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# Boston City Paper

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# *The Skill Code*
# by Matt Beane

## Review by John Joseph Fahey

*The Skill Code*, with subtitle *How to Save Human Ability in an Age of Intelligent Machines* penned by Matt Beane, "assistant professor in the Technology Management department at the University of California, and a Digital Fellow with Sanford's Digital Economy Lab and MIT's Initiative on the Digital Economy" allows readers a good overview of what is at the forefront of one of today's most common concerns – the encroaching influence of Artificial Intelligence on the human population.

Beane however takes this issue one step further – actually several steps further to articulate his argument that while AI has its both good and threatening factors, one should be both discerning and proactive so they will be able to meet the challenges of the modern world – more specifically with advancing technology that seems to be accelerating all the time.

And the author suggests that to maintain one's position in the workplace which is experiencing ever changing and expanding developments, one must be adept at building skill. This is achieved reasons Beane, with not only "making technology part of the solution" but also in examining those "basic components of how we develop our most valuable skills."

Beane writes in his narrative of eight concise chapters, the methods employed to accomplish this. The Code in which refers the book's title is comprised of "the three C's – challenge, complexity, and connection…"

It is these three C's that are addressed relative to the book's prime point – that the worker (and this is evidenced at the specialized levels as well as in lower strata positions,) learns his or her responsibilities (skill) by training of course, but from others and by rote performance such as the master and apprentice relationship. Yes, robotics are, and have been, an intricate and familiar part of the workplace, but the human dimension of learning and attainment of knowledge cannot be overstated. The challenges, complexities and the connections related to learning new skills is established and honed with those who are already specialized in their fields; this permits the novice to gain valuable job training which will result in acquiring expertise. Knowledge about the job tasks is important however, what is essential is actually participating in the job itself with an apprentice and then getting one's feet wet with practical application.

Beane writes that his thesis is also backed empirically: "…The research is clear on this, too—formal learning, at best, just gets you table stakes. It lets you start playing the game. But having conceptual knowledge about the work or doing practice exercises is very different from being able to do the work under pressure. To get there, most of us still rely primarily on collaboration with an expert. That relationship shapes our work so that we slowly, incrementally build layers of know-how that allows us to get results when it counts. If we step back from our own personal experience – if we look at human history as a long chain of relationships and interactions – this is how skill gets developed and passed between generations."

*The Skill Code*… is pertinent for those looking to perhaps become more adept in their employment, or in understanding the magnitude of the professional and trainee association relative to the current contentious Artificial Intelligence and its debated implications. Indeed, Beane informs of how the once effective concept of learning one's job could very easily be compromised.

*The Skill Code* ….is published by HarperCollins (2026) and is 203 pages.

## *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*

***November 13th through December 3st, 2026***

Lyric Stage Boston presents *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields Mischief Comedy's West End & Broadway Smash Is Re-Imagined in Boston's Most Intimate Theatre for Holiday Audiences.

Boston's upcoming holiday production of Peter Pan Goes Wrong. Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields, co-founders of Mischief Comedy in London and creators of the Olivier Award-winning *The Play That Goes Wrong*, co-authored this need-to-see-it-to-believe-it send-up of an amateur theatre company trying to stage Peter Pan, only to find themselves in a heap of hilarious trouble. The production is directed by Paul Melone and features a company of madcap Boston-area artists. Performances run from Friday, November 13 through Thursday, December 31, 2026.

Courtney O'Connor, Lyric Stage's Producing Artistic Director, says: "Following the incredible fun audiences had when we produced The Play That Goes Wrong a few seasons ago, everyone has been asking—well, demanding, if we want to split hairs—that we do it all again. The smiles and laughter were so thrilling we decided to answer the call with another Mischief classic. We hope this year's holiday production is an opportunity for family and friends to enjoy live theatre and make more fun memories together."

For further information including ticket sales, contact the Lyric Stage Boston at 617.585.5678; or email: BoxOffice@lyricstage.com.
The Lyric Stage Boston is located at 140 Clarendon Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02116


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# ARE THE POLLS ON TRACK TO BE WRONG AGAIN?

By Paul Feeney, Publisher

Week after week, day after day, I have been receiving press releases from the White House containing the statements he would be making at his many appearances at campaign rallies across the country. In each press release, the President's list of accomplishments is indeed very, very impressive.

Most impressive though, and what I don't see publicized in the major media is the lists of companies that have or are to be soon investing millions and in some cases, billions of dollars in new plants and manufacturing facilities in all areas of the economy from new steel mills to pharmaceutical, auto and farm equipment, just to name a few.

At the same time, I also get press releases from the same groups, whoever they are, that look at every way possible to discredit the President's hard-working campaigning on behalf of Republican candidates.

Things like his hair color, a bruise on his hand, a slip while walking, anything to make him look like he is not healthy and not up to the job of President.

So now, our nation awaits the results of the mid-term elections. President Trump did it the last time, he himself ran for President. He journeyed intensely across the country and won the election with an overwhelming victory with over a two million plurality, victories in key electoral states and a clear mandate to be a President that the majority of the American people wanted him to be.

He's had the power, he's done his thing. But everywhere you look within the media, you tend to believe that the Republicans will lose their majorities in the House and Senate.

But the truth is, each and every election is different. In this mid-term election we see the rise of the so-called progressive wing of the Democratic Party. The Democratic elites are not the ones leading the Democratic Party at the time of this election.

It is the Bernie Sanders element, the Social Democrats as they call themselves who appear to have the support of a growing number of young voters and other apparently disaffected voters who are in opposition to the goals and principles of the Republican Party and the Trump Administration.

Those goals and principles of the RepublicanS have been in full view for the entire American people to make their choice and show their approval or disapproval of the President's policies of the past two years.

Historically, we read that the opposition party does better in the mid-terms held every two years than in the Presidential election held every four years.

We shall soon discover if the polls were right on target this voting day or were they missing something, such as the tremendous wave of support that President Trump received at the ballot box two years ago. We will know the answer either the night of or the day after election day.

Here in Massachusetts, we will find out if Republican Mike Minogue can upset Maura Healey to become Governor.

Governor Healey has been on a relentless effort to identify Minogue as the Trump Guy. Minogue on the other hand has run an excellent campaign. He came on the scene very early on introducing himself to the voters long before Gov. Healey took to the TV screens to equate him with Trump.

But, it is a fact, that historically Democratic voters in the Commonwealth have a history of electing Republicans to the Governor's office. Most recent one was Charlie Baker, who is perceived as a RINO, which as we know means a Republican In Name Only.

The scary thing, to me in this election is the rise of candidates who no doubt think that America and the American way of life, its history and its culture and its winning ways economically around the world since the end of WWII is an evil thing.

But in my mind, these candidates are not the real Democrats that we who are Democrats have historically been called, and that is WORKING CLASS DEMOCRATS.

As working class Democrats we have always placed the importance of having a job, raising our family, owning a home, educating our kids, maybe a new car at the top of the list of our priorities.

Working Class Democrats are not poor people.

Today, a hard working family with a husband and wife working, with good jobs from driving a bus for the MBTA, teaching, a good trade etc. are worth in many, many instances over a million dollars or more on paper with their salaries, their property values, their life insurances, their investments, their IRAs and other assets that it would seem to me they are not in favor of moving our country from the 250 years of growth and development to the dark areas of Socialism and Communism, which working class Democrats have always opposed as a desired way of life.

As working class Democrats, we have a powerful voice to express at the ballot box. Yes, Working Class Democrats are not poor people but rather people who support the poorest of the poor among us.

