wig designs by Linda McKnight, video design by Finn Ross, lighting design by Patrick Woodroffe, sound design by Gareth Owen, orchestrations by Steve Sidwell, original casting by David Grindrod CDG, North American Tour Casting by Kinlore Casting – Kate Lumpkin, CSA, and General Management by Evan Bernardin Productions – Jenna Lazar.

The Canadian and US dates of Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical, are produced by Emmy and Tony Award winner Michael Cohl, CEO of S2BN Entertainment and the former Chairman of Live Nation, Tony Smith & David Sonenberg with executive producers Glenn Orsher and Julian Stoneman.

Website: [BatOutOfHellMusical.com](http://BatOutOfHellMusical.com)

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## REVOLUTIONARY SPACES INVITES THE PUBLIC TO ITS MARCH EVENTS

Special to the Times-Free Press

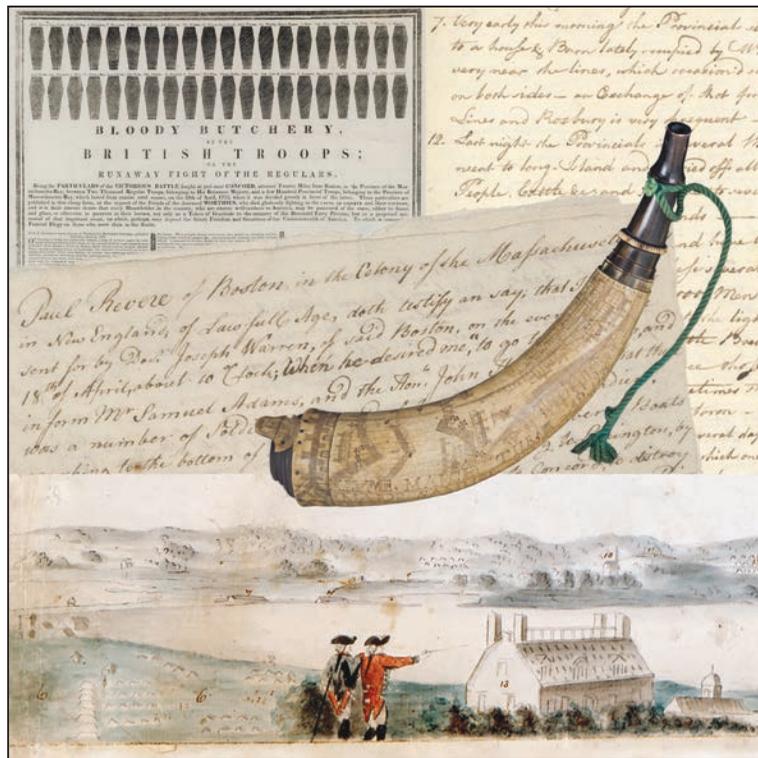
Revolutionary Spaces invites the public to its March events at the Old State House and Old South Meeting House. Please find details below, and I'm happy to coordinate interviews.

Sunday, March 1 & March 8 – Boston Family Days (Free Admission) – In partnership with Mayor Wu's Boston Family Days, free admission for Boston school-aged children and up to two guests on the first and second Sundays of the month. Register online at <https://www.boston.gov/family-days-signup#/forms>.

Wednesday, March 5 | 10:30 AM – Crispus Attucks Day & 256th Anniversary of the Boston Massacre – Public wreath-laying ceremony at the Boston Massacre commemorative plaza outside the Old State House honoring the five men killed on March 5, 1770. For more info, contact [info@revolutionaryspaces.org](mailto:info@revolutionaryspaces.org).

Saturday, March 14 | 10:30 AM–2:30 PM – Hands-On History Day: 250th Anniversary of Evacuation Day – Family-friendly activities at both historic sites, including crafts, games, gallery talks, music, and more. Included with general admission; free for children 12 and under.

