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# East Boston

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bradley Elementary School educators, staff, and students led by Principal Claire Carney (center, left) and Instructional Coach McKenzie Powers (center, right), celebrate winning the EdVestors School on the Move Prize.

## EdVestors awards prestigious \$100,000 School on the Move Prize to East Boston's Bradley Elementary School

Special to the Times-Free Press

EdVestors, a Boston-based school improvement organization, today awarded its \$100,000 School on the Move Prize to East Boston's Bradley Elementary School. The surprise announcement took place during a ceremony at Fenway Park with more than 300

community leaders, students, educators, and supporters in attendance. The Prize, now in its 20th year, recognizes the schools, leaders, and teachers who create and continuously improve learning environments where all students can thrive.

"Each of this year's School on the Move finalists represents a bright spot in Boston's public

schools," said Marinell Rousmaniere, President and CEO of EdVestors. "Their progress is the result of dedicated educators, engaged families, and brilliant students who show up every day ready to learn. We are thrilled to celebrate Bradley El-

See BRADLEY Page 4

## New public meeting space coming to the neighborhood

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

At the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association's (JPNA) monthly meeting last week, representatives from Massport joined to discuss plans for a new public meeting space slated for the neighborhood.

"This is 24 years in the making," said Massport's Deputy Director of Community Relations and Federal Affairs, Anthony Guerriero.

Guerriero explained that the new public meeting space, slated for building seven in the residential development at the corner of South Bremen and Marginal Streets, is tied to the Roseland (Veris) waterfront development.

"Back in 2001, when Massport put out the RFP, they created a waterfront development advisory committee, also known as the WDAC, and part of that community mitigation agreement was the creation of a facility of public accommodation, so tonight we are here to announce that," Guerriero said.

"So, Veris, which was formerly Roseland, committed to constructing an on-site community room separate from the Chapter 91 license require-

ments," he added.

The space is slated to have a seating capacity of about 40 people, Wi-Fi, a smart TV, bathrooms, storage, and more.

Moreover, the space will be available to East Boston community groups. However, it should be noted that the area will not be available for private events.

"So, if anyone wanted a birthday party or retirement party, that's not for the use. Again, this is a residential building, so we have to always

See JPNA Page 2

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# Forum

**JPNA //** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## YOUNG MEN ARE PAYING THE PRICE FOR CASINOS ON OUR CELL PHONES

The evidence is clear that the rush by many state legislatures, including Massachusetts, to buy into the sports-gambling craze has had a hugely negative impact upon one group in particular -- young men.

When the Supreme Court struck down the federal ban on sports betting in 2018, Americans legally wagered less than \$5 billion on sports annually. Last year, they bet \$150 billion -- and 90% of those bets were placed on phones, not at casinos or racetracks, and more than half were so-called live bets, which are placed while the games are in progress.

This increase in wagering has come primarily out of the pockets of young men, who by any measure have become casualties of the sports-betting craze.

As the TV ads inform us, a person can open a betting app on their smartphone and find hundreds of options per game. This new generation of bettors is not merely wagering as to which team will win and the final point spread, but on minutiae such as whether the next pitch will be a ball or a strike -- in other words, they can bet throughout the game on every single thing imaginable.

One need not be an expert in addictive behavior to realize that making it this easy to place a new bet every minute (or even less) feeds into an insatiable desire to achieve the "high" of placing a bet -- a form of addiction to which the brains of young men are uniquely vulnerable.

One would have hoped by now that our state legislators would have realized the mistake they made and would repeal the law allowing betting on cell phones, and restrict sports gambling to casinos.

But the states themselves are now addicted to the tax revenue from the sports gambling industry, especially in this era of reduced funding from Washington. Our legislators have made a deal with the devil -- and young men and their families are paying the price.

## A VICTORY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Advocates of marriage equality breathed a sigh of relief last week when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to take up a request that it consider overturning its 2015 landmark decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in which the court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples under the Constitution.

The *Obergefell* decision, which was decided by a narrow 5-4 majority, requires all 50 states (plus the District of Columbia) to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples equally with the marriages of opposite-sex couples.

Prior to the court's *Obergefell* ruling, it had been left up to each state to determine whether to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples (Massachusetts was the first state to do so in 2006). However, those marriages were not recognized federally, which meant that couples could not file joint federal tax returns or enjoy any of the other rights and privileges of marriage.

The majority opinion in *Obergefell*, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, put it very simply: "Marriage is a keystone of our social order and there is no difference between same- and opposite-sex couples with respect to this principle."

However, the make-up of the Supreme Court has changed greatly over the past 10 years. Judge Kennedy has retired and the three judges appointed by President Trump during his first term, Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett, and Brett Kavanaugh, all had expressed opposition to legalizing gay marriage throughout their legal careers prior to their appointments to the Supreme Court.

Given those changes, marriage equality advocates had feared that the court might reconsider its ruling in *Obergefell*. In addition, Justice Clarence Thomas had suggested in his concurring opinion in the *Dobbs* case (which overturned *Roe v. Wade*) that *Obergefell* also should be scrutinized.

The case that came up to the court was a petition filed by the former Kentucky county clerk who gained national attention in 2015 when she defied a court order and refused to issue same-sex licenses because of her religious beliefs.

She had asked the Supreme Court to reverse an order that required her to pay more than \$300,000 in attorney's fees to a couple for whom she had denied a marriage license and to overturn the *Obergefell* decision.

At least four of the nine justices were needed to vote to hear the case and revisit the same-sex marriage precedent. However, the court refused to take it up, thereby allowing a lower court ruling that had dismissed the former clerk's case to stand.

Although the former county clerk's attorney said in a statement that he would continue his efforts to overturn *Obergefell*, it seems clear that marriage equality, which today enjoys broad public support, is here to stay -- and that's good news for all Americans.

remember that," Guerriero said.

Other aspects of the public meeting space to note are that alcohol is prohibited, it must be booked at least 10 days in advance, and it will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., five days per week.

"It is for bona fide, primarily, East Boston community-based organizations to have their meetings," said Eliza Tan of Massport. "I think the location is perfect, right in the middle of things, easily accessible, and we're very excited that this is finally happening."

Tan indicated that Veris is "at the very tail end of obtaining their building permit," and that construction, which is slated to begin later this fall and in the winter, will mostly be inside.

Guerriero later added that the space is projected to be ready either by the end of next spring or early next summer.

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for questions. JPNA Board Member Tyler Lane asked about how the room would be secured.

Tan explained that a key would be available in the lobby, which someone could get and return once the room is no longer in use.

Lane also asked whether technical assistance would be available if any issues arose.

Guerriero indicated that staff on-site would check equipment before a group's allotted time. Tan also suggested having written instructions there for the equipment.

JPNA Board Member Margaret Farmer asked about the possibility of the room being able to host hybrid meetings. Guerriero mentioned that they would check whether there were cameras there to do that.

"I think we did say we wanted a smart room, but we can double-check that on the cameras," Guerriero said.

Another attendee had wondered if weekend access could be included if things go smoothly with the space.

In response, Guerriero said, "I think that Veris is going to want to see how things go with this... I think that because this is a residential building, they're going to want to see things, how they run, and then probably revisit that question at a later date."

For more information about the JPNA and to view a recording of this meeting, visit <https://jeffriespoint.org/>.

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# East Boston resident wins Association for Behavioral Healthcare Salute to Excellence Award

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), a statewide nonprofit organization representing over 80 community-based behavioral healthcare providers, honored the winners of its Salute to Excellence Awards at its annual celebration on Oct. 24 at the Boston Marriott Burlington.

“This year’s Salute to Excellence Awards winners are representative of the community behavioral health professionals throughout the Commonwealth; they are tenacious advocates for children, adults, and families in need of quality, accessible mental health and substance use treatment,” said ABH President and CEO Lydia Conley. “They are unwavering, compassionate providers of recovery and resiliency. ABH is proud to represent these leaders and we extend our deepest appreciation for their service.”