In the last Presidential Election the Teamsters Union of America among others, did not endorse either a Democrat or a Republican for President.

Teamsters truly are Working Class Democrats and union polling showed many, many of the union members supported Donald Trump for President. That was a shock to the system for Democratic leaders.

Reading about the many, many investments being made by companies from across the country and around the world in so many of the states where the President would put younger candidates to shame with the energy he exhibits day after day on the campaign trail makes me wonder what more could he have done in these last two years to keep the support of the majority of voters he had captured two years previous.

Win or lose, President Trump has gone to battle and made his case to the American voters. It is their ultimate decisions that will decide if the house and senate majority switches to the Democrats in January.

In the meantime, two months and two years, is a long time for President Trump to still be able to exercise the power of the Presidency. He received a mandate to run this country for four years.

He's two months away from being half done. He's done his thing. The people, not the polls, will determine the final outcome. We await the results of election day, here in the Commonwealth and across our great nation. Will the polls be right on target, or completely off the mark?

When it comes to President Trump, they have always been off the mark. No one knows that better than Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

In April of 1965, I won the talent contest while in Basic Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. I still believe in the message of my song today, but worry if 21 year olders as I was at the time really understand the evils of Socialism and Communism.

Here's the song which I sung to the tune of Old Stewball Was a Race Horse for anyone who remembers that 60s era folk song.

I'll tell you a story
It concerns you and me
It's all about Russia
And the Red Chinese

It seems they dislike us
And what we stand for
And they have a desire
To win the Cold War

They've set their minds to it
They've planned carefully
But they have forgotten
The strength of the free

For though we are truthful
And we do not want war
We will never fall victim
To what they stand for

We value our freedoms
As others have seen
And we'll fight for the right
To live peacefully

So Russia and China
By now you should know
That the world you envision
Will never unfold.

## WHITE HOUSE NEWS

# First One Million Barrels of Oil arrives in Texas

*"This historic win gives us control over a massive part of the world's oil supply." – President Donald J. Trump*

Oct. 28, 2026 - Yesterday in Corpus Christi, Texas, President Donald J. Trump announced the arrival of **the first million barrels of oil secured by the Trump Administration** as part of the President's historic Venezuela oil deal—with all oil coming into America at no cost to the United States or the American taxpayer.

This first shipment of oil will be refined in the Lone Star State, supporting American jobs, and **increasing domestic supply to lower Americans' prices at the pump.**

From Alaska to Texas, President Trump is unleashing America's energy dominance—making the Western Hemisphere the energy capital of the world—and Americans will benefit as gasoline and diesel prices come plummeting down!


Leslie Jones

A STEVE DUFFY INTERVIEW

# 5 Questions: Leslie Jones

Founded by Cam Neely and Denis Leary, Comics Come Home brings comedy's biggest stars together to support The Cam Neely Foundation. We caught up with the hilarious Leslie Jones to talk comedy, the power of laughter, and joining this year's all-star lineup for an unforgettable night benefiting a great cause.

**SD: Comics Come Home is celebrating its 30th anniversary. What does it mean to you to be part of such a long-running comedy tradition?**

LJ: Honestly, I was thrilled that Dennis Leary even knew who I was. When he called and asked me to be part of it, my answer was an immediate, 'Yeah, man, let's do it.' I love being involved in anything that helps people, and if I can do that through comedy, even better.

**SD: There's something special about comedy bringing people together for a serious cause. Why do you think laughter can be so powerful during difficult times?**

LJ: Comedy has a way of pulling you out of whatever headspace you're stuck in. You know how people say that when you're depressed, doing something simple like washing your face can help break the cycle of negative thinking? Comedy works in a similar way. It eases the pain, even if only for a moment. Laughter shakes something loose inside you and lets you release some of the hurt, anger, or stress you've been carrying. It gives you a break from it all and helps you see beyond whatever mindset you're in.

**SD: How much of what happens during one of your sets is planned, and how much comes from reacting to the audience in the moment?**

LJ: I would say 70% is planned and 30% is how the audience and I are interacting.

**SD: What can audiences expect from Leslie Jones at Comics Come Home?**

LJ: Laughter, joy, and fun. Come prepared to have an amazing time with some amazing comedians.

**SD: If you had to give Boston one reason not to miss Comics Come Home this year, what would it be?**

LJ: I'm coming back home, Boston! In 2016, we shot "Ghostbusters" there, so I literally consider myself a citizen of Boston. I love your city, and can't wait to come back.

Big laughs. Big stars. One great cause. Get your tickets to Comics Come Home 30, November 7 at TD Garden! www.tdgarden.com. For more information about Leslie, visit www.justleslie.com

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**Sal G. shares photos of these 2 firetrucks recently in for rehab to the Boston Fire Museum. Firehouse dog sits in a 1949 Mack Engine 5 Apparatus.**

Boston City Paper, October 31, 2026

# City Points

News, Photos & Commentary By Sal Giarratani

## WE HAVE LOST OUR MORAL BEARINGS

There is no doubt in my mind that we have lost our moral bearings. Where we once debated right versus wrong, today we face a choice between good and evil—and only the devil wins when evil prevails. How many of us no longer make time for God? When anything goes, nothing goes right.

Reading today's newspaper headlines confirms the world is topsy-turvy. We have witnessed immense courtroom drama recently—first with Karen Read, who barely escaped with her freedom, and now with the ongoing trial involving a young woman allegedly exploited by police officers before her tragic death at the hands of one. Reading the reports from this murder trial leaves me feeling sick and dirty. I hope justice prevails.

In Massachusetts, Democratic politicians now advocate for the right to terminate a pregnancy up to the moment of birth, claiming it is guaranteed by the state constitution. It is not. We have devalued human life, treating it as a right only when convenient. Is this what Governor Healey is suggesting? What happened to right and wrong, or our shared humanity? We seem to be in a showdown with the forces of evil around us.

Greed is winning, and we have no one to blame but ourselves. We continue to elect damaging voices to public office or, worse, stop voting altogether, allowing this atmosphere to persist. I am voting this November because failing to do so allows others to dictate who we become and what America represents. Leaving a ballot blank is a victory for our opponents.

I wish Massachusetts had a robust Republican Party, but at the moment, it does not. We need to make the best choices we can in hopes that one day we will no longer be subjugated to one party rule.

Gvernment is our business . We can choose to run it or let it run us. The choice remains our until further notice.

## JUST MOVING ENCAMPMENTS IS THE WRONG APPROACH TO TAK

As I read a recent news story on homelessness ("Lynn evicts Central Square homeless community," The Item, Oct. 20), I wondered how many times over the years similar stories have appeared in the media. Nothing ever seems to change except the location of these encampments.

As a retired police officer who served 28 years with the state Department of Mental Health (DMH)—following prior experience in direct care across four Boston locations—I vividly recall the 1975 "deinstitutionalization" efforts to reform mental health care. In 1982, DMH introduced its "community-based care" initiative. Ultimately, the state tried to solve one chronic issue by creating new problems that have persisted for over four decades. Wards were emptied without providing adequate community-based options, effectively sending many people to the streets.

Today, we face a growing homeless population and a worsening mental health crisis, with many individuals living in our communities without necessary services. Beyond occasionally clearing encampments, what is the long-term solution? Are police departments simply expected to move people from one corner to another?

I have noticed that over the last 15 years, social workers increasingly accompany responding officers—such as Lynn's CALM Team or the BEST Team I worked with in the Metro Boston DMH Area. However, the core issue since the launch of community-based care remains a lack of sufficient community resources. For law enforcement handling homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues, the work feels endless and frustrating when the focus stays on short-term fixes.

Additionally, individuals at risk still retain the right to decline assistance. As a result, many remain on the streets, vulnerable to extreme winter cold, overdoses, and violence.

While the Lynn Police Department, Transit Police, and accompanying social workers cleared Lynn's Central Square encampment, everyone knows these encampments will simply relocate, leading to inevitable future police sweeps.

Boston City Paper, October 31, 2026

## REMEMBERING PATRICK KELLY AND HIS SUPPORT OF GAELIC SPORTS

### Irish Footballers Join together in an Old Style 7-A-Side Tournament in hopes of winning the first-ever Pat Kelly Cub

By Paul Feeney

Irish Football players from around Greater Boston participated in the first-ever Pat Kelly Cup tournament in Canton, on Saturday, October 24th on the fields at the Irish Cultural Centre.

These game and practice fields are officially sanctioned by the GAA which is the Gaelic Athletic Association, a world-wide organization supporting the growth and continuation of the Gaelic or Irish Sports unique to the Erin Island where they were founded over a hundred years ago.

These are their own unique sports and one of the most significant is known as Gaelic Football and it is Gaelic Football that was the feature of the Pat Kelly Cup tournament with five teams coming together to compete in 4 matches each of what one supporter told me is known as Old Style 7-A- Side.

The five teams participating in the competition were Donegal, Shannon Blues, Aidan McAnespie's, Galway and Kerry.

When it was all said and done, it was the Galway Club that defeated Kerry to take home the Pat Kelly Cup.

Pat Kelly passed away last year after a lifetime of involvement and participation in the activities of the Boston GAA with his roles as manager and Past Chairman of the Shannon Blues Gaelic Football Club (GFC).

For many years Pat Kelly owned and operated the Tara Pub and Lounge across from Ashmont MBTA Station in Dorchester and it was a favorite spot for the players, fans and supporters of Gaelic sports in Boston.

And of course, it was the local pub for the local community in and around the Ashmont area, but a local pub that attracted imbibers from throughout Greater Boston.

In later years, Pat Kelly was a partner in a used auto business known as Patriot Motors which operated for many years in East Dedham Square area before moving to the site of the former Clay Auto Sales on Belgrade Avenue in Roslindale and from which many a car or truck was sold to newly arrived emigrants to Boston who looked to Pat to treat them right and which he always went out of his way to do so.

Pat Kelly was a very good friend to the Irish Pastoral Centre in Dorchester's Adams Village neighborhood, known as being a center of Irish life in Boston.

There is a room at the IPC named in honor of his daughter and here is where the Irish Pastoral Centre works with those afflicted with terrible addictions to try and guide them back on the road to normality in their lives. It also helps people suffering from depression and other such problems.

On hand to present the Pat Kelly Cup to the winners of the 7-A-Side games was Pat's brother Peter Kelly and Peter's daughter Christene.

When the games were over, the players got to join together for a bite to eat at Heritage Park, to relax and talk about the games they just played.

The Shannon Blues GFC and Peter Kelly worked together to put this tournament together. The good memories of days gone by when Pat Kelly was such an important part of the club's operation was a driving force in taking the time and the special effort it took to make this tournament a reality.

Pat Kelly was a native of County Roscommon in Ireland of which there are many who lived here in Greater Boston from the days of emigration dating back to the potato famine and who enjoyed great success raising their families and living their American dream while holding dear to Irish traditions, such as Gaelic Football.

His passing was quick and unexpected but his memory lingers on with those who knew him so well and that was among many but especially his brother Peter and members of the Shannon Blues.



***This late 40's job probably served out of Engine 5 on Saratoga St. in Eastie into the early 80's.***



Shown in this photo is Dolores Ratzan Pablo, one of the characters in the movie Soul Seekers. Dolores is a healer from Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. Photo taken New Year's Day 2026 by author Jerzy Gnatowski.

# JERZY GNATOWSKI

## AN INTRODUCTION TO A FILM-MAKER

# CHALLENGING US TO BE SOUL SEEKERS

The American Film Association (AFA) is dedicated to shaping the next era of cinema with better stories, better business by connecting with the creative and business sides of filmmaking so more films worth making reach the screen.

AFA champions the working professionals shaping the next era of film filling a clear industry gap by providing a credible, year-round association for producers, filmmakers, financers and creative leaders with programs that have reached thousands of at in-person gatherings of professionals. AFA brings experienced voices together around the business of film and where the industry is headed. It is a growing movement built by professionals who show up for the industry.

It is to Hollywood and to the AFA that Manuela Misiak, a Polish immigrant living many years now in South Boston will soon be journeying to bring the work of Jerzy Gnatowski to the attention of the decision making process of the AFA. Manuela has been this newspaper's special connection to the Polish community which has a long and storied history in America going back to their famous General who came to fight in the American Revolution. South Boston especially has this rich history with its own Polish Catholic church and school and Polish American Citizens Club. Manuea is the producer of her own TV show on BNN-TV, Boston's community television network and various other shows featuring the art, dance, music and song of artists in search of discovery and recognition and for which she is now hoping that this same type of support for the producer of ***Soul Seekers*** will skyrocket this film-making organization to world-wife recognition, starting right here in Boston, MA.

Manuela put us in touch with Jerzy and we presented him with a series of questions that would inform our readers about his efforts now and in the past that have brought him to this point in his life. Like the Boston City Paper, he has a special connection with Manuela having grown up as friends in Poland. Both have a love for the arts and want to help each other in any way they can to let Poland, America and the world want to get before the screen in the very near future and see, hear and feel the special messages in everyone of their documentary films.

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## Jerzy Gnatowski Explains His Purpose and Goals for the Production of "Soul Seekers" and other films he hopes to bring to audiences around the world in the near future.

What is the meaning of the film's title, and why was it chosen?

*Soul Seekers means people searching for meaning, identity and their own path. The title reflects our universal need for connection and purpose, while questioning the growing industry that turns spirituality and personal transformation into products.*

Who came up with the title? Who are the people involved in the development of the project?

*I created the concept and title "Soul Seekers". I'm the director, writer and producer, working alongside co-producer Manuela Misiak and an expanding network of international collaborators and hope, local communities.*

When did you first become interested in making this film?

*The idea grew out of my fascination with spirituality, the holistic approach to human and visual storytelling. The actual trigger came in November 2025, when a friend sent me photographs from Lake Atitlán, Guatemala. In short, six weeks later, I was there filming.*

Where were you when the company began?

*I established and named company Masaporta in 2008. My company made many short promotional and documentary movies, we worked for Luxemburg Film Festival, various cultural institutions. Soul Seekers began as an independent creative initiative with international potential.*

Where did filming take place, and why?

*The pilot was filmed in Guatemala, mainly around Lake Atitlán, where ancient Mayan traditions coexist with modern spiritual tourism. It was the perfect starting point to explore the contrast between ancestral wisdom, authentic spiritual practices and the commercial wellness industry. But the impulse in private life was also a crucial factor to begin there.*

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

*To develop "Soul Seekers" into a seven-episode international documentary series, travelling across cultures and continents. I want to create compelling cinema that encourages reflection, challenges assumptions and starts meaningful conversations.*

How do you think audiences will respond to the film?

*I hope audiences will be visually captivated, emotionally engaged and intellectually challenged. This isn't a travel vlog or a spiritual guide. It's an intimate cinematic experience, told through the voices of real people, leaving viewers free to draw their own conclusions.*

What is the greater meaning of this film and future films?