Sunday, March 21 | 9–10 AM – Sensory-Friendly Mornings at the Old State House – Early-access hour at the Old State House with adjusted lighting and sound, limited attendance, and hands-on activities for visitors who benefit from a quieter museum experience. Register

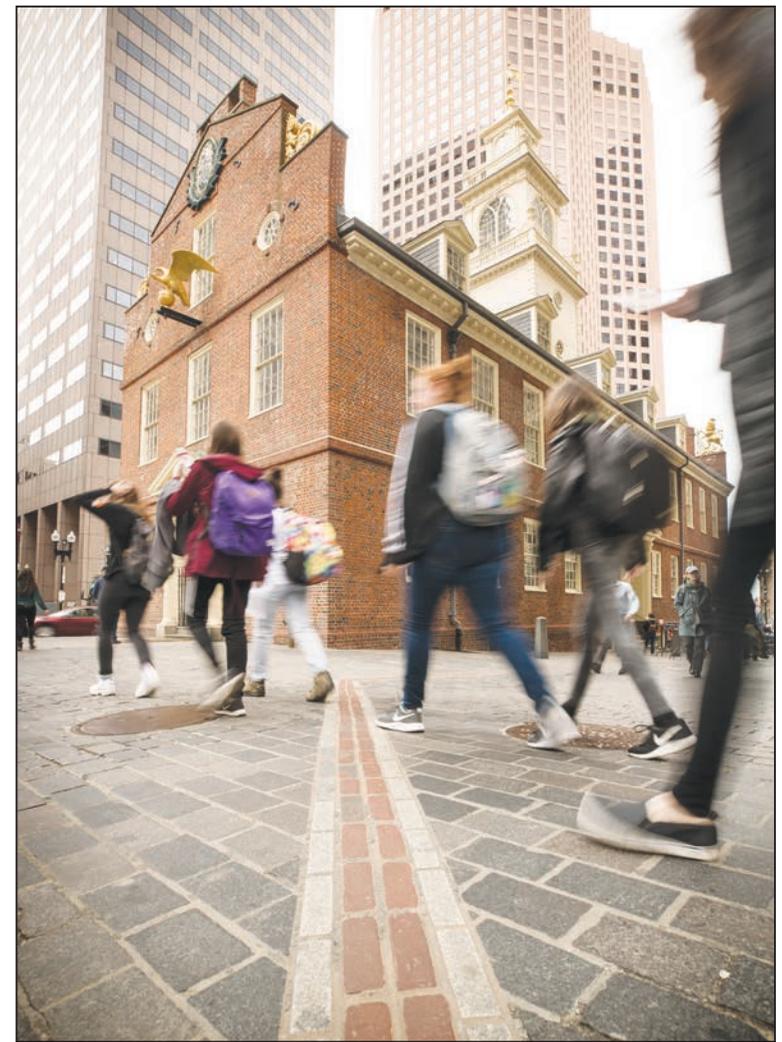


online at <https://revolutionaryspaces.org/visit/sensory-friendly-mornings/>.

All Month – The Road to Revolution is a new exhibition at the Old State House, developed with the Massachusetts Historical Society, featuring a

rare 1776 printing of the Declaration of Independence. On view through January 2027.

Imagery is available here, here and here. Thank you for considering covering these immersive Boston history offerings!



### Old North Illuminated presents

## “Puritan New England... 2026?” with Lori Rogers-Stokes

Join Old North Illuminated for an engaging online conversation with historian Lori Rogers-Stokes exploring what modern-day New Englanders inherit from the Puritans. Set for Wednesday, March 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., this virtual event will examine how the religious movement most closely associated with New England shaped the region in lasting ways. While the English religious group known as the Puritans migrated to South

America, the Caribbean, and Canada, it was in New England that their culture became both well-defined and dominant. Centuries after the last Puritan lived here, their influence continues to echo across the region. Dr. Rogers-Stokes will highlight three important ideas from the 17th century that New Englanders are still practicing today, inviting participants to reconsider the enduring legacy of these well-known but often misunderstood people.

The program is part of Old North Illuminated's ongoing commitment to public history and community dialogue. This virtual event is accessible with a donation of any amount to support Old North Illuminated, the nonprofit that stewards Old North Church Historic Site. The 2026 Speaker Series is brought to you in part by HUB Town Tours. To register, please visit: <https://www.oldnorth.com/events/>.

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# LJ Henriquez and Telma Särkipaju crowned Red Bull Heavy Metal 2026 Champions

Special to the Times-Free Press

More than 25,000 spectators packed Boston City Hall Plaza on Saturday for the return of Red Bull Heavy Metal, one of the top contests in modern street snowboarding. Energized by the largest crowd in street snowboarding's history, LJ Henriquez and Telma Särkipaju claimed overall titles in the men's and women's category.

Overnight snow and light flurries helped set the stage as the world's best riders took on three zones built into Boston City Hall Plaza's natural terrain, using the city's rails, stairs, gaps and brick walls to put street riding on full display in front of a live audience.

LJ Henriquez, a Northeast native from Little Falls, New Jersey, described the win a milestone moment.

"This is the pinnacle event in the world for street snowboarding right now," Henriquez said. "To win here, close to home, in front of my friends and family is such a surreal feeling. Everyone here is the best, so I had to go as hard as possible at all times to come away with the win."

Särkipaju, a first-time Red

Bull Heavy Metal competitor who recently returned to riding after a back injury, said the win felt like a defining moment in her comeback.

"I had no expectations coming in and was just hoping to make finals, so to actually win something this big means a lot," Särkipaju said. "I saw videos from last year and thought

it was next level, but being here and feeling that crowd was unlike anything I've experienced. Their energy definitely made the difference."

For the latest Red Bull Heavy Metal action and event updates, follow @redbullusa and @redbullsnow and visit redbull.com/heavymetal.



PHOTOS BY MARK CLAVIN / RED BULL CONTENT POOL

Benny Milam hits the ledge at Red Bull Heavy Metal in Boston..

## RED BULL HEAVY METAL 2026 WINNERS

### Overall

Men: LJ Henriquez

Women: Telma Särkipaju

### Men: Zone 1

- 1 Benny Milam
- 2 Mees Oostdijk
- 3 Nick Fox

### Men: Zone 2

- 1 LJ Henriquez
- 2 Beck Lobben
- 3 Benny Milam

### Men: Zone 3

- 1 Nick Fox
- 2 LJ Henriquez
- 3 Benny Milam

### Women: Zone 1

- 1 Telma Särkipaju
- 2 Veda Halen
- 3 Jaylen Hanson

### Women: Zone 2

- 1 Egan Wint
- 2 Jess Perlmutter
- 3 Veda Halen

### Women: Zone 3

- 1 Jess Perlmutter
- 2 Telma Särkipaju
- 3 Egan Wint

## EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# JOB FAIR

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

### 5-7 P M



**WILLIAM D. HART**  
Superintendent

### EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**PRE-REGISTER** →



On-site interviews with EPS Principals and Administrators for current openings and opportunities for the 2026-2027 School Year.

TEACHERS (ALL LEVELS)

PARAPROFESSIONALS

SPECIAL EDUCATION (ALL LEVELS)

ENGLISH LEARNERS (ALL LEVELS)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

BCBAs

SECURITY GUARDS

CUSTODIANS

Job Openings are posted on School Spring

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## Greenway// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

grams inspire families to bundle up and rediscover the beauty of our city's green spaces," said Eileen Ong, Director of Programs and Outreach at the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy. "The Greenway becomes something truly special in winter, and these fun, festive experiences invite people of all ages to explore, play, and make memories together."

### Discover The Greenway in Every Season

While many associate The Greenway with warmer months, the park remains an inviting destination all winter long. Visitors can enjoy the unique beauty of the Conservancy's gardens as they transition into dormancy, revealing winter interest such as evergreens, textured seed pods, ornamental grasses, and vibrant pops of color from winterberry

and holly bushes that attract birds throughout the colder months.

Open lawns across the park also provide space for spontaneous winter fun, from snow play to peaceful seasonal strolls after a fresh snowfall.

No matter the weather, The Greenway offers visitors countless opportunities to explore and engage with Public Art, and this winter is no exception. In Chinatown, Misa Chhan's Year of the Snake is on display, encouraging visitors to reflect on the themes of legacy and resilience of Cambodian diasporic communities, as well as a series of flags featuring the Chinese character fu, meaning 'blessing' and 'luck'. Chaa's installations are on display through the end of January 2026.

In Dewey Square, Jewelry

Gibson's your spirit whispering in my ear continues to shine bright in the heart of downtown Boston with its brilliant colors and geometric designs. Featuring the artist's own handwritten text and a series of found objects from his materials archive, the mural invites viewers to find inspiration in past and present generations, the planet, the universe, and all living things surrounding us. Gibson's mural is on display through April 2026.

Farther north, near the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Seaport Boulevard, Ja'Hari Ortega's Big Hoops to Fill continues to delight park goers both young and young at heart, and remains open throughout the winter months, paying homage to the door knocker bamboo hoop earrings popularized in the 80s and 90s. This work-

ing swing set is a tribute to the themes of rest and play and an invitation to reclaim recreation and relaxation as a practice of radical care. Ortega's installation is on display through October 2026.

In addition, a lighting and pathways improvement project led by MassDOT is currently underway and will continue over the next several weeks. These enhancements will improve visibility, safety, and accessibility throughout the Dewey Square and Fort Point Channel areas of the park, creating a brighter, more welcoming experience for winter visitors.

### Stay Connected

Please note that all programming is subject to weather conditions and final permitting. The Conservancy's calendar is updated regularly with the

latest information. Follow the Greenway Conservancy on Facebook and Instagram (@rosekennedygreenway) and sign up for the weekly e-newsletter to stay informed.

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston and one of the most visited attractions in the Commonwealth, welcoming millions of visitors annually. The Greenway is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, a non-profit responsible for the care and activation of the park. The majority of the Conservancy's annual budget is made up of generous community donations that help cultivate a gathering space where all are welcome and celebrated.

## Licenses // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"These upgraded liquor licenses will strengthen our communities, connect our residents to more vibrant spaces and expand opportunities for our entrepreneurs," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thrilled for these businesses and continue to encourage restaurants to take advantage of this upgrade and apply for an available liquor license. As these businesses continue to grow and thrive, the City will continue to do all we can as a partner to make this process easy and convenient for businesses across neighborhoods."

As part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Massachusetts State Budget, the State Legislature gave municipalities across Massachusetts the opportunity to opt into legislation that allows licensees permitted to sell only wines and malt beverages to trade in their license for a non-transferable all alcoholic beverages license.

Mayor Michelle Wu introduced this legislation to the City Council, and on September 20, the City Council approved the

adoption of this legislation. On October 21, the Boston Licensing Board held an informational hearing to receive public feedback from licensees and opened a public comment period, which closed on December 3. On January 8, the Board voted on the final regulations. The guidelines include eliminating the need for a community process for anyone who has already completed the process in the past two years. On January 29, the Board approved the first five beer and wine upgrades—these businesses were the first in Massachusetts to take advantage of this legislation.

"We are grateful for the opportunity the City is providing with the upgrade to an all alcohol license," said Courtney Flynn, Co-Owner of Trident Booksellers and Cafe. "As a family-owned small business for 40 years, we are always looking for ways to better serve our community. We believe this upgrade will provide a more robust experience for our customers, whether they are attend-

ing one of our events, hosting a private party, or dining solo. The license will help us continue to grow and maintain our place as a vibrant, welcoming space in the heart of Back Bay."

"This is exactly how the new legislation was intended to work," said Kathleen Joyce, Chair of the Boston Licensing Board. "We have created a pathway for existing beer and wine establishments to expand. We're pleased to see strong interest and will continue reviewing applications and moving them through the approval process."

The beer and wine upgrades, alongside the 2024 influx of new liquor licenses, enhance the City's ability to support diverse local entrepreneurs and boost economic growth.

After Mayor Wu and the Boston City Council filed a successful Home Rule Petition, Governor Maura Healey signed legislation on September 11, 2024, bringing 225 new liquor licenses to Boston. This batch was the single largest addition

to Boston's liquor license quota since the end of Prohibition. With this influx, the City is able to support diverse local entrepreneurs and boost economic growth. Specifically, the legislation created:

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

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

12 transferable all alcohol licenses

3 all alcohol neighborhood restricted licenses in Oak Square, Brighton

On December 18, the City of Boston Licensing Board approved the first three transferable all alcohol licenses. The Board approved applications from Ama, the new restaurant in Allston from Comfort Kitchen's Pearl & Law Hospitality Group; Leather District coffeeshop Gracenote; and Merengue Express in Mission Hill.

In total, the Board has approved over 60 liquor license applications. In early 2025, the Licensing Board approved 37 new liquor licenses. During the summer, the Licensing Board

approved 21 neighborhood restricted licenses and three community space licenses. This fall, the Board approved four neighborhood restricted licenses, and on December 18, approved the first three transferable all alcohol licenses.

Potential applicants—both for new licenses and those interested in upgrading beer and wine licenses—are encouraged to start the process as soon as possible. The Mayor's Office of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, the Office of Neighborhood Services, and the Office of Small Business staff will continue to support potential applicants. The City of Boston Licensing Board hosts virtual office hours addressing the liquor license application process. Applicants can also make a drop-in appointment with the Boston Licensing Board at City Hall, Room 809 by contacting 617-635-4170 or emailing licensingboard@boston.gov.

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

Learn more about applying for a liquor license or upgrading an existing license on the Licensing Board website.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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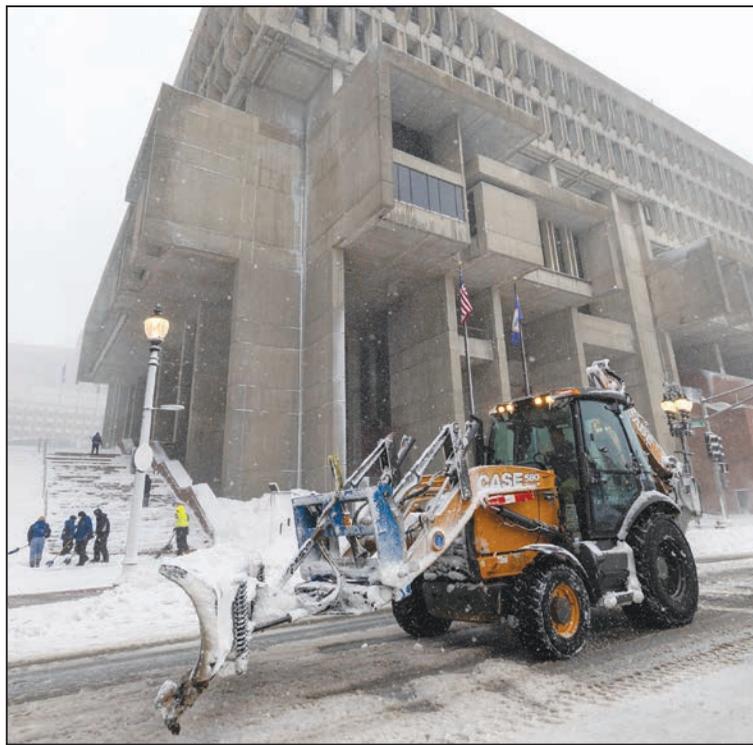
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# SCENES OF SNOW REMOVAL ACROSS THE CITY

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

The City of Boston's snow removal crew was out in full-force during Monday's snow storm.

Boston had 17.1 inches, according to the National Weather Service's official measurement site at Logan Airport. This put the city over 60 inches for the winter. It's the first above average snowfall season in four years.



**SAIL BOSTON**  
JULY 11-16 ★ 2026

PRESENTED BY:  
**MB Meet BOSTON**

## ATTENTION EAST BOSTON RESIDENTS

Sail Boston Inc. will host a community briefing for East Boston residents on Sail250, sharing updates on the return of the Tall Ships this July

**Thursday, March 19, 2026**  
**6:00 – 7:00 PM**  
Maverick Landing  
31 Liverpool Street  
East Boston, MA 02128



For more information please visit [sailboston.com](http://sailboston.com)



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Call Kristi at **781.853.0005** for details!



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