The 2025 Salute to Excellence Award winners are:

**Excellence in Program Leadership** – Emely Sosa, Clinical Supervisor, Gandara Center. In just two years at the Gandara Center, Sosa has made her mark on her team, the organization, and the human services sector. Managing staff that had newly arrived from Spanish speaking countries, she developed culturally competent resources, equipping staff members to effectively do their job. Sosa played a pivotal part in designing various initiatives to identify challenges, opportunities, and ideas at all levels of the agency to make meaningful improvements. As an active member of The Caring Force, she has met with legislators to advocate for change in the field.

**Scott M. Bock Force for Change Award** – Ellen Bruder-Moore Abramowitz, Vice President of Housing and Community Initiatives, Community Counseling of Bristol County. Abramowitz’s commitment to behavioral health and human services has remained unwavering for nearly five decades. She played a pivotal role in opening one of the Commonwealth’s first co-occurring enhanced residential recovery programs, which she now oversees. In nearly 20 years, Abramowitz has acquired over \$20 million in funding for



Emely Sosa, Clinical Supervisor, Gandara Center.

programs that have decreased homelessness and increased recovery, self-sustainability, and workforce development.

**Moe Armstrong Award for Peer Leadership** – Keith Scott, Vice President of Peer Support & Self Advocacy, Advocates. For over three decades, Scott has been a dedicated human services professional. Moving up the ranks from the original peer specialist at Advocates, today he is an established leader to over 45 peer specialists and recovery coaches. Scott is internationally known for his principled leadership and advocacy in the sector. He spearheaded The Living Room at Advocates, a fully peer-led, 24-hour crisis alternative to emergency departments and hospitals. It is the only program of its kind in Greater Boston and is available to anyone.

**Robert Dowart Mental Health Award** – Pam Bolarinho, Vice President of Acute Care Services, Child & Family Services. Bolarinho’s work decreases unnecessary hospitalizations and criminal justice involvement, and increases accessible care throughout Southern Massachusetts. She

has created a highly-successful co-response ride-along program, pairing behavioral health clinicians with local police departments in New Bedford, Fall River, and Plymouth to respond to behavioral health crises. She also spearheaded the development and funding of two mobile crisis vans serving New Bedford, Fall River, and Plymouth residents.

**Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Award** – Felicia Heywood, Executive Vice President, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, BAMS, and Sonia D’Alarcao, Vice President, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, BAMS. Heywood and D’Alarcao lead BAMS’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility (DEI-JA) department, which assesses, reviews, and implements change throughout the agency’s culture, practices, and policies. Heywood and D’Alarcao share best practices with the broader provider community and at conferences and symposia. The duo’s contributions have been paramount in fostering a more inclusive environment for the BAMS workforce and the populations it serves.

**Excellence in Administration and Finance** – Talent Acquisition Team, Riverside Community Care. Riverside’s Talent Acquisition Team has far exceeded record employee recruitment and retention rates over the organization’s four-decade history. Composed of just five individuals, the team manages talent acquisition for the 1,800 employee agency that operates 118 programs in 75 different locations. Achieving a 42 percent reduction in staff vacancies over the past year and an over 10 percent decline in employee turnover rate, the team has enabled Riverside to fulfill its mission.

**Excellence in Best Prac-**

**tices** – Dimitris Niflis, Senior Therapeutic Mentor, The Home for Little Wanderers. Niflis provides structured, strength-based support services to children and adolescents who are at-risk, abused, or neglected to address daily living, social, and communications needs. He utilizes a variety of therapeutic interventions, innovatively tailoring them to individual needs and interests, including cognitive behavioral therapy, narrative therapy, and Sensory Motor Arousal Regulation Treatment. Due to his expertise, Niflis is assigned cases involving intense need. Many of the youth he has served graduate from the program and have their cases closed due to the significant progress made in their treatment.

**Excellence in Outcomes** – CSO Best Practices Committee, Clinical & Support Options Inc. Since 2013, the CSO Best Practices Committee has driven innovations in care, integration of new models, and sustainability of high-quality treatment through robust evaluation and collaboration to achieve extraordinary outcomes for the individuals served by Clinical

& Support Options Inc.. By continuously analyzing program outcomes and service delivery data, the committee remains agile in addressing evolving community needs while staying firmly grounded in best practice standards. The team’s success is evidenced by statistically significant outcome improvements among children and youth served, as identified by independent evaluators.

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) represents more than 80 organizations that are the primary providers of community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts. Their nearly 50,000 dedicated employees provide clinically effective and cost-sensitive care to more than 80,000 individuals on any given day in communities throughout the state. ABH is recognized as the leading statewide association advocating for the preservation, promotion and advancement of community-based mental health and addiction services. Visit [www.abhmass.org](http://www.abhmass.org) and [www.strengthenmentalhealthcenters.org](http://www.strengthenmentalhealthcenters.org) for more information.

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Bradley // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ementary School as this year’s School on the Move winner, and we extend our deep admiration to the finalists for their remarkable efforts to ensure every student is known, supported, and inspired to thrive.”

Bradley Elementary School in East Boston serves over 300 students. The Bradley’s improvement has focused on implementing high-impact instructional strategies, fostering teacher collaboration, and cultivating an inclusive, welcoming environment. Over the past five years, Bradley has also transformed its approach to instruction for English learners and students with disabilities, resulting in academic gains across all areas. In 2025, the Bradley made 81 percent cumulative progress toward accountability targets, with the strongest growth and achievement in math, outpacing the district’s average progress toward accountability targets by over 30 percentage points.

Each year, EdVestors compiles the stories and data from each finalist school to identify effective practices that can be adapted and scaled across Boston Public Schools.

Mayor Michelle Wu joined the celebration to celebrate each of the school communities.

“Boston’s public schools are filled with brilliance, dedication, and possibility, and today’s School on the Move finalists show what it looks like when a school community

works together to help every student thrive,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to EdVestors for recognizing the Bradley Elementary School as this year’s School on the Move Prize winner, and we applaud all of the finalists for their leadership and continued progress. Their work is strengthening our city and opening doors of opportunity for students across Boston.”

Bradley Elementary will receive \$80,000 in cash, with \$20,000 designated toward best practice research. Fellow finalist schools –Dante Alighieri Montessori School (East Boston) and UP Academy Dorchester –will receive a \$20,000 award, double the usual runner-up prize, thanks to a generous anonymous donor.

“Congratulations to the entire Bradley Elementary School community on this recognition! The Bradley exemplifies our district priorities every day and uses every minute of the day to drive academic outcomes in a caring and loving school,” said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. “It takes a village to help every student thrive, and the schools recognized today are powerful examples of that shared effort. When educators, school leaders, families, and students come together with a deep commitment to learning and growth, our communities are stronger for it. Each finalist has demonstrated what’s possible through collaboration, high



Bradley Elementary School Principal Claire Carney hugs Mayor Michelle Wu after winning the School on the Move Prize.

expectations, and a belief in every student’s potential. I want to congratulate the Bradley on being named this year’s School on the Move winner and thank all of our finalists for inspiring us all.”

The School on the Move Prize is made possible by generous support of the presenting sponsor – the James M. & Cathleen D. Stone Foundation – along with other 2025 generous sponsors: National University Harmony Academy, Charlotte Foundation, Fidelity Investments, National Grid, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Plymouth Rock Assurance Foundation, EY, Eastern Bank Foundation, Fiduciary Trust, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Parker Family Foundation, Simon Brothers Family Foundation, State Street, Vertex, Christine and David Letts, Goldman Sachs, Insource Services, Seaport by WS Development, Bauer Family, Loomis Sayles, Modera Wealth Management, New England Patriots Foundation, Rockland Trust Bank, Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation, Delta, HMH, Microsoft, and Red Sox Foundation among other generous corporations, foundations, and individuals.

EdVestors’ mission is to ad-



Bradley Elementary School Principal Claire Carney hugs a colleague after winning the School on the Move Prize.



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vance equitable, meaningful education that prepares every Boston student to activate their power and shape their future. EdVestors serves as a: Connector that partners with the district, schools, community-based organizations, higher education, and philanthropy to advance efforts in issue areas that are a priority for schools and students; Catalyst for systems change in Boston, creating pathways from classroom to career, ensuring access to arts education, improving math teaching and learning, and seeding racial equity efforts in schools; Champion that shines a light on educators and schools that create and continuously improve learning environments where all students thrive.



# Banking Expert Advice

Chamberlain's presentation was right on the money at Adams Elementary School

By Cary Shuman

The day began with a guided tour of the Samuel Adams Elementary School for a very special guest.

And that floor-by-floor tour was indeed impressive as Principal Joanna McKeigue Cruz and a student assistant showed their visitor, Bank of America President for Massachusetts Miceal Chamberlain, every aspect of the daily educational experience at the historic, 115-year-old school building.

What was most heartwarming was Principal McKeigue Ruiz's pleasant and uplifting interactions with her teachers, staff, and most importantly, the students, each of whom she

greeted enthusiastically like a family member. The students greeted Mr. Chamberlain respectfully and cordially in each of the classrooms he visited.

Chamberlain, a tall, personable gentleman, was at the school as a shining example in the Boston School Department's Principal Partners program, which is a partnership between the Boston business community and the school system and pairs business leaders with principals to learn about the school and speak to students.

Chamberlain would ultimately meet with the sixth-grade students at the Adams School to discuss smart money habits and illuminate on banks and their invaluable role in the world.

Chamberlain began his presentation humbly, offering a glimpse of his personal background.

"It's great to be with you, so I thank you for letting me come and visit the Adams School – it's quite a building," said Chamberlain. "As sixth graders, you have a great future in front of you."

Chamberlain said he had three brothers and "I grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, so not far from here."

"I went to school in Brookline and then went to college up in New Hampshire (world-renowned Ivy League institution Dartmouth College)," continued Chamberlain, adding that he was a parent of four sons, who all attended college, "worked hard, and are now

doing well, and they all have jobs."

"You have the opportunity to do the same with the great education you're getting at the Adams School," said Chamberlain.

Chamberlain asked the students the question, "What do banks do?"

"[Banks] hold your money in a safe place, and when you need it for something, you can go to the bank and take money back out, it's your money," a student responded.

Chamberlain asked the students what they do with their allowances and was excited when he heard the word "save" from one of the students.

"When you get a little older, maybe seventh or eighth grader or in high school, you might have a job that pays you a little more money, and at that point, that's a pretty good opportunity to talk to your parents and say, 'Maybe I should have my own bank account,'" said Chamberlain, noting that accounts earn interest.

"The reason you do that is as you're making more money, you really want to have your



Adams School Principal Joanna McKeigue Cruz gives a hearty welcome to East Boston to Chamberlain, Bank of America President for Massachusetts.

money in a safe place, and that's what banks are there for."

Chamberlain inquired of the students what they would want to purchase with their money and the students' responses ranged from jewelry, clothing, and a printer, to soccer tickets.

"Do we have a lot of soccer fans here?" asked Chamberlain.

Chamberlain concluded his presentation by answering each of the students' thoughtful questions with directness and sincerity.

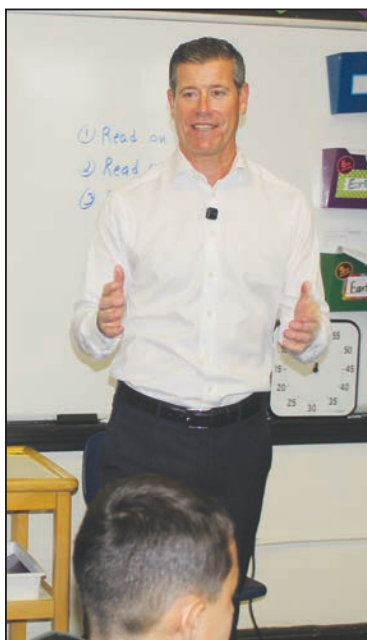
He noted that the first bank

"was actually a Massachusetts bank in Boston, and it started in 1782, just a few years after our country began [on July 4, 1776]," adding a touch of U.S. history to his well-received presentation.

## McKeigue Ruiz lauds Principal Partners Program

McKeigue Cruz, principal at the Adams School for nine years, deemed the entire financial literacy program a success

See BANKING Page 7



Bank of America President for Massachusetts, Miceal Chamberlain, delivers his opening remarks to his presentation at the Samuel Adams Elementary School in East Boston.



Adams Elementary School Principal Joanne McKeigue Cruz and Bank of America President for Massachusetts Miceal Chamberlain are pictured as part of the Boston School Department's Principal Partners program, a partnership between the Boston business community and the school system.

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# Wu celebrates progress of Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub amid SNAP emergency

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu gathered with partners of the Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub for a one-year progress update on the Hub's operations as partners work to address food insecurity exacerbated by the federal government shutdown and delay in SNAP benefits. In its first year of operations, the Food Access Hub served an average of 20,000 individuals every month, distributing almost 62,000 pounds of produce, on average, every single week. In one year, organizations collaborating through the Food Access Hub have distributed over 1,700,000 pounds of food to residents in need, which is the equivalent of almost 1.5 mil-

lion meals made possible. The Food Access Hub also recovered 164,000 pounds of food that would have otherwise been wasted, rescuing the equivalent of 4 tractor trailers filled with food from being sent to landfills.

The Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub is a 27,000 square-foot warehouse space managed by the YMCA of Greater Boston, in partnership with 8 anti-poverty, food access, and food recovery organizations, with support from the City of Boston's Office of Food Justice and Mass General Brigham and serves as a regional center for recovering, storing, and distributing fresh and healthy food to address food insecurity across Boston. Located at 30 Northampton Street

in Roxbury, the Hub supports the Wu Administration's strategy of unlocking larger-scale recovery from food manufacturing and distribution companies not previously possible without this scale of storage and collaboration, while simultaneously supporting expanded access to fresh produce for food distribution sites around the City.

"In the face of growing food insecurity, our city departments and community partners have worked tirelessly to protect our residents and coordinate all available resources," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am grateful for the many partners who have gone above and beyond to collaborate. The Greater Boston Collaborate Food Access Hub has helped expand our capacity to ensure every family in Boston has access to the nutritious food they need to be happy, healthy, and safe."

The emergency food system in Boston faced unprecedented demand during the pandemic and remains strained today. As food prices continue to soar, and Boston faces some of the highest grocery prices in the country, the need for storage — particularly cold storage — is critical. The Food Access Hub takes direct action on several recommendations from the Office of Food Justice's Food Recovery Assessment Report, released in November 2024, which identified an increased need for collaboration and cold storage infrastructure among organizations serving food insecure residents. In addition to supporting the Hub, the Office of Food Justice also awarded 12 grants, totaling \$500,000, to support neighborhood-based food distribution non-profits in procuring expanded cold storage for perishable food, including recovered and donated food.

The Food Access Hub partnership dovetails with action earlier this month by the City and the Boston Foundation to launch a Fund to keep food on the table for residents impacted by the federal uncertainty surrounding SNAP funding. Two weeks ago, the City and the Foundation seeded the effort with an initial \$1 million, and thanks to the Boston Foundation and generous partners, commitments to the Fund have grown to \$3.2 million. To-date, \$2 million has been distributed to the Greater Boston Food

Bank and more than 60 food pantries and community-based organizations across Boston and the region. As part of this effort, the YMCA of Greater Boston has also received funds to work with a dozen partners to deliver more than 10,000 grocery gift cards to residents to purchase food at local stores.

"Mayor Wu's swift, compassionate leadership in this moment of federal failure reflects the best of our communities values, and the Boston Foundation is proud to stand with her—and with our remarkable community of donors—to ensure our neighbors don't go hungry," said Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. "Together, we are rallying the generosity and commitment of this community to support the food banks, pantries, and frontline organizations working tirelessly to make sure every family in Greater Boston has fresh and healthy food."

According to the National Resource Defense Council, an estimated 130,000 tons of food are wasted in Boston each year from the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, comprising over 25 percent of all waste. In 2023, the City of Boston signed onto the Milan Food Policy Pact, the world's first international agreement focused on urban food policies, guiding cities toward sustainable, equitable food systems. In March 2024, Mayor Wu and Boston City Council allocated \$2 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act to launch the Food Access Hub — a pilot project based on Milan, Italy's innovative Food Waste Hubs — and support cold storage at additional sites across the City. Mass General Brigham later committed \$3 million in September 2025 to support the project over 5 years and will evaluate how the project impacts local health outcomes.

The YMCA of Greater Boston has partnered with 30 local food access, food recovery, and food system organizations to develop a strategy and collaborative structures, leased the former Amazon warehouse at 30 Northampton Street with 5,500 square feet of refrigeration and freezer space, and begun working with partners to expand the Food Access Hub's food recovery and distribution operations. "Recent events even fur-

ther illustrate how critical it is that we have the most innovative, collaborative, efficient food system possible to meet the needs of our neighbors," said David Shapiro, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "This collaborative food hub is more than a storage and distribution center — it's a model for how we can remove barriers, share capacity, and collaborate, as individuals and organizations, to reduce waste, increase access to fresh and nutritious foods, and strengthen the resilience of communities across Boston. None of this happens alone. We are grateful to Mayor Wu, the City Council, Mass General Brigham, and our partners across the city who believe, as we do, that reliable access to healthy food is a fundamental part of community health and thriving."

"At Mass General Brigham, we believe that food is medicine and that investing in partnerships like the Food Access Hub strengthens the foundation for long-term health," said Dr. Elsie Taveras, Chief Community Health and Health Equity Officer at Mass General Brigham. "Our research shows that one in three Massachusetts residents faces food insecurity, underscoring how urgent this work is. By embedding these efforts directly in the neighborhoods we serve and collaborating with organizations that know these communities best, we can make nutritious food more accessible, support better management of chronic disease, and move closer to creating a healthier Boston for everyone."

"Like many cities around the world, far too much food comes to Boston but does not get consumed, which is why 8 percent of all global carbon emissions come from food waste," said Brian Swett, Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston. "This Hub is a win-win for Boston, putting healthy and nutritious food on the tables of families in need while simultaneously reducing our City's carbon footprint."

"The model of the Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub has demonstrated the value of investment in a more resilient and collaborative food system that creates

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Banking // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and an outstanding experience for her students.

“It’s just nice to have the partnership between the business community and the schools,” said McKeigue Cruz. “The more we can create those partnerships, and the more people can see that education goes beyond the four walls of our school, the better our students will be. I think continued partnerships between businesses and the school system is essential.”

The school leader wasn’t surprised by her sixth graders’ incisive questions to Mr. Chamberlain who responded to each student with expertise and aplomb.

“It showed that the students were actually thinking about financial planning and about how they could start thinking about saving money for the future,” said McKeigue Cruz. “You could tell that our students had done some pre-work thanks to the teachers. We have an amazing staff at the Adams who really want to push the deeper learning for our students.”

McKeigue Cruz praised Boston Region Superintendent Dr. Tommy Welch, Boston Region 1 Superintendent, for his efforts in supporting and advancing the Adams School for school staff, students and their families.

“Dr. Welch is always helpful. He is a true advocate for the students and the staff and the families of East Boston,” credited McKeigue Cuiz.

Food Access // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

collaboration that builds on our strengths,” said Aliza Wasserman, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Food Justice. “We intend to continue our progress until we have drastically reduced the amount of fresh, healthy food that goes to waste while our neighbors struggle to afford nutritious, culturally relevant food.”

“Our work to address skyrocketing food insecurity by maximizing scaled food recovery opportunities is drastically improved through this partnership” said Rachel Albert, Executive Director of Food Link. “The radical collaboration in every phase from visioning to operations will allow us to maximize this infrastructure investment.”

The Greater Boston YMCA and the City of Boston are currently working with partners across the city to develop a network with innovative, grocery-style pilot distribution centers for fresh food. The City anticipates this phase of the pilot project to begin in early 2026.

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The way our hearts skip  
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That ties us to you,  
In a world that keeps moving without you,  
And we'll never let it go.*

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Love always  
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Stephen, Gianna and Mia

25th Anniversary




ANGELO RALPH VOTO  
Nov. 22nd 2000

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# NeighborHealth and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute partner to expand cancer care access for under-served communities

Special to the Times-Free Press

NeighborHealth announced today the launch of a new partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, bringing world-renowned cancer expertise directly to NeighborHealth patients to help close persistent gaps in cancer diagnosis and

treatment. The partnership will help reduce wait times for cancer diagnostics, expand community awareness of and access to cancer care, and build greater trust between patients and providers.

The new relationship was made possible by Dana-Farber's Cancer Care Access

Program, a clinical outreach initiative designed to reduce differences in cancer outcomes among local communities. On November 12, Dana-Farber held its first on-site cancer clinic in East Boston for patients of NeighborHealth, the state's largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).



Cancer care access leaders gather in NeighborHealth's Adult Medicine department. (From left to right) Dr. Mothusi Chilume, medical director, NeighborHealth; Dr. Christopher Lathan, chief clinical access officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Stecy Casseus, specialties administrative director, NeighborHealth; Laura Garber, PA-C, Dana Farber Cancer Institute; and Mimi Gardner, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer, NeighborHealth.

Staffed by a multidisciplinary team, and supported by cancer specialists, the bi-weekly clinics will provide a range of cancer-related clinical services in a community setting, including cancer screening and diagnostic workups, follow-up and survivorship care, reconnection to cancer treatment, referrals for second opinions, genetic cancer risk evaluation, and patient navigation and education.

"The goal is simple but profound," said Mimi Gardner, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer for NeighborHealth. "By partnering with Dana-Farber, we can more easily connect our patients with expert cancer care while also reaching into communities to identify cancer earlier, remove access barriers, and address the underlying social conditions that create health disparities. We are thrilled to bring new life-saving options for care to our patients."

Cancer disparities remain well-documented in the United States, especially among Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic populations. According to the National Foundation for Cancer Research, cancer remains the leading cause of death among the Hispanic population in the United States. Lack of access to quality care often results in later treatment which is often more difficult and less successful. At NeighborHealth, more than 65% of patients identify as Hispanic/Latino and 85% of patients are at or below the federal poverty level. This partnership is expected to sig-

nificantly expand access to timely cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment for these communities, helping to close long-standing gaps.

"At Dana-Farber, we've long recognized that bringing world-class care into the community is essential to achieving true equity in cancer outcomes," said Dr. Christopher Lathan, chief clinical access officer at Dana-Farber. "Through the Cancer Care Access Program, we've partnered with trusted community health centers to embed Dana-Farber clinicians and navigators directly where patients already receive their primary care. This co-location model has proven that when you remove barriers - whether geographic, financial, or cultural - you can dramatically improve access to screening, speed up diagnosis, and ultimately save lives."

For patients with active cancer issues, the Cancer Care Access Program navigates care to Dana-Farber or another appropriate cancer treatment center that is convenient for the patient. For benign or non-urgent cases, the program connects patients to specialty care for follow-up.

"We're incredibly hopeful about the difference this partnership will make," said Ludmila Svoboda, nurse director of the Cancer Care Access Program at Dana-Farber. "By bringing Dana-Farber's expertise directly into NeighborHealth, we're meeting patients



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# Cancer Care // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

where they are and offering access to earlier detection and treatment, as well as the compassion and support that every person facing cancer deserves. Our aim is to bring high-quality care closer to home and to bring hope to every patient we serve.”

NeighborHealth adult patients can be referred to the cancer clinic by their primary care provider for any cancer-related concern. Currently, clinics will be held twice a month at NeighborHealth’s Adult Medicine department in the Taylor Building at 10 Gove Street in East Boston. Additional clinics may be added based on demand.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston’s South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit [www.neighborhealth.com](http://www.neighborhealth.com).

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world’s leading centers of cancer research and treatment. Dana-Farber’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement and advocacy. Dana-Farber is a federally designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

Dana-Farber is the only hospital nationwide with a top 3 U.S. News & World Report Best Cancer Hospital ranking in both adult and pediatric care.

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# Boston and Northeastern announce new five-year pilot agreement and ten-year institutional master plan, including historic commitments on housing and community benefits

Special to the Times-Free Press

The City of Boston and Northeastern University announced landmark agreements on an Institutional Master Plan (IMP) and Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT), which include unprecedented housing commitments and community benefits for the City and neighborhoods around Northeastern. The IMP includes approximately \$62.5 million in community benefits over the next 10 years, as well as \$16.5 million in community benefits and \$6 million in linkage associated with the Matthews Arena redevelopment. The new PILOT agreement includes a commitment of more than \$49 million in cash and community benefits over the next five years.

“Boston thrives when our leading institutions match their global reach with a deep commitment to our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Through these landmark agreements, Northeastern will deliver much-needed on-campus student housing, redevelop the historic Matthews Arena for its next chapter in this city of champions, invest tens of millions for affordable housing and community benefits, and respond to important neighborhood feedback with improvements to public access at Carter Playground and resources for planning and beautification in Nubian Square. Our five-year PILOT agreement sets a new standard for higher annual cash payments and community benefits at a time when Boston taxpayers need relief. This agreement is proof that even in an uncertain time, Boston can come together with our institutional partners to move the city forward.”

“Northeastern’s Institutional Master Plan represents a balanced approach that allows the University to invest in its institutional growth with a renewed commitment to housing stabilization for the surrounding communities,” said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. “I look forward to working with Northeastern to realize the historic and transformative plans in this IMP.”

The IMP enables eight new projects that the University plans to pursue over the next ten years, including on-campus

student housing, the long-planned redevelopment of Matthews Arena, and academic spaces. Significant investments in housing, jobs, and community development are associated with these proposed projects, each of which will go through the Article 80 development review process run by the City’s Planning Department.

“The approval of the new Institutional Master Plan marks a significant milestone in the ongoing development of Northeastern University’s Boston campus to support our academic mission,” said Northeastern VP & Chief of Planning, Real Estate and Facilities Kathy Spiegelman. “We look forward to working closely with the City and our community partners as we bring this vision to life, ensuring that our physical campus continues to meet the evolving needs of our students, faculty, staff, and the broader Boston community.”

## Housing Commitments

Under the IMP, Northeastern will contribute \$10 million over the next ten years to invest in housing stabilization in the city. This money will be allocated to the City’s Housing Stabilization Fund, Acquisition Opportunity Fund, or other City housing programs. In addition, in response to calls from the community Task Force that Northeastern reduce the demand for off-campus housing, which impacts surrounding neighborhoods, the University made specific commitments to bring down the off-campus student population. Building on the momentum of the new 1,215-bed residential tower at 840 Columbus, which broke ground in August, the University set a further target to deliver an additional 1,000 new student beds in the next five years. The City will continue monitoring students’ off campus housing impact through the University Accountability Ordinance report. For the first time, should the University increase its off-campus student population, the City will require Northeastern to develop a mitigation plan and seek City approval through a public hearing at the BPDA Board.

“Reclaim Roxbury thanks both Mayor Wu’s Administration and Northeastern Univer-

sity for negotiating a stronger and more equitable Institutional Master Plan that reflects our community’s advocacy. We’re proud that our collective efforts helped secure \$1,000,000 annually to support housing stabilization for Roxbury residents” said Reclaim Roxbury Executive Director and Northeastern Task Force Member, Armani White. “We also appreciate Northeastern’s responsiveness to community and City calls for greater transparency, accountability, and partnership, resulting in stronger commitments to build more on-campus student housing, hire local and MWBE contractors, and expand community access to Carter Playground and the Field Bubble. These wins are proof that when residents, the City, and our institutions work together, we can achieve shared prosperity rooted in equity and respect.”

## Redeveloping Matthews Arena

The IMP also includes the long-planned redevelopment of Matthews Arena, which is set to begin immediately. Matthews was built in 1910, burned down in 1918, and was replaced with the current structure in 1920. Previously known as Boston Arena, this facility was the original home of the Boston Bruins and Celtics; hosted rallies for Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Howard Taft, and FDR; receptions for Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart; and the funeral of Boston sports icon Reggie Lewis. While the historic integrity of this structure was significantly impacted by renovations and additions in 1950, the redeveloped arena will preserve and incorporate the terracotta arches still remaining from the original 1920 arena. The new arena will include basketball and hockey facilities, general fitness and recreation space, and create new athletic and recreational opportunities for community members. The project will include public realm improvements including new sidewalks and landscaping on St. Botolph Street and Gainsborough Street.

The multi-purpose arena project will contribute \$5,025,800 in Linkage funding in support of affordable housing, and \$977,600 in Linkage

funding in support of workforce training. The project will fund an expansion of the pedestrian space on Gainsborough Street and accessibility improvements to a nearby MBTA station. The arena will also include bike parking, a bikeshare station, and a \$130,200 contribution to the Boston Transportation Department in support of the bikeshare system and expanding access to alternative forms of transportation. The terra cotta arches marking the entrance of the existing building will be salvaged and reinstalled in the lobby of the new building and there will be exhibits on the history of the arena to preserve its importance to the University and City. The new arena will also be sustainably designed with the use of geothermal wells and solar panels.

## IMP Community Benefits

Northeastern will extend a broad range of community benefits negotiated in its last IMP. The University remains committed to its partnership with the Boston Public Schools, including meeting the full demonstrated need of all admitted students and offering pre-college programming to ensure BPS students are college-ready. The City and the University will engage and collaborate on consolidating, adapting, and creating new innovative programs to ensure that what is offered remains effective and of value to the community.

The University is also renewing its commitment to the local and MWBE procurement goals from the 2013 IMP. These goals include 20% of all University discretionary spending to SLBEs and 12% to MWBEs as well as 30% of design and construction spending to MBEs and 10% to WBEs. Northeastern’s combined FY24 supplier spend across all under-represented businesses totaled approximately \$335.54 million. As part of this renewed commitment, the University has agreed to contract with a consultant to explore methods and tools to achieve these spending goals within this new IMP term.

Under the IMP, the Boston Parks Department and University will amend their decade-old license agreement Carter Playground in response to commu-

nity feedback to expand the evening and weekend hours of BPS and community use of the athletic fields and tennis courts, which are maintained by the University. The revised agreement will expand afterschool, evening, and weekend hours on the fields during all seasons, and under the winter Bubble, allowing more BPS teams and community clubs to make active use of these facilities. The agreement will also improve signage and scoreboard and restroom access to make the fields a better resource for all community members. Northeastern has also committed to annual reviews of this arrangement, and future negotiations after the completion of the new arena to further expand community access.

“Carter Playground is a public park and one of the busiest and most important athletic facilities in Boston,” said Interim Parks Commissioner, Cathy Baker-Eclipse. “We are pleased that the updated agreement will give BPS student athletes and community groups even more access to these excellent facilities, during all seasons, and we thank Northeastern for their continued partnership.”

## Community Space

The University will operate a space with community focused programming on the ground floor of their new dorm building at 840 Columbus Avenue which is currently under construction at a cost of approximately \$20 million over the next ten years. Programming in this space will support educational access, jobs and workforce development, small business support, and building capacity for existing community organizations that address economic development.

## Landmark PILOT Agreement

Beyond commitments included in the new IMP, Northeastern has agreed to a new five-year Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) agreement with the City, which includes cash and community benefits commitments of more than \$49 million over this period.

Northeastern has been a



## IN THE ARTS

# NSMT presents the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of 'A Christmas Carol - A Musical Ghost Story'

Special to the Independent

The Holiday Season will light up once again when Bill Hanney's North Shore Music Theatre (NSMT) presents the area's most beloved production of A Christmas Carol for its 36th Anniversary production from Thursday, December 4 through Sunday, December 21, 2025. A Christmas Carol is sponsored by American Family Care, Urgent Care.

"There is no better way to end North Shore Music Theatre's 70th Anniversary season than with our spirited annual production of A Christmas Carol," said NSMT's owner and producer Bill Hanney. "Presenting this production each year fills us all with the Holiday spirit and our Christmas Carol family would not be complete without welcoming David Coffee and Cheryl McMahon back as Ebenezer Scrooge and Mrs. Dilber for their 31st year. I am honored to continue to produce this masterpiece that is such an important part of so many

families' Holiday traditions, including my own."

A Christmas Carol is the original adaptation of Charles Dickens' beloved classic was created by former NSMT Artistic Director Jon Kimbell and members of the NSMT staff, following Ebenezer Scrooge through a series of strange and magical ghostly encounters, where he ultimately discovers the true spirit of the Holiday season. Featuring traditional songs like "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman," "Here We Come A-Wassailing," "The Boar's Head Carol," and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas," and colorful costumes, A Christmas Carol has become a Holiday favorite throughout New England having been seen by more than one million people since 1989.

David Coffee and Cheryl McMahon will both return for their 31st year playing Ebenezer Scrooge and Mrs. Dilber respectively. A Christmas Carol also features Daniella Dalli as The Ghost of Christmas Past/Mrs. Cratchit, Davron S. Monroe as

The Ghost of Christmas Present/Philanthropist 1, Nathan Haltiwanger as The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come/Young Scrooge, Mark Worth as Jacob Marley, Tommy Labanaris as the Narrator, Kevin Patrick Martinas Bob Cratchit, Amy Bransky and Resa Mishina as the Pearlies, Henry Thrasher as Fred, Caroline Siegrist as Belle/Meg, Russell Garrett as Mr. Fezziwig/Philanthropist 2, Chris Graham as Dick Wilkins/Ensemble, Chris Isolano as Old Joe/Ensemble, Nicole Weitzman as Mrs. Fezziwig/Ensemble, Meagan Lewis-Michelson as Ensemble, Emily Song Tyler as Ensemble, and Henry H. Miller as Ensemble.

The cast of A Christmas Carol will be rounded out by two casts of local youth performers including Fiona Kelly and Ainsley Moulton as Tiny Tim/Want, Jack Baumrind and Bentley Scott as Peter Cratchit, Adalyn Daly and Grace Olah as Martha Cratchit, Alexandra D'Onofrio and Ella Tugender as Belinda Cratchit, Piper Lane and

Corinne Sweeney as Fan, Joseph Hobbib and Nicholas Shay as Boy Scrooge/Ignorance, Violet Black and Helen Brady as London Child #1 & Penelope Kaminsky and Regan Shanahan as London Child #2.

The creative team for A Christmas Carol includes Kevin P. Hill (Director & Choreographer), Milton Granger (Music Direction), Howard C. Jones (Original Scenic Design), Jack Mehler (Lighting Design), Leon Rothenberg (Sound Design), Pamela Hersch (Projection Design), Gerard Kelly (Original Wig & Hair Design), Rebecca Glick (Costume Coordinator/Additional Costume Design), Brian M. Robillard (Production Stage Manager), Robert L. Rucinski (Assistant Music Director), Dakotah Wiley Horan (Assistant Stage Manager), and Maria Papadopoulos (Assistant Stage Manager). Flying effects are provided by ZFX, Inc.

A Christmas Carol is produced for North Shore Music Theatre by Bill Hanney (Owner/Producer), Kevin P. Hill (Pro-

ducing Artistic Director), and Matthew Chappell (Associate Producer & Casting Director).

NSMT will be collecting toys in the lobby for Tiny Tim's Toy Drive throughout the run of A Christmas Carol. NSMT will be accepting unopened, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 2 - 12. All toys will be donated to Toys for Tots.

Tickets for A Christmas Carol are priced starting at \$40 - Kids 4 - 18 years of age save 50% at all performances December 5 - 21. Group discounts are available for purchases of 10 or more tickets. \$25 Student Rush tickets are available. For tickets and information call 978-232-7200, visit [www.nsmnt.org](http://www.nsmnt.org), or visit the box office in person at 54 Dunham Rd., Beverly, MA.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL performs from December 4 - December 21, 2024 (Evening shows December 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, and 21 at 7:30pm; Matinees December 6, 7, 10, 13, 14,

See NSMT Page 12

## Lyric Stage Boston presents 'A Sherlock Carol'

Special to the Independent

Extra dashes of laughter and intrigue make A Sherlock Carol a cozy cup of yuletide cheer and the perfect holiday treat for all. Under the direction of Ilyse Robbins, the tales of Sherlock Holmes and A Christmas Carol come together like you've never seen before.

Moriarity is as dead as a doornail. Sherlock Holmes is depressed. Without his number one adversary, what's the point of it all? Enter a grown-up Tiny Tim and the mysterious death of everyone's favorite humbug and it's a festive literary mash-up with surprises around every corner. This fresh and charming reimaging of two of the most beloved literary characters is a "Dickens" of a yuletide detective story that's as "good as gold." Six actors transform before your eyes in a playful, clever, and joyous holiday comedy that is "elementary" for a festive outing sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Director Ilyse Robbins° says. "If you're a Sherlock Holmes

fan at all and you love Dickens' holiday classic A Christmas Carol, this is the show for you. This script is the smartest and wittiest mash-up you can imagine. With a killer cast."

Performances begin Friday, November 14 and run through Sunday, December 21.

Featuring Leigh Barrett\*, Christopher Chew\*, Mark Linehan\*, Paul Melendy\*, Michelle Moran, and Jon Vellante\*.

Scenic Design by Erik D. Diaz\*\*, Costume Design by Sophia Barimidze, Lighting Design by SeifAllah Saloto-Cristobal\*\*, Sound Design by Alex Berg, Props Artisan, Julia Wonkka.

Leigh Barrett\* (Actor 4) – Lyric Stage-The Last Five Years (directorial debut), Sister Act (director), A Gentlemen's Guide To Love and Murder (ensemble), Souvenir (Florence), Gypsy (Rose), Company (JoAnne), Sondheim on Sondheim, City of Angels (Donna/Oolie), Grey Gardens (Little Edie/Big Edie), The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (Gruden/

Peg), Big River (Miss Watson/Sally Phelps), Animal Crackers (Mrs. Rittenhouse), Follies (Sally), A Little Night Music (Countess Charlotte), The Mikado (Katisha), Nuncrackers (Sr Hubert), Sunday in the Park with George (Frieda). Leigh has appeared on many Boston area stages including New Repertory Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Greater Boston Stage Company, North Shore Music Theater, Gloucester Stage, Bridge Rep, Central Square Theatre, and Reagle Music Theatre. She is a four-time Elliot Norton Award recipient including the prize for Sustained Excellence. Proud member of Actor's Equity. Love to HB and my boys, Nick and Matt.

Christopher Chew\* (Scrooge) – Lyric Stage: Urinetown: The Musical (Caldwell B. Cladwell), Assassins (Charles J. Guiteau) My Fair Lady (Henry Higgins), Sondheim on Sondheim (Man 2), Sweeney Todd (Sweeney), Working (Man 2), Man of La Mancha (Don Quixote), Uri-

netown: The Musical (Lockstock), Shakespeare in Hollywood (Oberon), A Little Night Music (Fredrik), Sunday in the Park with George (George), It's All True (Blitzstein), Side Show (Terry), 1776 (Rutledge), and The Spitfire Grill (Joe). Other credits include multiple productions at The Huntington, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Greater Boston Stage Company, Wheelock Family Theater, Hanover Theater, and more recently Reagle Music Theater's South Pacific (Emile). Christopher earned his BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University, an MAT in English from Fitchburg State University, and an Ed.D. from Northeastern University.

Paul Melendy\* (Sherlock) – Lyric Stage: The Drowsy Chaperone (Man in Chair). The Huntington: A Confederacy of Dunces (Mancuso), M (Man). Merrimack Repertory Theatre: The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley (Brian), A Christmas Carol (Fred et al). Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: ART (Yvan), As You

Like It (Silvius), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Flute), The Taming of the Shrew (Curtis). Greater Boston Stage Company: Featherbaby (Featherbaby), The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (solo show), Clue (Wadsworth), The Play That Goes Wrong (Chris), Dinner for One (James), Miss Holmes Returns (Moriarty). Central Square Theater: The Mystery of Irma Vep (2026 Lady Enid et al), Vanity Fair (Dobbin et al). Gloucester Stage Company: The Garbolologists (Danny), The 39 Steps (Clown), Cyrano (De Guiche et al). Film and Television: Julia, At the Sea, Love, Weddings, & Other Disasters, Father of the Year, Unfinished Business, The Makeover, The Pink Panther Deux. Paul is a graduate of Salem State University and the recipient of the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Solo Performance. Thank you for your gracious attendance and Happy Holidays to all! paulmelendy.com

See LYRIC STAGE Page 14



SCENES FROM THE MAYOR’S CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT

COURTESY PHOTOS



5th/6th EBFC girls and boys teams.

Mayor’s Cup Soccer Tournament and Festival, returned to Moakley Park in South Boston on Friday, November 7 through Sunday, November 9.

Young athletes from across Boston will competed for the title of “Boston’s Best” in both competitive and recreational divisions. Teams

Tournament play was organized into two divisions. The Premier League Di-

vision (Competitive) featured 7v7 play with a maximum roster size of 12, including Grades 3/4, Grades 5/6 , and Grades 7/8 teams for both boys and girls. The EFL Division (Recreational) also featured 7v7 play with a maximum roster size of 12 and will include Grades 3/4, Grades 5/6, and Grades 7/8 teams for both boys and girls. All participants received exclusive Mayor’s Cup swag.



**NSMT** // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

20, and 21 at 2pm). Tickets can be purchased by calling the North Shore Music Theatre Box Office at (978) 232-7200, via the website at [www.nsmt.org](http://www.nsmt.org) or in person at 54 Dunham Road (Route 128, exit 46), Beverly, MA.

Since opening in 1955, NSMT has become one of the most attended theatres in New England, with approximately 250,000 patrons annually. With a national and regional reputation for artistic achievement, NSMT has received numerous industry awards including Elliot Norton Awards, IRNE Awards, the Ro-

setta Le Noire Award from Actors' Equity, and the Moss Hart Award. NSMT produced the World Premiere of 'Memphis' in 2003, the show went on to win four 2010 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Under the new ownership of Bill Hanney since 2010, NSMT continues to annually produce a musical subscription series and an annual production of 'A Christmas Carol' along with celebrity concerts, children's programming and year-round education classes for children and adults.



SCENES FROM THE MAYOR’S CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT



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Mayor’s Cup runner-up, EBFC 4th Grade Red Team



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Northeastern // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

long-standing partner with the City of Boston through Boston’s nation-leading PILOT program, a system launched in 2012 that governs annual voluntary cash and community benefit contributions from the City’s largest private, non-profit, and tax-exempt institutions. This partnership is based on the mutual understanding that a welcoming, safe, and financially stable City which delivers high-quality essential services is critical to the continued success and financial health of Boston’s large nonprofit institutions.

The new agreement is the first written PILOT agreement between the City and Northeastern in decades, creating a predictable and reliable schedule of valuable partnership benefits for the City.

As part of the new five-year agreement, Northeastern will increase its annual PILOT cash payments to the

City from \$1,900,000 in FY25 to \$2,600,000 in FY30. This represents a 36.8% percent increase over Northeastern’s present-day PILOT contribution baseline which has not changed since 2020.

**Investments in Nubian Square**

Incremental cash contributions will support city-wide priorities, and include community investments and planning in Nubian Square and Roxbury in response to the Wu administration’s priority of investing in the vitality and opportunity in Nubian Square. Funds will support beautification and other community-led initiatives for the Square.

**PILOT Community Benefits**

Additionally, Northeastern commits to contributing annual PILOT community benefits valued at a total of \$37 million over the term of the 5-year

agreement, benefits that will be reported annually to the City and subject to annual review to align with city and community needs. This amount reflects Northeastern’s commitment to sustain and grow its baseline community benefit commitments to support public education, housing, community access to public and institutional spaces, and a mutually agreed list of other shared City and institutional priorities. Community benefits eligible to be counted toward this goal are quantifiable, directly benefit City of Boston residents, are not included in other arrangements such as IMP and Article 80 agreements, and are not part of the core mission and services of the institution.

Northeastern and the City commit to renewing a mutually agreeable voluntary PILOT agreement before expiration of the proposed five-year agreement on June 30, 2030.



## Lyric Stage // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Mark Linehan\* (Actor 3)  
– Lyric Stage: Hello, Dolly! (Rudolph) The Drowsy Chap-  
erone (George), Follies. Great-  
er Boston Stage Company: The  
Play That Goes Wrong (Rob-  
ert), Titanish (Cal Hockley),  
Clue (Professor Plum), Onegin  
(Evgeny Onegin), It's A Won-  
derful Life (George Bailey).  
Wheelock Family Theater: The  
SpongeBob Musical (Squid-  
ward), Beauty and the Beast  
(Gaston), Shrek The Musical  
(Lord Farquaad). New Rep-  
ertory Theater: Assassins (John  
Wilkes Booth), The Last Five  
Years (Jamie). Reagle Music  
Theater: The Sound of Music  
(Captain Von Trapp), The Mu-  
sic Man (Harold Hill), Thor-  
oughly Modern Millie (Trevor  
Graydon). Hanover Theatre: A  
Christmas Carol (2017-2022).  
Four-time IRNE nominee. BFA  
Emerson College. Proud mem-

ber of AEA. Instagram: @linehan.mark

Michelle Moran (Actor 2) – Lyric Stage: Debut. Firehouse Center for the Arts: Into the Woods (Lucinda). Sht-Faced Shakespeare: Hamlet (Ophelia). Emerald City Theatrical: Legally Blonde (Elle Woods). She is a proud graduate of Salem State University, where she earned her BFA in Theatre in 2023. She sends heartfelt thanks to her friends and family for their unwavering support, and for still loving her after hearing “sorry, I can’t, I have rehearsal” for the hundredth time. Instagram: @michelle\_moran | michellemoran.design

Jon Vellante\* (Actor 1) –  
Lyric Stage: Debut. Wellfleet  
Harbor Actors Theater: Sacco  
& Vanzetti's Divine Comedy (Vanzetti). Central Square

Theater: Beyond Words (Alex the Parrot). Coolidge Corner Theater: Megalopolis (live element w/ Francis Ford Coppola in attendance). New Repertory Theatre: DIASPORA! (Thomas), A Raisin in the Sun (Karl Lindner). Theater Espresso: Uprising on King Street (John Adams), American Tapestry (Samuel). SpeakEasy Stage Company: Fairview (Jimbo). Film & Television: Julia, The Magician, Auto Mate, The Minuteman Motion Picture Trailer Show. Jon has been part of two Elliot Norton Award nominated ensembles and was nominated in 2024 for Outstanding Featured Performance in a Midsize Theater. Love to Amie & Nora, always. Instagram: @guessimjonvellante | jonvellante.com.

2025/26 Season Sponsors:  
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# History of the Lyric Stage Company of Boston

Founded in 1974 and in residence at 140 Clarendon Street since 1991, Lyric Stage Company is Boston's longest-serving resident theater company. Its mission is to produce and present live theater in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston.

Lyric Stage and Beacon Communities, LLC, the owners of 140 Clarendon Street, have agreed that the building will be Lyric Stage's "forever"

home, ensuring that the theater will remain a vital and essential part of the cultural fabric of the city.

In partnership with Beacon Communities, LLC, Lyric Stage will continue its commitment to improving the lives of Bostonians alongside a partner who shares those same values. With the partnership of Pine Street Inn, 111 of the units in the building will become supportive housing for people exiting homelessness. The combined energy of Beacon's supportive services alongside one of the city's cultural gems makes 140 Clarendon a paragon of two institutions coming together to make the city a better place for its residents.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
CONSERVATOR'S  
ACCOUNT  
Docket No.  
SU22P0164PM  
In the matter of:  
Jose Somoza  
Of: East Boston, MA  
To the named Respondent and  
all other interested persons, you  
are hereby notified pursuant  
to Rule 72 of the Supplemental  
Rules of the Probate & Family  
Court, that the First account(s)  
of Brian J. McLaughlin, Esq. of  
Boston, MA as Conservator of the  
property of said Respondent has  
or have been presented to the  
Court for allowance.  
You have the right to object to  
the account(s). If you wish to do  
so, you or your attorney must  
file a written appearance and  
objection at this court on or  
before 10:00 A.M. on the return  
date of 12/17/2025. This day  
is NOT a hearing date, but a  
deadline date by which you have  
to object to the account(s). If you  
fail to file the written appear-  
ance and objection by the return  
date, action may be taken in this  
matter without further notice to  
you, including the allowance of

the account(s). Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court. You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D. Rivers,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 05, 2025  
Stephanie L. Everett  
Register of Probate

11/19/25  
EB

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT

**PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT**

Suffolk Probate  
And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300  
ORDER FOR SERVICE  
BY PUBLICATION  
AND MAILING  
Docket No.  
SU25D1706DR  
Kettelene  
Polynice  
vs.  
Junior Cherette  
Upon motion of plaintiff(s)  
for an order directing the  
defendant(s), to appear, plead,  
or answer, in accordance with  
Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom.  
Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing to the  
court that this is an action for  
Divorce 1B.  
Pursuant to Supplemental  
Probate Court Rule 411, an  
Automatic Restraining Order  
has been entered against the  
above named parties. Defendant  
cannot be found within the Com-  
monwealth and his/her present  
whereabouts are unknown.  
Personal service on defendant  
is therefore not practicable, and  
defendant has not voluntarily  
appeared in his action.  
It is Ordered that defendant  
is directed to appear, plead,  
answer, or otherwise move with  
respect to the complaint herein  
on or before the return day of  
December 26 2025.  
If you fail to do so this Court  
will proceed to a hearing and  
adjudication of this matter.

Date: October 22, 2025  
Honorable Judge Elizabeth  
Teixeira  
Justice of Probate and Family  
Court  
Court

11/19/25  
EB

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
CONSERVATOR'S  
ACCOUNT  
Docket No.  
SU22PO164PM  
In the matter of:  
Jose Somoza  
Of: East Boston, MA  
To the named Respondent and  
all other interested persons, you  
are hereby notified pursuant  
to Rule 72 of the Supplemental  
Rules of the Probate & Family  
Court, that the Second account(s)  
of Brian J. McLaughlin, Esq. of  
Boston, MA as Conservator of the  
property of said Respondent has  
or have been presented to the  
Court for allowance.  
You have the right to object to  
the account(s). If you wish to do  
so, you or your attorney must  
file a written appearance and  
objection at this court on or  
before 10:00 A.M. on the return

date of 12/17/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D. Rivers,  
First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 05, 2025  
Stephanie L. Everett

## Register of Probate

11/19/25  
EB

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
CONSERVATOR'S  
ACCOUNT  
Docket No.  
SU22P0164PM  
In the matter of:  
Jose Somoza  
Of: East Boston, MA  
To the named Respondent and  
all other interested persons, you  
are hereby notified pursuant  
to Rule 72 of the Supplemen-  
tial Rules of the Probate &  
Family Court, that the Third  
and Final account(s) of Brian J.  
McLaughlin, Esq. of Boston, MA  
as Conservator of the property  
of said Respondent has or have  
been presented to the Court for  
allowance.  
You have the right to object to  
the account(s). If you wish to do  
so, you or your attorney must  
file a written appearance and  
objection at this court on or  
before 10:00 A.M. on the return  
date of 12/17/2025. This day  
is NOT a hearing date, but a  
deadline date by which you have

to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s). Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court. You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D. Rivers,  
First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 05, 2025  
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THE INDEPENDENT  
NEWSPAPER GROUP



# FRESH AND LOCAL

## Better sandwiches

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Now is the perfect time of year to share tips on making better sandwiches. 'Tis the season for traditional sandwiches made from holiday roasts. It's a great time to make whole loaf sandwiches that can be cut to serve a crowd, to pile a platter with an assortment of sandwiches, or spread a table with the ingredients for a build-it-yourself sandwich buffet.

What's more, our area is in the midst of a Florentine sandwich shop frenzy, with lines snaking out of All'Antico Vinaio on Boylston Street in Boston. Walking by it one day, Penny saw a short line, and we enjoyed our first taste. We both loved one of the combinations but decided to wait until the newness and craze had settled down before visiting again. More on what we learned from this exceptional sandwich menu later.

### Pro Tips for Better Sandwiches

Last summer, the EatingWell website published a great article on making better sandwiches. In "Why Deli Sandwiches Taste Better Than Yours," they asked Paulie James, owner of

the popular Los Angeles deli Uncle Paulie's, why his sandwiches were so acclaimed.

He advised sourcing the best-quality, freshest ingredients, including the right bread for the particular sandwich. He reminded us that "...no one wants to hyperextend their jaw taking a bite from a sandwich made with bread that was cut too thickly..." That bread should be stacked with freshly sliced meat, cut to a thickness that suits your recipe.

Next, while building your sandwich, pay attention to the ratio of the ingredients you're stacking. Too much of a wet ingredient can make for a soggy result; too little can make your sandwich dry and unappealing. He suggests that with make-ahead sandwiches, you offer or pack your spreads and wet veggies on the side and add those when you're ready to eat. You also allow guests with aversions or allergies to avoid additions like mayo or nut spreads.

Finally, he recommends careful seasoning. By this, he means adding the little extras that will make a sandwich sing. "Using a squeeze of lemon, fresh herbs, or just good old salt and pepper (especially on



Here is Penny's homemade, open-faced version of our favorite All'Antico Vinaio's La Paradiso sandwich.

ingredients like greens, tomatoes, radishes, avocados, etc.) can go a long way in transforming your sandwich from tasting homemade to deli level."

### Make It Yourself

When you find a great sandwich out in the wild, or remember one from another place and time, consider what made it so delicious, and create your own version. It might be the turkey sandwich your uncle made after Thanksgiving. What's different about the one you make today?

Was it white bread, or did he make small ones on left-over dinner rolls? Was the turkey sliced or shredded? What kind of stuffing did he add, and what added moisture to the finished product? Despite the lovely chutney we have with our Thanksgiving dinner, we still have a small can of Ocean Spray jellied cranberry sauce for sandwich making.

Penny decided that instead of waiting in a long line, she would shop for great ingredients and create her own version of our favorite All'Antico

Vinaio's La Paradiso sandwich. She decided to go open-faced as she does with many sandwiches. She spread thinly sliced focaccia with pistachio cream, sprinkled on pistachios, added stracciatella, and piled on pistachio mortadella slices. She couldn't resist ending with another smear of pistachio cream. Delish!

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

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5pm - 9pm

EL. VINGO

CARDZ • KICKZ

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