*In a world increasingly shaped by algorithms, addictive technology and growing loneliness, Soul Seekers asks what makes us human It's about rediscovering meaning, genuine relationships and our connection to ourselves and others — without surrendering our judgment to gurus, industries or technology.*

Are there lessons readers can take from your experience producing this film?

*Absolutely. Don't wait for perfect circumstances. An unexpected message from a friend turned into an international documentary project in just six weeks. Stay curious, follow your intuition, respect the people whose stories you tell — and question everything, including your own beliefs.*

Who could benefit from watching Soul Seekers, and how might it improve their lives?

*Anyone who feels overwhelmed, disconnected or is searching for meaning. The film doesn't promise healing or offer ready-made answers. It invites people to question what they consume, recognize manipulation, reconnect with others and make more conscious choices. My message: Fight for yourself. Find your own way. Look for it. Question everything.*

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Boston City Paper, October 31, 2026

## OPINION

# Washington Has a Chance to Save Veterans' Lives

By Juliana Mercer

I graduated from Marine Corps boot camp a couple weeks before September 11, 2001. I had no idea how profoundly 9/11 would change the trajectory of my life.

I went on to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. Between deployments, I worked at the Wounded Warrior Battalion in San Diego, supporting Marines as they rebuilt their lives. What I did not understand was how deeply I was absorbing their grief and losses.

That became clearer when I later deployed to Afghanistan during one of the deadliest periods of the war for Marines. I purposefully stopped counting the flag-draped coffins as they were loaded onto planes to return home, swallowing my grief so I could return to the mission.

I became paralyzed watching young Marines go outside the base, thinking about their families and whether they would see them again. I began hallucinating that wounded Marines I cared for were walking toward me in the war zone. I now recognize that, alongside my own PTSD, I was carrying secondary PTSD from caring for wounded Marines.

With every loss, I swallowed what I felt just to keep functioning. I kept moving forward, until everything I buried became impossible to ignore.

I did not recognize what was happening until five years after returning home. I sought help. Therapy helped me feel less alone, but my symptoms continued to affect my life and relationships.

My experience is not unique. 870,000 veterans receiving VA health care were diagnosed with PTSD in 2024. Since 9/11, nearly 150,000 veterans have died by suicide. Many continue searching for relief after available treatments have failed.

That is why veterans are cautiously hopeful about psychedelic treatments. Studies of psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression show significant reductions in depressive symptoms, with up to one-third of patients achieving remission in some trials. Research involving veterans with PTSD found that 75% were in remission one month after psilocybin treatment.

I followed the research before pursuing psilocybin treatment myself. During that experience, I was finally able to access the grief I spent decades burying. It did not erase what happened or the memories of the Marines I lost. It changed my relationship with those memories. They no longer controlled my life.

I reconnected to the self I had lost and was able to feel joy and love again. Psychedelic medicines are not a cure-all. But veterans pursuing them are not looking for shortcuts. Many have spent years doing everything the medical system asked while continuing to search for relief.

Our government is beginning to recognize the potential of new approaches.

This year, President Trump signed an executive order to accelerate research and reduce barriers to psychedelic treatments for serious mental illness. VA is conducting clinical trials of MDMA for PTSD and psilocybin for depression. In July, FDA finalized guidance for clinical trials involving psychedelic drugs.

If these treatments receive FDA approval, the healthcare system must be ready to deliver them responsibly -- through DEA action, clear safeguards, and VA facilities prepared to provide care.

Our country asks a great deal of those who serve. If evidence demonstrates that these treatments are safe and effective, veterans should not wait years longer because Washington failed to prepare for success.

*Juliana Mercer is a Marine Corps veteran and executive director of Healing Breakthrough. A version of this column was published in Stars and Stripes.*

**Friday 11/13, 7:00-8:30 PM**
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# When Ireland Saved Boston: The Irish Donation of 1676

Did you know that 2026 marks the 350th anniversary of when a ship from Dublin laden with oatmeal, butter and cheese saved the lives of thousands in the Massachusetts Bay Colony?

On Friday, November 13th, historian Trent Taylor will explore the Irish Donation of 1676 and how this mass humanitarian relief effort strengthened the Irish-New England connections in the Puritan world.

His talk will shine a light on a forgotten but fascinating tale of 17th century transatlantic philanthropy which was reciprocated in 1847 when Captain Robert Forbes arrived in Cork with a ship full of provisions to provide relief during the Great Famine.

## New York Times Poll Shows Tighter Senate Race Than September as

# Latinos, Young People, And Independents Move Right

By Manzanita Miller

The latest New York Times/Siena College poll of 3,494 voters, conducted from Oct. 12–19, reveals that the battle for the U.S. Senate is tightening with just days ahead of congressional midterm election compared to Times/Siena polling conducted Sept. 8–13.

The overall spread is closer in the latest survey than it was in mid-September: 47 percent of likely voters plan to support the named Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate on Election Day, while 43 percent plan to support the named Republican, representing a four-point lead for Democrats.

In the mid-September poll, the Democratic Senate candidate held a six-point advantage, with voters planning to support the Democratic candidate 49 percent to 43 percent. The mid-September question excluded the races in Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, where Senate candidates were not yet resolved when the survey was conducted. While Democrats remain ahead with Election Day less than two weeks away, the party has seen its advantage narrow slightly. Digging deeper into the crosstabs from both surveys reveals where that shift is occurring. Key swing groups — including Latinos, young voters and independents —still plan to vote for Democrats by double-digit margins according to the survey, but those margins have shrunk since September.

The largest shift has occurred among Latino voters, a group Democrats have been reassuring themselves they will win back by wide margins as President Donald Trump's approval ratings have dropped. As Election Day approaches, Latinos are moving in the opposite direction, if only at the margins.

Latinos plan to support Democrats by 14 points (51 percent to 37 percent) in the latest Times poll. In mid-September, Latinos planned to support Democrats by a full 36 percentage points (63 percent to 27 percent). The raw share of the Latino vote for Democrats dropped by 12 points, while the share for Republicans rose by 10 points.

Young voters also show less enthusiasm for their Democratic Senate candidates than they did in mid-September. While the 18–29 age cohort overwhelmingly leans Democratic, young people are less enthusiastic about voting for a Democrat as the election approaches. While Democrats had the youth vote by 42 points (66 percent to 24 percent) in September, Democrats now hold a 35-point lead (61 percent to 26 percent) in the latest poll.

Independents, despite planning to support Democrats by a double-digit margin, have also reduced their support for Democratic Senate candidates compared to mid-September. Independents plan to support the Democratic Senate candidate by 19 points (52 percent to 33 percent) in the latest survey, down from a 28-point lead (59 percent to 31 percent) in mid-September. While the raw vote share for Republicans has barely shifted among independents, the Democratic raw vote share has declined by seven points.

Regionally, another shift has emerged. There appears to be less enthusiasm for supporting Democratic Senate candidates in the Northeastern United States compared to mid-September. Democrats still maintain an advantage in the Northeast, leading by 27 points (59 percent to 32 percent), but that advantage has shrunk significantly. In mid-September, Democrats led in the Northeast by a full 40 points (66 percent to 26 percent), shaving 13 points off the Democratic advantage.

With a key race in Maine, where Democratic contender Troy Jackson is ahead of Sen. Susan Collins by 1.6 percentage points according to the latest Real Clear Polling average, the data hints that Democrats may have to work harder to win in the Northeast compared to mid-September projections.

While the Times poll shows Democrats ahead by four points in the race for control of the U.S. Senate — and ahead by a full 1[illegible] points in the race for the House — the Senate data points to tighter margins on Election Day than forecasted five weeks ago. With just under two weeks to go, a lot could still change in the polls, but Election Night could bring a few surprises.

*Manzanita Miller is the senior political analyst at Americans for Limited Government Foundation.*

# President Trump Returns to Ohio With a Record of Results

**Oct. 28, 2026 - Today, President Donald J. Trump returns to the Buckeye State to showcase a record of results that puts Ohio workers, families, seniors, farmers, and communities first.** Under the leadership of President Trump and Republicans, Ohioans are benefiting from historic tax relief, falling crime, surging private investment, stronger rural healthcare, and new resources for the state's defense industry.

**Delivering Historic Tax Relief for Ohioans**

*President Trump's Working Families Tax Cuts are putting real money back in the pockets of hardworking Ohio workers, families, and seniors.*

**No Tax on Overtime:** More than 1.2 million Ohio workers claimed $3.4 billion in No Tax on Overtime deductions in 2026.

**No Tax on Social Security:** More than 1.5 million Ohio seniors benefited from the new senior deduction in 2026, with the average senior expected to pay zero federal taxes on Social Security benefits.

**Bigger Refunds:** Ohio taxpayers saw average refunds of $3,308 in 2026.

**Protecting Jobs and Wages:** The Working Families Tax Cuts safeguarded 208,000 Ohio jobs, $37 billion in state GDP, and $19 billion in wages for Ohioans.

**Lowering Taxes for Small Businesses and Family Farms:** The tax cuts permanently locked in the increased death tax exemption (indexed for inflation), 100% expensing, a doubled Section 179 limit, and the 20% small business deduction. They also expanded crop insurance and raised reference prices for the first time in over a decade.

**Strengthening Rural Healthcare Across Ohio**

*President Trump is delivering targeted resources to expand access, modernize care, and improve outcomes in Ohio's rural communities.*

**Rural Health Transformation:** Ohio secured more than $200 million in first-year funding under the Working Families Tax Cuts' Rural Health Transformation Program.

**Modernizing Care:** The Trump Administration awarded $92 million across 22 rural Ohio hospitals to support coordinated care networks, maternal health services, and equipment and facilities upgrades.

**Making Ohio Communities Safer**

*Violent crime is falling across Ohio as President Trump's law and order agenda takes hold.*

Statewide homicides dropped 16.1% last year.

**Columbus** hit a 16-year low in homicides in 2025, with further declines in 2026.

**Cincinnati** saw homicides fall more than 6% in 2025 and drop another 19% in the first half of 2026 compared with the same period the year before.

**Cleveland** recorded double-digit drops in 2025: homicides down 16%, rapes down 28%, auto thefts down 26%, and robberies down 24%. In the first half of 2026, rapes fell another 8% and robberies another 21%.

**Unleashing Private Investment and Job Creation**

*President Trump's pro-growth, America First policies are drawing major private investment and new jobs across the Buckeye State.*

**Nvidia** is financing up to $105 billion for a new Super Intelligence data center in Pike County.

**Electra** is investing $850 million to open its first EL9 Ultra Short aircraft production facility in Springfield, creating 1,975 new jobs.

**Stellantis** is investing $400 million in its Toledo Assembly Complex, creating over 900 jobs.

**Bayer** is investing $2.2 billion to build a pharmaceutical manufacturing campus in New Albany, creating about 600 permanent jobs and 1,500 construction jobs.

**Honda** is investing up to $2.5 billion to build a new hybrid vehicle production plant in Ohio.

**Hikma Pharmaceuticals** is investing $267 million to expand its manufacturing facilities in Columbus and Bedford, creating 350 new jobs.

**Weidmann** is investing $150 million to renovate and expand a historic former paper mill in Middletown, creating dozens of new full-time jobs.

**Kreate** is investing $100 million for a new consumer and professional plastic products manufacturing facility in Tiffin.

**Kimberly-Clark** is investing $800 million to build its first new U.S. plant in 37 years in Warren.

**Vallourec** is investing $48 million to expand its operations in Youngstown.

**Powering Growth and Protecting Communities**

*President Trump is securing reliable energy and delivering for communities that were neglected under the previous Administration.*

**Protecting Ratepayers:** The Trump Administration formed a public-private partnership with SoftBank Group and SB Energy to build 10 gigawatts of new power generation in southern Ohio, ensuring corporations — not Ohio families — pay the costs of data center growth. The deal includes $40 million in community benefits from SB Energy.

**Standing Up for East Palestine:** After years of inaction, the Trump Administration launched a five-year, $10 million research initiative to study the long-term health impacts of the 2023 train derailment and ensure residents receive the medical attention they need.

**Revitalizing American Steelmaking:** The Trump Administration awarded $500 million to support a $1 billion investment at Cleveland-Cliffs' Middletown Works facility in Middletown, protecting 2,300 jobs and strengthening our domestic steel supply chain.

**Strengthening Ohio's Defense Industry**

*President Trump is expanding Ohio's role in national security and high-tech defense manufacturing.*

In October, President Trump announced that Cleveland will be home to the new U.S. Submarine Component Repair Center.

The first Ohio-built Fury fighter drone for the U.S. Air Force rolled off the line in July at Anduril's Arsenal-1 plant in Pickaway County — a $910.5 million project expected to create more than 4,000 jobs.

The FY 2026 NDAA provided more than $72 million for Ohio defense projects, including $60 million for work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

# MAINE TO BOSTON RAIL TRAVEL GETS A BIG BOOST

## State Celebrates A Milestone For The Wells Area Improvement Project

## Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority Looks to Amtrak Downeaster Passenger Growth

NEPRA was proud to mark the substantial completion of the Wells Area Improvement Project on October 26, 2026, at the Wells Regional Transportation Center in Wells, Maine.

The event brought together project partners, community leaders, and transportation representatives to celebrate this important milestone for Amtrak Downeaster service.

***Event speakers included:***

Jim Cohen, NNEPRA Board Chairman
David Fink, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration
Peter Butler, Region 1 Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration
Dale Doughty, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation
Andre Briere, Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority
Maurice O'Connell of CSX Transportation
Jon Smith of Great Falls Construction
Michael Pardue, Wells Town Manager
Sarah Lawrence, representing the Office of Congresswoman Chellie Pingree
Sarah Stanley, representing the Office of Senator Angus S. King Jr.
Pam Buck, representing the Office of Senator Susan Collins.

The program included remarks from project partners, ribbon-cutting ceremonies, and a welcome to the first Downeaster passengers using the new platform structure. The participation of federal, state, and local transportation leaders, along with project partners, highlighted the collaboration and shared commitment that made this important milestone possible.

A special highlight was the recognition of **MaineDOT's Nate Moulton** for his many years of dedication and contributions to NNEPRA and the Downeaster service. His longstanding commitment and partnership have played an important role in advancing passenger rail in Maine and throughout the region.

The ceremony also honored **Patsy Brangdon**, a longtime volunteer/ staff member who dedicated more than 21 years of service at the Wells Regional Transportation Center. A commemorative plaque was presented in recognition of her years of dedication, service to passengers, and lasting contributions to the Downeaster community.

The event celebrated not only progress in passenger rail infrastructure, but also the people and partnerships whose dedication, collaboration, and service have helped make these achievements possible. The substantial completion of the Wells Area Improvement Project represents another important step forward in enhancing the passenger experience and supporting the future of passenger rail in Maine and the region.

Another important event underway is the relocation of the Portland Train Station.

Happy Veterans Day

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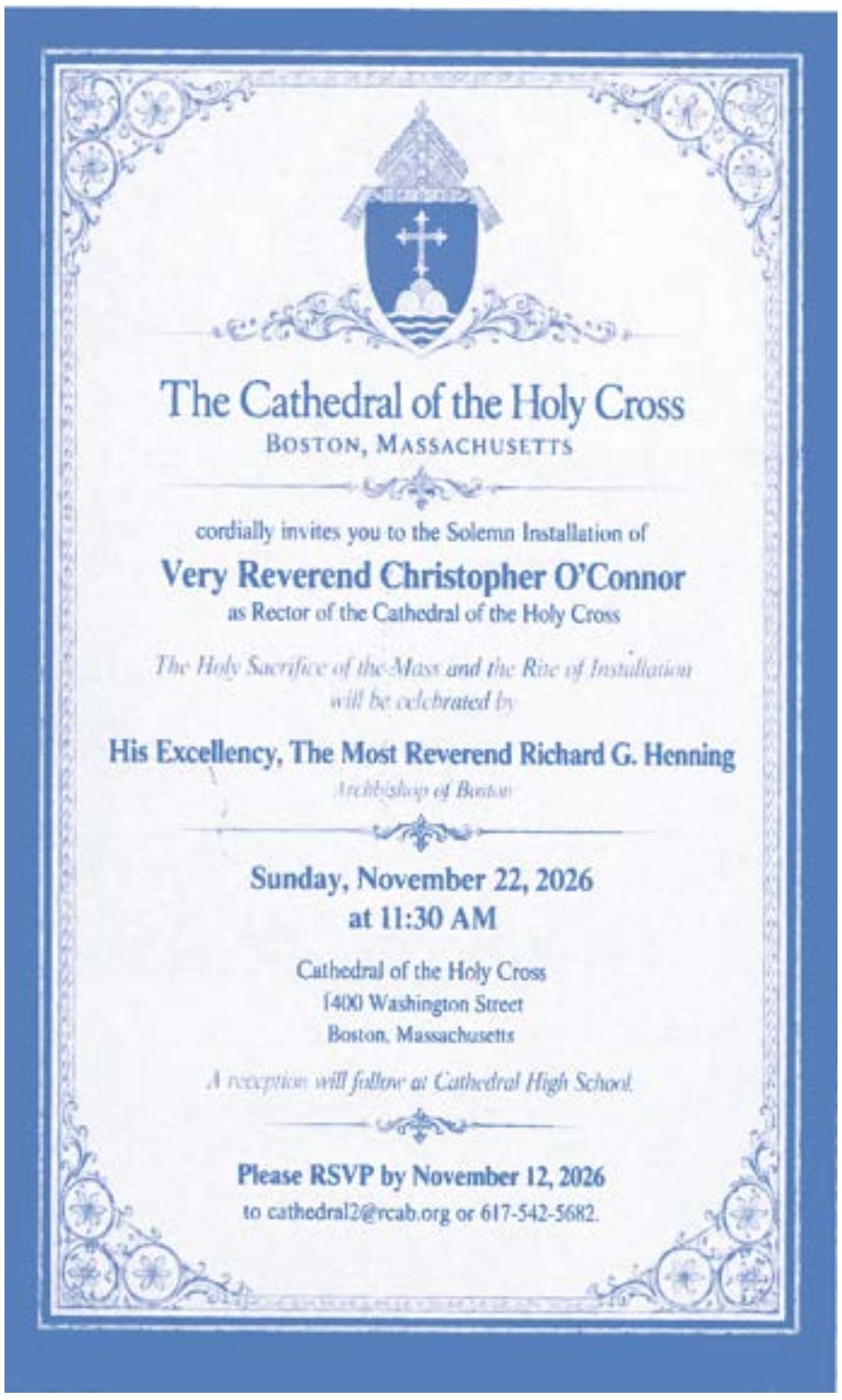



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## As Election Day Approaches, New FBI Statistics Show Crime Plummeting To Numbers Not Seen Since 1950s Under President Trump

By Manzanita Miller

According to crime statistics released Aug. 24 from the FBI, which aggregate data from the previous year to calculate crime rates, violent crime fell 9.3 percent in 2025, the sharpest year-over-year decline since the FBI began aggregating crime data in 1936. While liberal skeptics are reluctant to attribute the decline to President Trump's robust anti-crime approach — including an executive order aimed at strengthening protections for law enforcement and $300 million in grants through the Model Cities Initiative to fund equipment and training for officers — the data does not lie.

According to the FBI, murder and nonnegligent manslaughter plummeted 18.1 percent in 2025 compared to 2024, robbery dropped 18.5 percent, sexual assault fell 7.6 percent, and aggravated assault fell 7.2 percent. The estimated murder rate plummeted to 4.1 per 100,000 individuals, a number not seen since the 1950s and the lowest since the FBI began recording national crime measures.

Other crimes plummeted as well, with property crime declining an average of 12.4 percentage points since 2024, burglary falling 15.8 percent, larceny falling 9.8 percent, and auto theft declining 22.7 percent,according to the report.

While left-wing skeptics have declared that the decline in crime has nothing to do with President Trump and point out that crime peaked during the Biden administration due to the pandemic so declines were to be expected, the declines under President Trump have reached major lows across multiple categories not seen since the early to mid-2000s. The 2025 robbery rate of 49.4 per 100,000 Americans is the lowest in 20 years. The rate for sexual assault is the lowest since 2012, and the murder rate is the lowest in 20 years. Robbery, sexual violence, and murder did not decline merely compared to pandemic numbers; they reversed significantly under the Trump administration compared to the 2000s.

The numbers behind these staggering declines in crime come from data submitted by over 17,000 state, county, city, tribal, university, and college law enforcement agencies, according to the FBI. President Trump has not taken a modest approach to tackling crime. In fact, the Trump administration has taken significant action to reduce crime rates, including deporting the "worst of the worst" criminals from sanctuary cities, introducing a Model Cities Initiative to direct Department of Justice (DOJ) grants toward cities to bolster law enforcement, and directing federal resources toward policing through executive orders. The approach appears to be working.

In June 2026, President Trump rolled out the Model Cities Initiative, committing around $300 million in grants to specific U.S. cities to hire and retain law enforcement, purchase new equipment and tools, fund services including shelter and advocacy for vulnerable populations, and fund programs that treat mental health issues and addictions, among other funding objectives.

In April 2025, President Trump signed an executive order committed to promoting safe communities and a well-equipped police force. The executive order strengthens protections for law enforcement, including providing legal resources for law enforcement personnel who unjustly face legal battles through the line of duty and coaching state and local law enforcement on best practices.

While Democrats have advocated for sanctuary policies that shield dangerous criminals from the law, stoked the flames of violent agitators that have made it more difficult for law enforcement to do their jobs, and protested against deportation efforts, the Trump administration's commitment to reducing crime is working, and the data proves it. Crime across multiple categories hit record lows in 2025. Once the 2026 data is aggregated next year, the data is likely to continue to show a significant reduction in crime compared to modern-era norms, as long as the country continues to support law enforcement and the rule of law.

*Manzanita Miller is the senior political analyst at Americans for Limited Government Foundation.*

To view online: https://dailytorch.com/2026/10/as-election-day-approaches-new-fbi-statistics-show-crime-plummeting-to-numbers-not-seen-since-1950s-under-president-trump.



Pictured are: Kate Brandley, SJPIICA Regional Director; Jeanne Cararra, Nicole Spaulding, Delilah Demopoulos, Bridget Crane, Elizabeth Wellman, and Christine DeCarolis.

## Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy Presents Yawkey Awards for Teaching Excellence to Six Outstanding Teachers

Dorchester, MA: Presented annually, the prestigious Yawkey Award for Teaching Excellence is awarded to Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy teachers who develop their own excellence in teaching; demonstrate leadership; show an exceptional commitment to inspiring and educating children; and exhibit positive student academic achievement in all facets: social, emotional, spiritual, and academic.

The award is given to two teachers from each of the Academy's campuses, Columbia, Lower Mills, and Neponset.

Receiving the 2026 award for Teaching Excellence

**From the Columbia Road Campus**
Bridget Crane, Grade 3 and Elizabeth Wellman
Middle School Math and Social Studies;

**From the Lower Mills Campus**
Jeanne Cararra, K1 Lead Teacher
and Delilah Demopoulos, Grade 5;

**From the Neponset campus**
Christine DeCarolis, Math Coach
and Nicole Spaulding, Grade 5.

The awards were presented at a dinner held at the Venezia Restaurant to thank all teachers and staff for their commitment and contributions to the Academy. Maicharia Weir Lytle, Chief Programs Officer at the Yawkey Foundation, was in attendance to present the awards.

We were blessed to hear from Lower Mills alumnus Jonathan Demosthene, who is a junior at Harvard University. A graduate of Saint Sebastian High School, Jonathan spoke of how SJPIICA gave him a foundation for high school and college.

He spoke about the lessons of discipline, curiosity, kindness, and charity. "I learned them in small everyday moments and I still carry them with me today. Lessons learned in Grade 6 English and Latin built the foundation for my writing skills. Some people ask if that is Chat GPT and I say, 'No, I learned how to write at SJP.' Thank you to the teachers because the lessons you teach extend far beyond the classroom for your students."

**Boston City Paper**
October 31, 2026
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*Bitz & Pieces*

**BY BARBARA FITZGERALD**

## THE BOSTON IRISH HONORS

The 16TH Annual Boston Irish Honors were presented on Friday, October 23rd by the John F. Kennedy Library at Columbia Point, Dorchester.

It was so inspiring to see this year's incredible honorees:; General Jack Hammond, Martina Curtin and Sam Kennedy and father.

**Brigadier General Jack Hammond**

Brig. General Jack Hammond was recognized for his amazing work with Home Base, supporting veterans with mental health and brain injuries in a unique partnership with the Boston Red Sox and Mass General Hospital.

**Martina Curtin**

The president of the Irish Cultural Center in Canton, was honored for everything the center does for our local community from sports fields and a preschool to wonderful senior coffees and luncheons.

**Sam Kennedy**

Sam Kennedy, president and CEO of the Boston Red Sox, along with his father, were celebrated for their many meaningful contributions to the City of Boston.

It was truly a special gathering!

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**Veteran's Day is November 11th**
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# 54 YEAR HISTORY

## Children's Services of Roxbury Announces Multi-Million Dollar Investment to Transform its Dudley St. Headquarters

Children's Services of Roxbury (CSR), one of the state's largest Black-led nonprofits providing culturally-attuned behavioral health services, foster care and family support services, officially launched the $27 million renovation of its 46,000-square-foot headquarters on October 29 with an interfaith blessing that honored the organization's 54-year history and celebrated its long-term commitment to the community and the City of Boston.

"We are excited to gather and give thanks for the generations of community stewards, trailblazers, and partner organizations who paved the way; and offer blessings for this new chapter of healing, hope, and possibility," said Sandra M. McCroom, CSR's president and CEO.

Under her leadership, CSR purchased the building it was leasing on Dudley St. in 2021 with the goal of eventually transforming it to address the evolving needs of the community. "We aim to make this building a beacon of excellence, hope, resilience, joy and safety, to bring peace of mind to the children and families we serve."

The event took place at CSR's headquarters at 504 Dudley St., and was hosted by McCroom, Reverend Ray Hammond, Imam Abdullah Faaruuq and Rabbi Elaine Zecher.

CSR began as a foster agency for children in 1975, started by the Reverend Richard Richardson and his wife. It has grown to serve over 6,500 people every year, with programs for early child education, housing and stabilization, youth resiliency, parent mentoring and children's behavioral health.

Project financing includes New Markets Tax Credits, loans from local banks, public funding, and donations from several private foundations and individuals. The investment will also have a direct economic impact as CSR is hiring locally based contractors and subcontractors. Once the renovation is complete, CSR will expand its reach to serve an estimated 1,500 additional people.

"We are seeing a growing demand among the people we serve for life-stabilizing services. Right now, their needs are more critical than ever," said McCroom. "Thanks to the generous support of funders who share our vision, Children's Services of Roxbury can expand its impact for families navigating traumatic experiences, providing more children with access to Universal Pre-K, equipping teenagers with skills and tools to overcome life's challenges, and preparing more young adults for success. This investment will help us meet urgent needs while creating greater opportunities for the future."

Just two days before the event, it was announced by State Senator Liz Miranda that she would be presenting $250,000 to CSR on behalf of the State, an investment that would support expanded youth mental health services and critical family supports.

The new building's design will expand upon CSR's front porch concept that McCroom believes is central to providing a welcoming neighborhood hub. For McCroom, who has led CSR for 11 years, inspiration for the front porch comes from her childhood in Memphis, where people from the neighborhood would gather on the front porch of her grandmother's home.

**About Children's Services of Roxbury:**

*Children's Services of Roxbury (CSR) is celebrating 54 years of providing wraparound programs for children and families that include family shelter, culturally attuned behavioral health services, foster care and family support services, early education and childcare, and youth development programs.*

*CSR is one of Massachusetts' largest Black-run nonprofit organizations, led by a Board and staff that represent the diverse communities it serves.*

*CSR's programs and services demonstrate practices that break the cycle of systemic racism for future generations and empower families and young adults on their journey from poverty to stability and wealth-building. Learn more at www.csrox.org.*

# BOSTON BHANGRA

## This Global Indian Dance Competition has been coming to Boston for 23 years and now includes live music performances

*November 14, 2026, at the Strand Theater*

**(Boston - August 08, 2026)** Boston Bhangra, North America's largest independent Indian dance competition, is coming back to Boston for the biggest dance battle yet.

For the first time in its 23-year history, the celebration of northern Indian dance and culture will also feature live bands from across the US and Canada performing at the Strand Theatre in Dorchester on November 14, 2026. The teams will be announced at a later date. Tickets are on sale now at BostonBhangra.com/BBC.

Bhangra is a beautiful, upbeat folk dance style from the state of Punjab in northern India. Dancers wear colorful outfits and move to heavily percussive Punjabi music. The performances are all highly choreographed, highly athletic, and highly fun to experience.

Originally founded as a dance team in 2000, Boston Bhangra has evolved into a non-profit dedicated to promoting cultural awareness through dance and music. The organization offers Bhangra classes, team performances, and promotes events that draw talent from all over the world, all while enriching Boston's culture. The competition serves as the cornerstone of Boston Bhangra's mission to celebrate the rich Punjabi culture.

This year, the competition will be split into two divisions, one with musicians performing live along with the dancers, and another with strictly dancers accompanied by a Dhol and a backing track. The live music teams will all include a singer, a Dhol performer, and 3-4 other musicians playing traditional Bhangra instruments, such as Tumbis, Bugchus, and Chimptas. This will be the only Bhangra competition in North America to feature live musical performances.

"Adding live music makes this the most unique Bhangra competition in North America," said Rohit Bhambi, founder of Boston Bhangra. "We are putting on a show that you can't find anywhere else, as the top teams from across North America push themselves artistically to places we haven't seen before."

**The Boston Bhangra Competition will take place on November 14, 2026, at the Strand Theatre (543 Columbia Rd, Boston, MA). Tickets are available now at Bostonbhangra.com/bbc2026/.**

AN ITALIAN AMERICAN ALLIANGE EVENT

# SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF ALBERTO PROFETA

## A Celebraton of Italian Heritage and Culture
## TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

The Italian American Alliance is pleased to welcome back the incomparable Alberto Profeta for another unforgettable evening of Italian music, wonderful food, and great company!

Join us on Saturday, November 7, 2026, for a special evening celebrating our Italian heritage and culture.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026
Location: Sons & Daughters of Italy Hall
520 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA
Cocktail Hour: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Dinner and Concert to follow
Tickets: $85 per person

If you have not yet purchased your tickets, there is still time! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy the extraordinary talent of Alberto Profeta and spend an enjoyable evening with friends and family.

**FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT:**
**Florence Guidara: 617-877-7285**
**Marisa DiPietro: 617-650-3442**
**Ginny Gardner: 617-721-1062**

We look forward to seeing you there!
***The Italian American Alliance***

# WIN AN ELECTRIC BIKE!

The Italian American Alliance is pleased to announce a special raffle featuring a Lectric XP Lite 2.0 Sandstorm Long-Range Folding Electric Bike, generously donated by Marie Elena Saccoccio!

This exciting prize, valued at $1,384, features a lightweight, foldable design, a top speed of 20 mph, hydraulic brakes, a full-color LCD display, and Lectric PWR technology. Whether you're running errands, exploring your neighborhood, or simply enjoying the outdoors, this versatile electric bike offers convenience, comfort, and fun!

## RAFFLE CHANCES:

1 Chance for $20
3 Chances for $50

The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, November 7, 2026, during the Italian American Alliance's Alberto Profeta Fundraising Concert at the Sons & Daughters of Italy Hall in Watertown, Massachusetts.

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

Support the Italian American Alliance and take a chance on winning this fantastic prize. Your participation helps support the Alliance and its ongoing efforts to preserve, promote, and celebrate our Italian American heritage and culture.

TO PURCHASE RAFFLE CHANCES, PLEASE CONTACT:
Tom Damigella
Email: tdamigella@aol.com

We extend our sincere appreciation to Marie Elena Saccoccio for her generous donation of this wonderful raffle prize. Thank you for supporting the Italian American Alliance!

**The Italian American Alliance has a website. Please check it out: www.theitalianamericanallicance.com**

**Boston City Paper**
October 31, 2026
Deadline for news & ads is every Wed., before 5 p.m.
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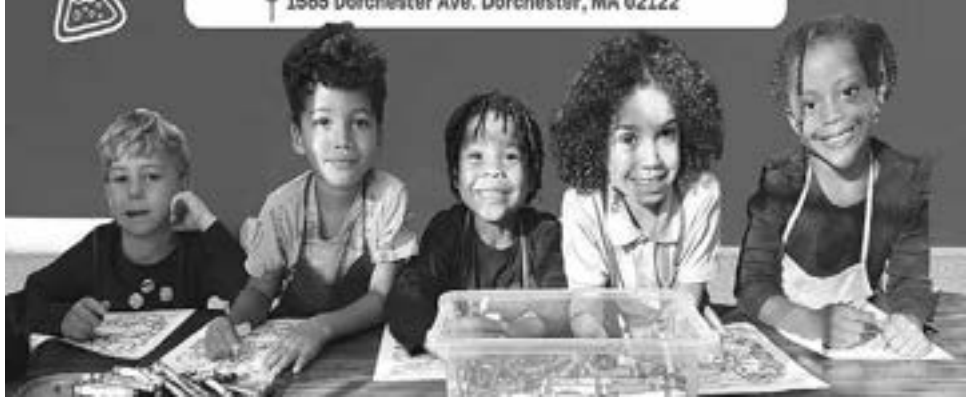


**Session #1: OCT. 5th, 2026 - DEC. 23rd, 2026/ $75.00 per child**

**Session #2: JAN. 6th, 2027 - MAY 7th, 2027/ $75.00 per child**

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# Boston Kroc Center receives two national Salvation Army awards

*Dorchester resident awarded Beacon of Hope Award while Super Sensational Seniors Program is recognized for Excellence in Programming*

**DORCHESTER, Mass. (October 2026)** – The Salvation Army Boston Kroc Center won two national awards last week, one for its fitness and recreation manager and one for its senior program for active older adults.

The awards were presented at the 2026 National Kroc Conference, held Oct. 13-15 in Scottsdale and Phoenix, Ariz., where the Boston Kroc Center was recognized among Salvation Army Kroc Centers from across the United States.

Trevor Garrick, a Dorchester resident and fitness and recreation manager at the Boston Kroc Center, received the Beacon of Hope Award. The award honors a Salvation Army employee who embodies the care, compassion and sacrifice at the heart of the organization's mission. For more than five years, Garrick has led the center's largest department and a team of more than 25 employees. He has introduced more than 25 health, fitness, recreation and wellness programs for children, teens, adults and seniors.

Garrick doesn't just run the department. He teaches fitness classes himself and encourages participants along the way. He welcomes people newly diagnosed with diabetes, teens looking for a safe place to belong, seniors finding friendship through pickleball and women building confidence in self-defense classes. When another department needs help, he pitches in.

The Boston Kroc Center's Super Sensational Seniors Program, led by Captains Michelle and Shakai Drigo, corps officers and associate administrators at the Boston Kroc Center, received the Excellence in Programming Award. The program began as a traditional Salvation Army Golden Age group with nine members. It now serves more than 100 seniors each week at no cost, supported by participant donations, grants and community partners.

Members elect their own officers and help choose program topics, trips and events. They also give back. Through the Grow Food for Others Program, funded by a City of Boston grant, seniors tend a community garden whose fruits and vegetables go to local families facing food insecurity. Members also check in on fellow seniors, make reassurance calls and shop for those who are homebound.

"Both of these awards reflect the commitment and compassion our team brings to the individuals and families we serve every day," said Major Elvie Carter of The Salvation Army Boston Kroc Center. "Trevor and the Super Sensational Seniors team show what it looks like to make a real difference in our community."

The awards come as the Boston Kroc Center marks 15 years serving Greater Boston since opening in Upham's Corner in 2011. For more information, visit: bostonkroc.salvationarmy.org.

***About The Salvation Army Boston Kroc Center***

*The Salvation Army Boston Kroc Center, one of New England's largest and most comprehensive non-profit community centers, opened its doors to the community in April 2011. The center represents The Salvation Army's ongoing commitment to building communities of faith, hope, compassion, and grace. Located in the Boston neighborhood of Dorchester, the 100,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility features cutting-edge fitness facilities, Boston's largest indoor aquatics park; a gymnasium with an NCAA-regulation-size basketball court; a 250-seat chapel and performing arts center, affordable youth programs and summer camp opportunities, and a wide range of social services for individuals, seniors, and families. Visit bostonkroc.salvationarmy.org to learn more.*


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# USDA Seeks Nominees for the National Organic Standards Board

**Application deadline - December 28, 2026**
**Docket Number:** AMS-NOP-26-0199
**Dates:** Applications must be received by mail or postmarked on or before December 28, 2026.

**Summary**

The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) established the National Organic Standards Board (Board) to assist in developing standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on the implementation of OFPA. