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East Boston
Times-Free Press

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

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Jets on the field getting ready for the new season. PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

EBHS football begins this week

By Patrick O'Connor

Football practice for the East Boston High School football team got underway Friday morning, August 21 at Sartori Stadium. A scrimmage with Cathedral took place on Wednesday afternoon, September 2 and with Hull on Saturday, September 5. The Jets will open the season at Clemente Field in the Fenway this Friday evening at 7 p.m. The home team will be the Boston Latin Wolfpack, who are led by coach Ray Butler.

Beginning his seventeenth season as head coach is John

See FOOTBALL Page 9

Jury acquits Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins of extortion charges

Special to the Times-Free Press

A federal jury acquitted Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins of extortion charges this past Wednesday, September 2, following a trial in the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse in Boston.

Tompkins had been charged with two counts of extortion related to an investment in a cannabis company.

Tompkins was appointed Sheriff of Suffolk County in 2013. He won a special election in 2014 and two general elections for six-year terms in 2016 and 2022. His current term ends on January 3, 2029.

During his 13 years in office, Tompkins has always been highly visible at events throughout the county that includes Boston, Revere, Winthrop, and Chelsea. He was known for being greeted warmly by fellow officials and residents and often delivered remarks at ceremonies and public events that displayed his wittiness and vibrant personality.



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

State and city officials spoke about the jury's unanimous de-

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East Boston Times-Free Press

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley ***PUBLISHER:*** Debra DiGregorio

EDITOR: Cary Shuman ***PUBLISHER EMERITUS***: John A. Torrone



Forum

REMEMBERING 9/11

For every generation of Americans for the past near-century, there have been seminal events for which those who were of a certain age can recall "where they were" when they "heard the news."

Every member of the Greatest Generation could recall with vivid clarity the announcement by President Roosevelt of the Day of Infamy of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. A generation later, everyone knew where they were when the announcement of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy came across our TV screens. A generation after that, the Challenger space shuttle disaster riveted our nation.

And then, on September 11, 2001, every American watched with horror and disbelief as the Twin Towers of the New York World Trade Center and the Pentagon building in Washington, D.C. came under attack from a terrorist organization we barely knew existed.

In each case, long-held views about our world and our nation were shattered. Before Pearl Harbor, we had thought that the thousands of miles of oceans separating us from the warlords of Europe and Asia would keep us out of harm's way. John F. Kennedy's assassination made us realize that history could be altered by a single bullet. The Challenger disaster made us aware that despite three decades of travel in space and despite our prowess in the realm of technology, in the end, everything we do as humans is subject to failure, because that is the human condition.

As we viewed the images on our TV screens on 9/11 of the fireballs in the upper parts of the Twin Towers, and then watched with horror and disbelief as those skyscrapers crumbled, trapping thousands of our fellow Americans, we realized that America no longer was insulated from the sort of outside terrorist threats that had plagued almost every other country the world over.

Every American knew that our lives would be different from that point onward.

However, in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attack, it became clear that countless of our fellow Americans responded with incredible strength and bravery. Police officers and firefighters responded fearlessly without regard to the impending danger to their own safety in order to save the lives of their fellow Americans.

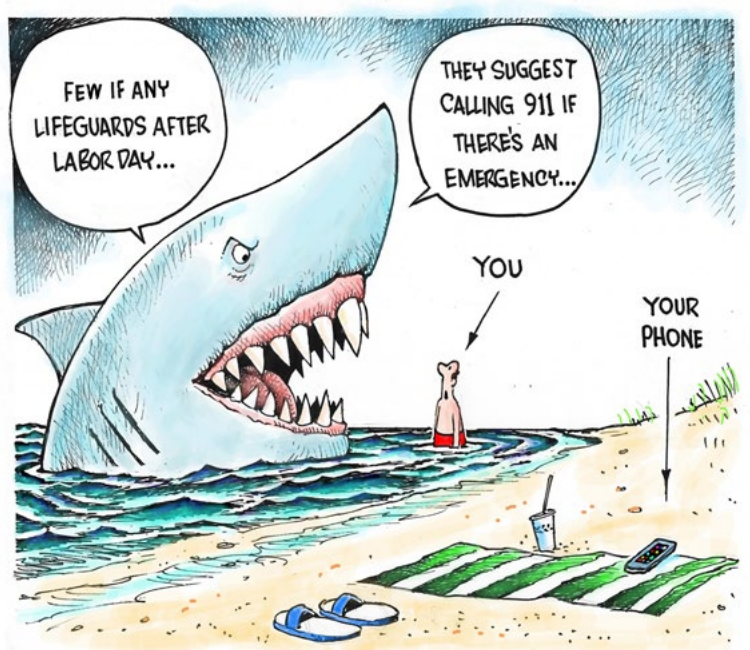
A total of 343 firefighters and 71 police officers perished when the towers crumbled, and hundreds more suffered lifelong illnesses because of the toxic air they inhaled while searching for survivors both that day and beyond.

There were many civilian heroes as well, most notably the "young man with the red bandana" who led occupants of the towers to safety and the passengers who thwarted the hijacking of the plane that was headed for the White House when it crashed into Pennsylvania farm fields.

The events of 9/11 deeply affected the Boston area. The two planes that struck the Twin Towers, United Airlines Flight 175 and American Airlines Flight 11, took off from Logan Airport that fateful morning, carrying a total of 147 crew and passengers who mainly were from our area, including American flight attendant Kathleen Nicosia from Winthrop and United employee Marianne MacFarlane (who was headed for a vacation) from Revere. Their names and those of all of the passengers and crew are marked on the 9/11 memorial at Logan which is located just outside of Terminal A.

It is hard to believe that 25 years have passed since 9/11, and even harder to conceive that there are millions of a younger generation of Americans who have been born since that day and who have no first-hand knowledge of that tragic event.

So let us resolve to remind ourselves, and to inform the young people we know, that this was a day not merely of great tragedy, but that it also was a day of great heroism that exemplified the best of what America stands for.



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East Boston Branch Library News

Library Happenings:

Baby Lapsit, Mondays: 11:15 AM and Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

Join us for bounces, rhymes, stories, songs, and activities. We will have the same program on Monday and Tuesday. We ask that you choose one time to attend. For ages 0-24 months.

All Ages Storytime: Wednesdays at 10:30 am

This weekly story time features books, songs, movement, and a craft. Groups please call ahead.

Bike Repair Workshop with Boston Bikes: Tuesday, Sept. 15th from 3:30-5:30 pm

Join us for a hands-on bike repair workshop led by Boston Bikes. We do all basic bike repair including: patching flat tires, aligning brakes, and adjusting gears and shifters.

Animal Rescue League of Boston: Thursday, September 17th at 4 pm

Learn all about the work of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. The Animal Rescue League of Boston works hard to help animals who need a safe place to stay. Through fun programs like adoption, pet training, and community activities, they help animals stay healthy, happy, and loved.

Boston Teachers Union: Homework Help: Thursdays from 4-6 pm starting on Sept. 24th

Visit the library and receive homework assistance from a Boston Public Schools teacher. This is a drop-in program; no registration is required to attend.

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with La Piñata: Tuesday, Sept. 29th at 4 pm

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with La Pinata. Rosalba Solis will engage children ages 6-11 years old in fun and easy traditional Meso-American/Aztec music & dance, utilizing authentic percussion and wind instruments. Rosalba will instruct participants in basic movement and music skills including Aztec dance steps for participants to learn & plan with!

Career Counseling Drop-in Hours: Thursdays, 12-2:30 pm

During drop-in hours, the BPL career counselor can answer job questions, connect you to services and make a follow-up plan

ESOL Conversation Group: Thursdays from 7-8 pm

Practice speaking English with other adult learners in an informal and friendly group setting. The group is led every Thursday by a volunteer teacher and will take place in-person. This is a drop-in program. No registration is required.

Boston primary voters largely support Markey in reelection campaign

By Dan Murphy

Nearly 74 percent of Boston's Democratic voters in the Sept. 1 primary supported Sen. Ed Markey in his successful reelection bid, according to the city's unofficial election results.

Sen. Markey garnered 55,163 votes citywide, while his challenger, Rep. Seth Moulton, garnered 19,273 votes to account for nearly 26 percent of the ballot.

Sen. Markey will now face Republican nominee John Deaton and third-party socialist candidate Joe Tache in the Nov. 3 general election.

In the Democratic race for the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, longtime Congressman Stephen Lynch defeated progressive attorney Patrick Roath, although Boston voters largely didn't support Rep. Lynch in his reelection coup.

More than 55 percent of Boston's registered voters cast 15,447 ballots for Roath, while Lynch trailed with 12,381 votes, which accounted for around 44 percent of the city's ballot.

In the Democratic race for Suffolk County district attor-

See ELECTION Page 4

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News in Brief

5TH ANNUAL EAST BOSTON LATIN MUSIC AND DANCE FESTIVAL

On Sunday, September 13, Senator Lydia Edwards, ZUMIX, and Salsa y Control Dance Studio are proud to host the 5th annual music and dance festival. This free event showcases local dance groups, artists and musicians and local restaurants and vendors from across East Boston.

The event will take place at East Boston Memorial Park | 143 Porter St, Boston, 1 - 8 p.m.

Performers include, DJ Dante, ¿Porque Puma?, Moab Latin American Rock Ensemble, Una Papayera en Boston, Chico Mania, Efrain Martinez y su Orquesta, La Excelencia, VROCC Youth Dancers, BOMBAntillana, SambaViva, & Salsa y Control.

The festival was established to further embrace and uplift East Boston's Latino community, recognizing its vital contributions to the cultural and social fabric of our neighborhood.

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Kori bustard chick hatches at Franklin Park Zoo

Special to the Times-Free Press

Throughout the day, the dedicated team at Franklin Park Zoo takes turns visiting a small fluffy, striped kori bustard to make sure the month-old chick is getting enough exercise and reaching important developmental milestones.

Hatched on August 1, the female kori bustard chick is being raised by the Animal Care team to ensure it has the best opportunity to thrive. This is a significant hatch for this species, and marks the first successful hatch at Franklin Park Zoo since 2003.

The chick has been eating well and is continuing to gain weight daily, growing from 83 grams when it hatched to now more than 300 grams. There is a steady rotation of care team members who are ensuring that the chick receives enough exercise, which is critical to healthy development.

"Exercise for long-legged birds like cranes, storks and kori bustards is essential for proper development of their legs, muscles and behavior. In the wild, the chicks follow their parents all over grasslands and plains, and through the exercise schedule we have established, we are emulating that here," said Bill Robles, Area Curator at Zoo New England.

Zoo New England's Franklin Park Zoo is committed to the conservation of kori bustards, and this hatch was the result of a recommended breeding. Franklin Park Zoo is home to Onyx, a male kori bustard, and females M'Guu and Kibibi. When this chick is old enough it will move to another institution accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Native to southern and eastern Africa, kori bustards live in open grasslands and the lightly wooded areas of the savannah. This species is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world, and adults can weigh more than 40 pounds. While these birds are classified as near threatened, they do face threats in the wild from human encroachment on their habitats.



PHOTOS COURTESY ZOO NEW ENGLAND

The kori bustard chick.

Election // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ney, around 49 percent of Boston voters supported Kevin Hayden in his successful re-election bid.

Linda Champion, a former prosecutor under Hayden, trailed him, garnering nearly 26 percent of Boston's ballot (17,885 votes), while ex-U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins placed third in that race, with about 24 percent of the ballot (17,022 votes).

According to the city's Election Department, which recruited and trained more than 1,872 poll workers across the 275 voting precincts in Boston, there are a total of 438,367 registered voters citywide. (More than 474 poll workers were available to provide assistance in languages that include Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean, Russian, and Portuguese.)





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AG Campbell releases annual labor day report spotlighting actions to protect Massachusetts workers

Special to the Times-Free Press

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell released the Attorney General's Office (AGO)'s annual Labor Day Report, spotlighting the AGO's dedicated efforts to protect the rights of Massachusetts workers and ensure access to fair pay, benefits, and safe working conditions for all.

"While decisions by the federal government create new uncertainty for workers and families, my office continues to do what it's always done: protect working people," said AG Campbell. "I am proud to release this year's Labor Day Report, which highlights the efforts of my office's Fair Labor Division to ensure that workers are paid for every hour they work and receive the minimum wage and overtime they have earned."

FY2026 By the Numbers

In Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, the AGO's Fair Labor Division (FLD) took 1,292 enforcement actions against 1,183 employers for violating various protections, helping more than 16,410 workers and assessing nearly $12.7 million in restitution for unpaid wages and penalties.

The construction industry faced the highest rate of enforcement actions (20%), followed by restaurants/hotels (19.5%), healthcare (8%), landscaping/snow removal (6.3%), and cleaning/janitorial (5.6%). Failure to Make Timely Payments was the most common type of violation (474 citations).

Fighting Exploitation in the Construction Industry

In FY26, FLD assessed more than $2.5 million in restitution and penalties related to investigations in the construction industry, entitling over 1,300 employees to restitution payments.

One such enforcement action involved a complaint against Master Millwork – a West Wareham company that specializes in the manufacturing and installation of custom cabinets and millwork – alleging that the company was not paying workers properly. FLD's investigation revealed that the company failed to properly pay overtime and misclassified workers as independent contractors. As a result of the investigation, Master Millwork agreed to pay more than $280,000 in restitution and penalties.

In addition to enforcement, FLD continues to utilize a dedicated, multilingual investigative team to conduct unannounced compliance visits to active construction sites throughout the Commonwealth with the goal of ensuring a continuous and supportive presence in the field. This field team visited 37 construction sites in FY26, successfully engaging over 160 employers and nearly 400 workers to provide direct guidance on state wage and hour laws.

Following a visit by FLD's Construction Field Team to a construction worksite, FLD conducted a full investigation and issued five citations totaling more than $218,000 to Donizetti's Tile Services, Inc. for failure to pay overtime, failure to furnish pay slips, misclassifying employees as independent contractors, failure to permit employees to earn and use sick time, and failure to keep true and accurate payroll records.

Combatting Independent Contractor Misclassification

Addressing worker misclassification remains one of the AGO's highest enforcement priorities. Misclassification occurs when companies improperly classify workers as independent contractors, as opposed to employees. Misclassification by non-compliant employers strips workers of their rights as employees and denies basic workplace rights, including guaranteed minimum wage, overtime pay, timely compensation, accrued sick leave, employer retaliation protections, and essential benefits. In FY26, FLD took action against nearly 60 employers who misclassified approximately 1,500 workers, totaling more than $2.1 million in restitution and penalties.

As part of the ongoing efforts to address worker misclassification, FLD reached a settlement with online grocery-delivery company Weee! to resolve allegations that the company violated Massachusetts independent contractor and earned sick time laws. As part of the settlement, Weee! paid more than $865,000 in citations, including restitution for over 160 impacted workers and penalties.

In another matter, FLD issued citations totaling nearly $420,000 against Beverly-based cleaning/janitorial company Advanced Maintenance Solutions, Inc. regarding allegations that the company failed to pay overtime, failed to comply with the state's earned sick time law, and misclassified employees as independent contractors.

Protecting and Empowering Restaurant Workers

In FY26, FLD issued nearly 400 citations and assessed almost $2.5 million in restitution and penalties involving the restaurant and hospitality sectors. This enforcement effort impacted over 3,400 workers in these industries, particularly workers who rely on customers' tips to earn at least the minimum wage.

One such enforcement action involved Carrie Nation and The Dubliner, two restaurants located in Boston's Beacon Hill neighborhood. After receiving a complaint that the businesses failed to remit the total proceeds of service charges to service employees, FLD investigated and ultimately cited the employers for tips violations. As a result of the citations, the employers paid a total of $422,000 in restitution and penalties.

Community Engagement and Education

FLD, along with the AGO's Community Engagement Division, recently marked the 10-year anniversary of the Wage Theft Clinic, which helps connect workers who have wage issues and need free legal advice to community legal aid partners and private attorneys. Throughout the clinic's run,

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Governor Healey declares September College Fire Safety Month

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Maura Healey proclaimed September College Fire Safety Month in Massachusetts as thousands of students return to campus and move into dormitories, apartments, and other student housing.

Fire officials are offering guidance to help prevent fires and injuries during what is traditionally the leading month for fires in student housing.

"Massachusetts is proud to welcome thousands of students to our colleges each fall, and we want every one of them to have a safe and successful year," said Governor Maura Healey. "Most fires in student housing can be prevented. Simple steps like staying in the kitchen while cooking, keeping exits clear and using batteries and chargers safely can save lives."

"Move-in day comes with a long checklist, and fire safety needs to be on it," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Before families unpack the last box, check the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, identify two ways out and make sure everyone knows what to do if a fire starts."

Massachusetts fire departments reported more than 2,500 fires in dormitories, fraternities, and sororities between 2021 and 2025. These fires caused six civilian injuries, 10 fire service injuries, and approximately $2.7 million in damage.

Fire officials are also emphasizing the importance of safety in apartments and other off-campus housing. Two Massachusetts college students died in separate, unrelated off-campus fires in 2013.

"College Fire Safety Month is an important reminder that keeping students safe is a shared responsibility," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "Colleges and universities, property owners, families, and students all have a role to play. As students return to campus and settle into new housing, we encourage everyone to review basic fire safety, make sure alarms are working, and know what to do in an emergency."

Massachusetts law requires landlords to provide working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Students should test their alarms when they move in and immediately notify their landlord if an alarm is missing, damaged or not working.

Students should also check the manufacturing date printed on the back of each alarm. Smoke alarms should generally be replaced after 10 years. Carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after five, seven or 10 years, depending on the make and model.

About 90 percent of fires in student housing are related to cooking, with unattended cooking the most common factor. Students should remain in the kitchen when using the stovetop, use a timer when cooking in the oven, and never cook while drowsy or impaired.

With September 1 marking the primary move-in date for students across Massachusetts, fire officials are also reminding students to keep escape routes clear. Boxes, furniture, bikes, and other belongings should not block windows, doorways, hallways, or stairwells.

Students should know two ways out of their building and, when possible, two ways out of each room. If an alarm sounds, occupants should leave the building, stay outside, and call 9-1-1.

Students can also reduce the risk of fire by following these precautions:

• Smoking: There is no safe way to smoke, but if you must smoke then do it responsibly. Don't flick them on the ground, where they can smolder and ignite debris, or grind them out on porches or steps. Use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface and put it out, all the way, every time.

• Electrical: Always plug appliances like air conditioners and space heaters into wall sockets that can handle the current, not power strips or extension cords. Don't overload outlets with multiple devices.

• Heating: Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave a space heater unattended.

• Cooking: Stand by your pan! Don't leave pots and pans unattended on a lit stovetop, and keep flammable items away from burners. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid and then turn off the heat. Only cook when you're alert, not when you're drowsy or impaired.

• Candles: Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish them before leaving the room. Even better, switch to battery-powered candles.

• Lithium-Ion Batteries: Use the charging equipment provided by the manufacturer and disconnect it when the device is charged. Charge phones, laptops, e-cigarettes, e-bike batteries, and other devices on a hard and stable surface – never a bed, couch, or pillow. If you notice an unusual odor, change in color, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises, stop using the device right away. If you are able to do so safely, move it away from anything that can burn and call your local fire department.

For more fire safety tips for both on and off campus, visit www.mass.gov/dfs.

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

You can sign up to receive Planning Department emails and learn about opportunities to get involved here: **bosplans.org/GetInvolved**

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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Workers //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

workers and their advocates have reported $2.4 million in recovered wages, however the actual figure is likely much higher.

During FY26, the AGO hosted or participated in 98 worker- and employer-focused community engagement events, and performed 141 worksite visits. These efforts showcase the AGO's commitment to not just enforcement, but to providing resources and education to help protect the rights of workers and ensure employers' compliance with state laws.

The AGO's Fair Labor Division and Relevant Resources

The AGO's Fair Labor Division consists of attorneys, investigators, intake and support staff. The Division enforces state laws regulating the payment of wages, including minimum wage, overtime, prevailing wage, child labor, earned sick leave, and labor trafficking. It also protects employees from exploitation and wage theft through strong partnerships and community education.

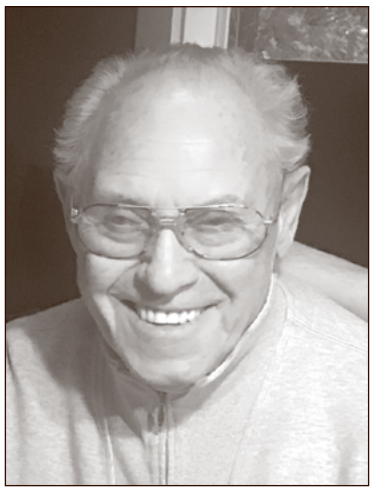
In accordance with state and federal law, the AGO works to serve and protect all workers, without regard to immigration status, does not ask about workers' immigration status, and does not voluntarily provide workers' personal information to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Workers in Massachusetts who believe their workplace rights have been violated are encouraged to file a complaint with the AGO's Fair Labor Division at mass.gov/ago/fld. For more information about the state's employment laws, workers may call the AGO's Fair Labor Hotline at (617) 727-3465 or visit mass.gov/ago/fairlabor for information available in multiple languages.

OBITUARIES

Maurice S. Hurley

Of East Boston



Maurice S. Hurley, of East Boston, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 92 years of age. Beloved husband of the late Lorraine (Sinatra) Hurley. Devoted father of Linda McCormack and her late husband Brian of Revere, and Paula Ligotti and her late husband Joseph Jr. of Tewksbury. Dear brother of Patrick Hurley of New Hampshire, James Hurley of Maine, and the late John, Thomas, Mark, and Francis Hurley. Cherished grandfather of Anthony Ligotti, Francesca Ligotti, and Andrew McCormack. Longtime companion of Susan Craig. Family and friends will honor Maurice's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, on Friday, September 11th from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. and again on Saturday, September 12th from 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Parish, Brooks Street, East Boston, for a funeral Mass celebrating his life at 10:00 A.M. Services will conclude with Maurice being laid to rest at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Peabody. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Maurice's name to The NEEDS Center, 40 Shattuck Road, Suite 308, Box 17, Andover, MA 01810. For more information please visit www.ruggieromh.com

Philip M. Bean

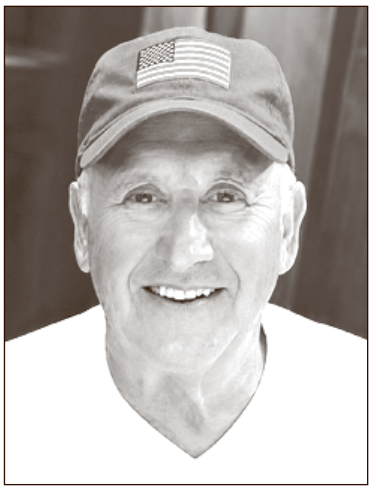
His love of family was first and foremost



Philip M. Bean, 77, of East Boston and Center Ossipee, NH passed away at home on August 31, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Philip was the son of Vernon and Marita Bean of Hinesburg, Vermont; the cherished husband of Donna Baptista-Bean, with whom he shared 46 years of marriage, and the wonderful father to Danielle Bean Becker and Ericka Bean Cacciola; father-in-law to two extraordinary sons in law, Det. Matthew Becker (BPD) and Eddie Cacciola with whom he shared his favorite hobbies. Philip was blessed with five beautiful grandchildren whom he adored: Lucas P. Becker, Addison K. Becker, Jackson T. Becker, Dominik D. Cacciola and Stella R. Cacciola.

Philip served his country (USN) with great pride and was always proud to be an American. His love of the outdoors from an early age fostered his love of hunting, fishing, boating and snowmobiling. An accomplished athlete in his younger years, it brought him great joy to watch and mentor his grandchildren on the sport fields or on the wrestling mat. Philip was a USPS career employee and a longtime member of The Danvers Fish and Game



Club, where his name appears on their trophy walls numerous times.

Philip's love of family was first and foremost. He enjoyed spending time with them especially in his favorite place, New Hampshire. Philip was the dear brother of Vernon Bean and his wife, Carol (N. Carolina), Virginia Turner and her husband, Glen (Tennessee), and Susan Lascelles and her husband, Michael (Vermont), along with many loving nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Philip's memory can be made to the ASPCA - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: www.aspca.org. At Philip's request, all services are private. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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ANNUAL MERIDIAN HOUSE VS. EAST BOSTON REHAB RECOVERY SOFTBALL GAME

Special to the Times-Free Press

The annual Meridian House vs. East Boston Rehab Recovery Softball Game is about more than bragging rights. Played at Noyes Park in East Boston, the event aims to bring together anyone in recovery to play, cheer, and support the recovery community. It creates an opportunity for people in early recovery to have fun while working on growing their sober network through friendly competition. Score is loosely kept and a trophy is awarded, but we are all the winners at the end.

Current and former players have said they look forward to these games because while they're on the field for those seven innings -- pitching, hitting, fielding, running, playing -- they actually forget about being in a treatment program; they forget about their struggles and worries; and even forget about the hard work of being in recovery. They feel like they did prior to ever picking up a substance.

The Recovery Softball games are held twice a year in the summer months, and more people become involved with each game. The players, a solid mix of individuals in early recovery, long-term recovery, and program staff, are having a good time and building support networks without the need of substances.

It is a privilege to organize these games and experience the joy and happiness of all who attend. Special thanks to Jim Gillis of The Winthrop Pro Shop for donating the Recovery Cup trophy; Turning Point Recovery Center for use of their equipment; Siobhan S and the staff at East Boston Rehab; North Suffolk Community Services; and especially everyone who attended and helped make this event so memorable.





COURTESY PHOTOS



Shown are scenes from The annual Meridian House vs. East Boston Rehab Recovery Softball Game.











Tompkins // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cision and wished Tompkins well as he prepares to return to his position as Sheriff of Suffolk County.

"I am so grateful for the jury's service," said Sen. Lydia Edwards. "Sheriff Tompkins has been acquitted and can now move on. He wants nothing more than to get back to serving the people of Suffolk County."

State Rep. Jeffrey Rosario Turco of Winthrop said, "I am pleased that a jury has unanimously acquitted Sheriff Tompkins. Upon hearing the news, I immediately recalled the words of former Labor Secretary Ray Donovan, also acquitted, when he asked, 'What office do I go to get my reputation back?' Steve Tompkins has been a champion of criminal justice reform, and I look forward to him continuing to serve the people of Suffolk County."

Chelsea Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, a longtime friend and supporter of Tompkins, said, "I'm glad that the jury acquitted Sheriff Tompkins and that he will be returning to his position of leadership in Suffolk County. The sheriff has been a friend of mine for many years, and I think he's done a great job overall."





Freedom Trail after dark experiences

Special to the Times-Free Press

Discover the Freedom Trail in a new light – after dark – on the official Freedom Trail Lantern Tours. Freedom Trail Foundation announces the return of the unique Lantern Tours, offering visitors and residents the opportunity to experience the sinister history and mystery of the Freedom Trail by lantern-light! The annual Lantern Tours will be offered on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 6 p.m. from September 17 until October 30, and Wednesday, October 28. Official Freedom Trail historic sites' evening Crypt Tours at King's Chapel and Old North Church also return this fall.

Duels, the grave of a ruthless pirate, punishments of convicted witches and more: all real and explored on the Freedom Trail Lantern Tours. Investigate the ghoulish side of Boston's iconic red-lined-path and hear historic tales too dark and macabre for daytime. Join Freedom Trail Players, darkly garbed with lanterns, and bring true accounts of appalling crimes, spies and assassins, to life on these 90-minute walking tours.

Lantern Tours start from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center plaza and illuminate the Granary and King's Chapel burying grounds as the final resting places of convicted pirates and others connected to Boston's less-illustrious past. Locations such as the Boston Massacre Site and the former site of the Old Gaol (Old Jail), adjacent to the Old State House and home to many of old Boston's most infamous criminals, are also featured along the way on the Freedom Trail.

"The Freedom Trail Lantern Tours and sites' Crypt Tours are a great way to experience the darker side of our history," says Suzanne Taylor, Executive Director, Freedom Trail Foundation. "These nighttime tours give visitors and residents the opportunity to learn about Boston's true, yet lesser-known, ghoulish history as people celebrate the spooky Halloween season."

Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation walking tours are $17 for adults, $15 for seniors/students, and $8 for children 12 and under. Purchase of a ticket includes a $1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund, which helps support preservation projects at official Freedom Trail historic sites. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center (8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) or online at TheFreedomTrail.org. Lantern Tours may also be scheduled as a private group tour year-round. For more information about the Lantern and Crypt Tours, please contact the Freedom Trail Foundation at 617-357-8300 or visit TheFreedomTrail.org.

Football // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parziale with a record of 82-82. Assisting him will be Coaches Shawn Torrici (2008), Juan Murcia (2011), Brandon Ciacio (2006), Michael Zaleya, Xavier Ortiz and Elvis Navarro (2017). All are East Boston High graduates and played for the team. The team numbers about 30 with approximately 10 seniors. Captains thus far are Jason Taft and Caden Pelosi.

Last year, the Jets ended the season at 1-10. In year three of a new Thanksgiving rivalry with Chelsea, East Boston will travel over Chelsea on Wednesday, November 25 for the game at 6 p.m. Thus far, the record for both teams is 1-1.

Its year eleven for an MIAA approved play-off system. Schedules are set for September and October. Games in November will be determined by a point system in which Eastern Massachusetts and Central Massachusetts schools will be split into two groups: play-off teams and non-qualifiers. The new system began in 2013.



Headcoach John Parziale begins his 17th season leading the Jets.



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTOS

Ready to lead the Jets are captains Jason Taft and Caden Pelosi.

Healey invests $4.2 million to grow offshore wind workforce and research

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Healey and the Mass Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) announced $4.2 million in funding to 20 projects that will prepare workers for offshore wind and maritime careers, and support research on fisheries, wildlife, and the marine environment. The funding is awarded through two MassCEC programs: $1.7 million through the Offshore Wind Works program and $2.4 million through the Offshore Wind Science, Research and Analysis program. These awards are part of Massachusetts' continued investment in the people, infrastructure, and science needed to support the state's offshore wind industry.

"Offshore wind means good jobs, more clean energy and real economic opportunity for Massachusetts," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're investing in the workers who will build this industry and the research needed to develop it responsibly and protect our fisheries, wildlife and marine environment."

"Massachusetts has everything it takes to lead in offshore wind: world-class ports, skilled workers and coastal communities with deep maritime experience," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "These grants will help more residents prepare for good-paying careers and make sure we're ready for the next generation of projects."

"The clean energy transition doesn't happen without the people doing the work," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "We need skilled workers to build offshore wind and researchers who can help us better understand our ocean, fisheries, and wildlife. Investing in both is how we grow clean energy responsibly and make sure Massachusetts continues to lead."

"These two efforts work in tandem: one grows the talent pipeline for offshore wind projects, the other expands the knowledge base the industry needs for the long haul," said Ben Downing, Mass Clean Energy Center CEO. "Investing in both is how Massachusetts prepares the way for future accelerated offshore wind deployment."

Through Offshore Wind Works, $1.7 million will support eight projects in building a Massachusetts workforce that is capable of planning, deploying, operating, maintaining, and manufacturing components for offshore wind projects. Many of the skills and credentials developed through these projects are transferable across clean energy, maritime, construction, and other port-based industries—strengthening workforce resilience beyond offshore wind alone. Since launching in 2018, Offshore Wind Works has awarded $22 million to 35 grantees, leveraging more than $11 million in additional cost-sharing.

"Massachusetts' clean energy future depends on having a skilled workforce ready to build it," said State Senator Jake Oliveira, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development (D-Ludlow). "These investments will create pathways into good-paying careers, strengthen partnerships with organized labor, higher education, and workforce training programs, and give workers skills that can serve them across industries. By investing in our workforce alongside research and responsible development, we are positioning Massachusetts workers to benefit from the economic opportunities created by the clean energy transition."

"The clean energy transition is also a workforce opportunity, and the Commonwealth must make sure our workers are positioned to lead it," said State Representative Paul McMurtry, House Chair of the Labor and Workforce Development Committee (D-Dedham). "From union trades and maritime workers to students and people exploring new careers, these investments are creating pathways into skilled jobs while building a workforce that can grow with the industry. That means more opportunity for Massachusetts workers and a stronger, more resilient economy for the future."

This year's awards will fund projects across three focus areas: Workforce Training & Upskilling; Training Equipment & Infrastructure; and Career Exploration & Education. The projects are expected to leverage an estimated $892,241 in additional cost-sharing and in-kind contributions from grantees and their partners.

The 2026 Offshore Wind Works awardees are:

Massachusetts Maritime Academy: $260,000 for Workforce Training & Upskilling

Funding will be used to establish the equipment, certifications, and instructional capacity needed to deliver Helicopter Underwater Escape Training.

Partners: RelyOn USA

TITAN Structural Group LLC: $500,000 for Workforce Training & Upskilling and Training Equipment & Infrastructure

Funding will be used to equip trades workers with offshore wind safety and technical certifications.

Partners: Ironworkers; IBEW; IUPAT union affiliates

UMass Dartmouth: $250,000 for Career Exploration & Education

Funding will be used to add 30 paid internship opportunities to the offshore wind internship program.

UMass Boston: $249,243 for Career Exploration & Education

Funding will be used to develop and deliver ten learning modules covering offshore wind topics ranging from engineering and aquaculture to ports and supporting infrastructure.

Partners: Academic Center for Reliability and Resilience of Offshore Wind (ARROW)

STEAM the Streets: $209,330 for Career Exploration & Education

Funding will be used to launch a statewide campaign to increase public understanding of offshore wind and clean energy careers.

Partners: Environmental League of Massachusetts; Boston Public Schools; New Bedford Public Schools; MassHire South Shore; MassHire Greater New Bedford

UMass Amherst: $141,427 for Career Exploration & Education

Funding will be used to expand the Career Access Scholarship Program, enhance workforce training with a focus on transferable skills, and foster new partnerships between Massachusetts and Nova Scotia.

Partners: MANSA Consulting; Salem Alliance for the Environment; Spirit Advisory

MANSA Consulting, Inc: $100,000 for Career Exploration & Education

Funding will be used to expand the WindWorks campaign to increase awareness of offshore wind career opportunities and connect participants to introductory offshore wind training.

Partners: Bristol Community College; IWNL Energy

Trustees of Tufts University:

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THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

Offshore // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

$40,000 for Career Exploration & Education

Funding will be used to publish findings on offshore wind workers' experiences, safety culture, and working conditions, while highlighting industry best practices through a case study.

Through the Offshore Wind Science, Research and Analysis program, $2.5 million will support 12 projects in advancing research that informs the responsible development and operation of offshore wind in Southern New England and the Gulf of Maine. Each project has a direct connection to a Massachusetts-based business or research institution, a Massachusetts-based intern, or both. Collectively, these awards will create at least seven paid internships for students attending Massachusetts universities, giving early-career researchers hands-on experience in offshore wind science.

This year's awards will address five topic areas: Fisheries; Habitat & Wildlife; Regional Transmission Planning; Regional Monitoring; and Science Communication.

The 2026 Offshore Wind Science, Research and Analysis awardees are:

New England Aquarium: $246,075 for Fisheries research

Funding will be used to research how offshore wind development is affecting recreational and for-hire fishing activity in Southern New England.

Partners: Pelagic Strategies
UMass Dartmouth

$280,501 for Fisheries and Habitat research

Funding will be used to continue a study focused on understanding offshore wind impacts on cod spawning grounds in Southern New England.

$199,589 for Regional Monitoring

Funding will be used to create a regional data-collection strategy to guide future monitoring and inform responsible offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.

Partners: Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative & Northeast Regional Ocean Council (separate $30,000 award to support this project)

Center for Coastal Studies: $284,642 for Habitat & Wildlife research

Funding will be used to evaluate the ability of ocean circulation models to predict zooplankton aggregations to inform methods for understanding potential offshore wind effects on North Atlantic right whale prey.

Partners: Integral Consulting

atdepth MRV Inc.: $252,000 for Habitat & Wildlife research

Funding will be used to create a digital twin model of the Gulf of Maine to study potential effects of floating offshore wind turbines on ocean processes and North Atlantic right whale prey.

Tufts University: $269,910 for Habitat & Wildlife research

Funding will be used to develop an implementation framework for incorporating nature-inclusive design into offshore wind projects.

Partners: Outer Harbor Consulting; Responsible Offshore Science Alliance; Nomadic Foundry

JASCO: $246,746 for Habitat & Wildlife research

Funding will be used to examine existing offshore wind wildlife protection measures using quantitative modeling to assess risk reduction and implementation costs.

Ocean Tech Services, LLC: $77,414 for Habitat & Wildlife research

Funding will be used to install a Motus radio telemetry receiving station at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's Air-Sea Interaction Tower, re-establishing important offshore detection capability for migratory birds and bats.

Power Advisory LLC: $186,995 for Regional Transmission

Funding will be used to build on existing offshore wind energy transmission studies to investigate interregional transmission scenarios for New England, New York, and Atlantic Canada.

Partners: Johns Hopkins University; UMass Amherst

Responsible Offshore Science Alliance: $149,997 for Science Communication

Funding will be used to communicate results of existing offshore wind fisheries research to Massachusetts fishing communities and the general public.

Partners: Fat Moon Creative

Biodiversity Research Institute: $149,206 for Science Communication

Funding will be used to translate and communicate offshore wind science and research into accessible, stakeholder-informed materials for Massachusetts and beyond.

Partners: Consensus Building Institute

CBN Media, LLC: $125,000 for Science Communication

Funding will be used to increase public understanding of marine life interactions with offshore wind infrastructure in Southern New England.

For more information on Offshore Wind Works and Offshore Wind Science, Research and Analysis, visit masscec.com/our-focus/offshore-wind.





Project Bread taps in-house storyteller Nora Jerrett to help lead its communications strategy

Medford resident Nora Jerrett, who has spent more than three years shaping Project Bread's storytelling and the East Boston-based food security nonprofit's annual The Walk for Hunger campaign, has been promoted to Assistant Director of Communications at the leading statewide food security organization.

In her new role, Jerrett will help oversee public relations strategy across Project Bread's policy and advocacy work, federal nutrition programs and direct service programs, including major campaigns such as The Walk for Hunger and Summer Eats. She will also help manage media relations, develop press materials, and serve as a spokesperson for the organization.

Jerrett's connection to Project Bread's mission traces back to 2020, when a study abroad internship in Sydney was cut short by the pandemic and she spent that summer supporting



Nora Jerrett

seniors with daily needs, including grocery shopping, for a home health care company in Wakefield. Through that work, she saw firsthand how EBT benefits could fall short while clients waited for other assistance to arrive, an experience that later drew her to Project Bread.

"Over the past three years at Project Bread, and as our federal government has made it increasingly harder for my neighbors to keep food on the table, I've heard countless firsthand stories of how food insecurity holds families back," says Jerrett. "But I've also seen the incredible things that happen when we share these stories, engage our community of partners and supporters, and use our voices to speak out against the systems that allow hunger to thrive. In this new role, I am excited and honored to uplift these stories, reduce the stigma around asking for or offering help, and continue working toward a Massachusetts where everyone has the food they need to thrive."

In her time at Project Bread, Jerrett has shown her passion and enthusiasm for the mission through her creative content campaigns, including her work to recruit and support thousands of participants for The Walk for Hunger. Jerret's emails, blogs, and social media posts have helped connect tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents to Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline and other resources. Her innovative ideas and creative problem solving have supported Project Bread's internal and external events and programs, securing her as the heart of the organization.

Jerrett's joyful spirit and positive attitude resonates through her work, uplifting colleagues and community partners during difficult times. Beyond her efforts to uphold and expand Project Bread's brand strategy, she consistently raises her hand to support others, whether it's doing TV and radio interviews, pitching social media ideas, and even leading the group stretch at The Walk for Hunger.

"Nora has spent the last three years translating our policy work and Walk for Hunger campaigns into stories that move people to act, and that instinct for what makes an issue resonate is exactly what our communications strategy needs right now," says Erin McAleer, Project Bread CEO. "As federal cuts put more pressure on families across Massachusetts, we need someone who can help the public understand what's at stake and what Project Bread is doing about it. Nora has already proven she can do that."

Prior to joining Project Bread as Copywriter & Content Manager in April 2023, Jerrett worked as a junior copywriter at the Boston advertising agency Connelly Partners, where she developed creative campaigns for clients across industries. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations, advertising and applied communication from Boston University's College of Communication.

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

Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible so that no one goes hungry. Summer Eats is one of the many nutrition programs they support. Any resident of Massachusetts struggling to afford food or worrying they might run out before they have money to buy more can call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline for help in 180+ languages (1-800-645-8333) or send a confidential chat on www.gettingsnap.com for compassionate, personalized assistance. Counselors are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is also a dedicated line available to those who are hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

Boston Book Festival returns Oct. 17 to Copley Square

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Boston Book Festival (BBF) returns to Copley Square this fall with a ticketed evening event Oct. 16, followed by its signature free Festival day Oct. 17, uniting the literary community around the transformative joy of reading and the vibrant exchange of ideas.

"For nearly two decades, the Boston Book Festival has harnessed the power of books to forge connections, deepen empathy, and illuminate our shared humanity," BBF Executive Director Carlin Carr said in a press release. "This year's Festival spans so many genres and offers something for everyone to enjoy. From beloved bestselling authors to notable new names, these writers and illustrators give vital perspectives about our world – its past, present, and imagined future."

The festival kicks off with a tick eted event on Friday night: with New York Times bestselling author Michael Lewis in conversation with Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks about his new book 'Blockers: Rebels in the Deep State.'

The festival opens Saturday with a spirited kids' costume parade (and special surprise guests), setting the stage for a day of lively conversations and presentations, animated read-alouds, and bountiful book-focused activities for every age.

BBF's outdoor fair (open rain or shine) showcases 60-plus exhibitors, from award-winning small presses and literary arts nonprofits to a colorful kids' zone and buzzing coffee tent. More than 200 authors take part in 80-plus sessions at Boston Public Library, Old South Church, Goethe-Institut, Church of the Covenant and Trinity Church, among other venues. Furniture retailer Room&Board will host the popular after-hours 'Poems & Pints' gathering with the nonprofit Mass Poetry.

A complete festival lineup will be announced in mid-September. Festival goers and book lovers can sign up for BBF updates at bostonbookfest.org and follow BBF on Instagram at @bostonbookfest.

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NEWS FROM AROUND *THE REGION*

CITY OF EVERETT COMPLETES ENERGY-EFFICIENCY UPGRADES AT FERRY STREET FIRE STATION

EVERETT - The City of Everett has completed the installation of a new high-efficiency heat pump system at the Ferry Street Fire Station, replacing aging heating infrastructure while improving air quality and comfort for firefighters who live and work in the station around the clock.

The project was made possible through a $126,675 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Competitive Grant Program, along with $29,575 in incentives from National Grid. The remaining $10,000 was covered through National Grid's On-Bill Repayment program using solar credits from the City's power purchase agreement with Syncarpha. By combining these funding sources, the City was able to complete the upgrade at no cost to Everett residents.

"This is a great example of how we can make smart investments in our City buildings that benefit both our employees and our residents," said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. "We replaced a failing system, created a healthier and more comfortable environment for our firefighters and reduced the City's long-term energy costs, all without placing the financial burden on our taxpayers. These are the kinds of practical improvements we want to continue making across Everett."

The project became a priority after the station's steam boiler began to fail in 2024. Rather than simply replacing the aging equipment with another fossil fuel-reliant system, the City pursued grant funding to modernize the building with a more efficient heating and cooling system.

The new heat pumps are projected to reduce natural gas consumption by approximately 3,546 therms and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 12.21 tons of carbon dioxide annually. That reduction is roughly equivalent to the emissions produced by burning 1,374 gallons of gasoline.

The system also provides an important benefit for the firefighters stationed on Ferry Street: improved indoor air quality. Because Everett's fire stations operate 24 hours a day and serve as both workplaces and living quarters, maintaining proper ventilation and air circulation is particularly important. The new system brings fresh air into office and living spaces while filtration helps reduce dust, mold spores, odors, smoke and emissions that can enter from the attached apparatus bay.

"Our firefighters spend long shifts at the station, so this building is more than just a place where they report for work," said Fire Chief Joe Hickey. "Having reliable heating and cooling and better air circulation makes a real difference in the environment our firefighters are working and living in every day. I appreciate the work that went into securing the funding and getting this upgrade completed."

In addition to improving conditions inside the station, the project is expected to reduce annual utility costs by approximately $1,500. Electrifying most of the building also reduces reliance on the former steam boiler and allows the remaining gas-fed areas to operate more efficiently.

The project is part of Everett's broader effort to reduce municipal energy consumption and improve the efficiency of public buildings. Since becoming a designated Green Community, Everett has received approximately $2.5 million through Green Communities funding and National Grid incentives. Those funds have supported projects including building envelope and lighting improvements, solar installations, energy management software, and heating and cooling upgrades.

Collectively, the City's energy-efficiency projects are expected to generate more than $500,000 in annual savings while reducing Everett's municipal carbon footprint.

The City plans to apply for up to $500,000 through the Green Communities Fall Block Grant this year to support additional energy-efficiency improvements at a municipal facility or school building. Everett remains committed to pursuing outside funding that can help lower utility costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create healthier, more efficient public spaces.

For more information about the City's sustainability initiatives or Green Communities projects, contact the City of Everett Planning Department at 617-944-0236 or kate.jenkins-sullivan@ci.everett.ma.us.

WINTHROP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLDS END OF SUMMER BASH



Former Chelsea High School sports great Bobby Breau and his wife, Linda Fucillo Breau, and family are pictured at the End of Summer Bash held recently in French Square, Winthrop Center.

CHELSEA CUTS RIBBON ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

CHELSEA - Affordable housing is at a premium in Chelsea and across the state, and city leaders are taking a unique approach to help provide more affordable units.

Last week, following a series of renovations, city officials cut the ribbon on the first city-owned and managed affordable housing property in Chelsea's history at 55 Heard St.

Now known as Chelsea 55, the six three-bedroom unit apartment building went into receivership in 2025. The city secured authorization from the board of assessors and the city council to purchase the building as part of its efforts to expand affordable housing options in Chelsea.

After the purchase, the city's public works department began renovations on the building to ensure conditions were habitable and comfortable for its future occupants. While renovations were underway, the city launched its first affordable housing lottery, which had more than 300 applicants.

The first family was scheduled to move into Chelsea 55 on Sept. 1, with more families to follow throughout the month. Priority for the units has been given to current residents, families, veterans, and anyone recently displaced from Chelsea.

City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher said the property at 55 Heard St. was an example of a building in the city that fell into disrepair with the owners running out of resources and walking away, leading to it ending up in receivership.

"These properties sit vacant, deteriorate, and drain resources from neighborhoods all around," said Fisher. "Often, what comes next is worse … investors buy these properties, do the minimum, and flip them at prices that push longtime Chelsea families out of the neighborhoods."

Chelsea 55 represents a different choice, the city solicitor said.

"Rather than stand by while the cycle repeats itself, the city decided to be part of the solution instead of contributing to the problem," Fisher said. "This property is the city's first affordable housing development owned and managed by the city. It's true that we can take a building on the edge of being lost and turn it into something that actually serves the

See GARDENS Page 15

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

people who live here."

City Manager Fidel Maltez said Chelsea 55 didn't happen by accident.

"It happened because we asked ourselves a different question," Maltez said. "Instead of accepting the status quo, which Cheryl has shared, that we see here in Chelsea, what if the city used the tools already in front of us to meet our community's needs directly? That meant thinking outside of our traditional playbook, and it meant that a lot of people across the city … working together and willing to do something that had never been done before."

Maltez thanked the board of assessors for helping to make the project financially possible. He also thanked the city council who believed in the vision and gave its support for the project.

"This is what it looks like when a city government, across all of our departments, and our elected leadership come together and actually solve a large problem instead of just kicking the can down the road," said Maltez. "I'll be clear, Chelsea 55 is a pilot; I am not pretending that this is going to solve all of our problems in Chelsea and I am not pretending that this is going to be the answer of how we are going to solve affordability in Chelsea. But this is real, this is a tangible start. It is six units where families can now afford to stay in our community and call it home."

If Chelsea 55 proves successful in providing stable, affordable transitional housing that meets the needs of residents and the city's budget, the administration may pursue similar opportunities to purchase additional buildings, said Deputy City Manager Devon Fields. She said the city will be tracking the success of the program over the coming year to see how viable purchasing future units for the city may be.

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS DONATION ARTWORK

REVERE - As work continues on the new Revere High School at the Wonderland site, plans are in the works for a large art piece to honor those who have donated to the school's construction.

At last week's high school building committee meeting, committee members highlighted the design plans for the piece, which would be on the south wall on the second floor in the heart of the school near the cafeteria.

The design working group of the building committee is still working on the final form of the donor wall installation.

"Details are still forthcoming, but the idea is that there is this implied crashing wave, the bubbles that occur when a wave crashes in the ocean, so it is building on the wave concept of the entire building," said Dawn Guarriello, the project architect and designer from Perkins Eastman.

The proposed size of the wall installation is 60-feet wide by 24-feet tall. Guarriello said the size and the height of the installation and its placement on the second floor wall will give it plenty of visual appeal from across the heart of the school area.

"That's quite a big space; you can see it directly across from where one enters and exits the auditorium at the top of the community stairs," she said. "The details we are still working out, but it may be like a third dimension that pops out and has a texture that supports the color. A lot of these circles have colors and textures that relate to nature, so our hope is to tie it all back to Revere and a lot of the history of Revere and the beach and textures and colors that exist in your community."

Three sizes of the circular bubbles would be used to display the names of people, families, or organizations who have donated to the building of the school.

The building committee agreed that the design team should move forward with more detailed plans on the artwork and how the donor wall artwork will be installed.

"One piece that the team really thought about … was how to maintain the themes we have already done in the design planning process and we liked this particular motif because it's dynamic," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dianne Kelly.

Kelly noted that the complete artwork doesn't need to be completed before the school opens.

"These bubbles will all be installed so that the artwork is complete," she said. "Then over the years, somebody could say they want to buy a large-size circle for a loved one or a remembrance; or even because I am new to the Revere community and we could take that piece down, have it engraved … and then put it back up."

The superintendent said people would not have to decide right away if they wanted to make a donation, noting that the city will be paying off the debt service for the construction well after the building opens. The money from the donations would be placed in the high school building stabilization account.

"The other thing that I will point out is that the piece of art itself will have all different size circles, but we tried to pick a few that we thought might be somewhat affordable to people, but also represent a significant donation to the school," said Kelly.

The proposed donation levels on the concept art presented at the building committee meeting were $1,000; $2,500; and $5,000.

School and building committee member Stacey Bronsdon-Rizzo said the concept presented by Guarriello best represented the new high school being in Revere.

NEIGHBORHEALTH AND BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF EXPANDING ACCESS TO CARE IN WINTHROP

WINTHROP - NeighborHealth and Boston Medical Center (BMC) celebrated ten years since the historic opening of a shared facility in Winthrop, Mass., marking a decade of collaboration to bring comprehensive healthcare services closer to home for patients in Winthrop and surrounding communities.

The shared clinical facility at 17 Main Street opened to patients in 2016 to address the need for more convenient access to primary, specialty and rehabilitation care in Winthrop, East Boston and Revere, communities geographically separated from many of Boston's major health care facilities. The spacious waterfront building, designed by leading healthcare design firm ingenuity, provides convenient access to NeighborHealth's Family Medicine and Specialty Care services, including sports medicine, gastroenterology, pulmonology, podiatry and endocrinology, alongside BMC's state-of-the-art Physical and Occupational Therapy clinic and gym.

The anniversary celebration brought together dozens of leaders, providers, staff, patients and community members to recognize the patients and care teams who have shaped the partnership over the past decade.

"Over the past 10 years, this partnership has made it easier for our patients to get the care they need, closer to where they live and work," said Dr. Mothusi Chilume, Medical Director, Family Medicine at NeighborHealth. "By bringing primary, specialty and rehabilitation services together in one location, we are helping patients spend less time navigating the health care system and more time focusing on their health. That kind of access is what community-based care is all about."

Over the past decade, the partnership has helped create a more seamless experience for BMC and NeighborHealth patients in need high-quality rehabilitation services north of Boston, allowing access to skilled care without crossing the harbor.

"This facility is a testament to what hospitals and community health centers can achieve when we work together," said Karen Mattie, Senior Clinical Director, Boston Medical Center. "By joining BMC's leading rehabilitation care with NeighborHealth's family medicine expertise, we have created a model that has allowed our organizations to respond to thousands of patients' needs in a more connected way. This partnership continues to be an example of how collaboration can strengthen the continuum of care and create lasting value for communities."

In addition to providing an integrated model of care for Winthrop and surrounding communities, the space continues to bring two leading employers to the beachfront community. Earlier this year, NeighborHealth was named a 2026 USA Today Top Workplace and BMC was named a 2026–2027 Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report.

For more information about NeighborHealth and BMC's Winthrop location visit: www.neighborhealth.com.

Fresh and Local

Many farmers' markets are still open

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

If you're someone who thinks that September brings an end to the fresh, local, healthy ingredients you've been purchasing at a local farmers' market, you are wrong. While some markets run for a short time, many others continue into November.

Halley Stillman from Still Life Farm and Stillman's Farm recently told us why this is a great time of year for regular visits to area farmers' markets. She said, "This is the best time of year to shop. You have all the stuff from the summer, and we are going into all the best stuff of the fall. The seasons will converge in this month." (Below you'll find a list of the markets that remain open.)

Longer Seasons and More Crop Diversity

Today's farmers' markets have expanded beyond produce. You can purchase local seafood, meat, bakery products, flowers, eggs, grown and foraged mushrooms, and prepared food.

Every year we notice new offerings at the markets we attend. Once okra was a rare sight; now we have had it much longer. A wide variety of berries keep farm stands filled with healthy options for snacking and cooking.

Some family farms have expanded their scope with each generation. For example, today you'll find Stillman's Farm offering items from the original farmstead, plus Halley and Curtis Stillman's Still Life Farm fruit and berries, and Kate's Stillman Quality Meats.

Greenhouses and hoophouses have allowed regional farmers to extend their growing seasons, offering earlier and later crops that once had very short seasons.

What About Prices?

Recent produce recalls and distrust of the government's ability to ensure food safety have expanded the market for our farmers. We've noticed longer lines and people surprised by the offerings at local markets. And when we suggest that people concerned about these issues shop at farmers' markets, they complain about the prices.



Halley Stillman says, "This is the best time of year to shop. You have all the stuff from the summer, and we are going into all the best stuff of the fall."

Yes, food is expensive! It's expensive at the supermarket and when dining out. However, food waste is even more expensive. The food you purchase at a farmers' market is fresher, will last longer, has more nutrition, and you can usually buy exactly the amount you need.

Farmers face higher prices for all the elements that go into growing the food you want. These farmers drive large trucks long distances from their rural farms to city markets. They face higher fuel and energy costs to run farm equipment and heat greenhouses.

Farms are labor-intensive, and with many potential workers prevented from entering or forced to leave this country, they must pay workers a competitive wage. Additional workers are needed to staff farmers' markets, and they pay fees for market space.

The list goes on and on: seeds, equipment, taxes, interest payments on loans and mortgages, equipment purchase and repair, water, insurance, and all the other costs any business requires.

We're fortunate they are willing to keep providing the safety of a local food source and deliver it to markets near our homes.

Here's that list of markets. (Exact locations, dates, times, and other details are available at www.massfarmersmarkets.org.)

Open into late September: Assembly Row, Kendall Square, Revere Beach and Winthrop. Open into late October: Boston Fish Pier, Charlestown, Chelsea, Mission Hill, South End Greater Neighborhood, SOWA, and Union Square.

Open into Thanksgiving Week: Central Square - Cambridge, Copley Square, and Davis Square

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

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL



The First Day at School can be a very happy & special day for both parents, grandparents & children.



PLEASE SHARE THOSE PHOTOS WITH US

Please provide:
- Child's Name
- Newspaper to be published in

Email photos to:
promo@reverejournal.com

PHOTOS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EAST BOSTON TIMES ON SEPT. 16TH

PHOTOS RECEIVED WITHOUT INFO WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED

DEADLINE FRI, SEPT. 11TH

PHOTO ALREADY ON YOUR PHONE? SCAN HERE, TO SEND YOUR EMAIL! JUST ATTACH IT!

Winthrop Lodge of Elks

End of the Summer Kickoff

Building Improvement Fundraiser

Sept. 19 | 1PM | rain or shine

191 Washington Ave.

BBQ & Entertainment

Ticket holders Grand Raffle Prizes

1st Prize $7,500 2nd Prize $2,000

3rd Prize $500 & more!

$100.00 ticket per person, ticket holder may bring one guest for $25.00. Limited tickets to be sold.

Once the first 200 raffle tickets are sold, we'll draw another $500 winner for every additional 100 tickets sold. There's potential for up to eight $500 drawings. Plus, there are extra prizes: 50/50, scratch tickets, baskets, and more!

For tickets Scan QR to contact Secretary1078@comcast.com

Payment can be made by cash, check, or Venmo @Bettie-Dalton (reference Elks 09/19).

venmo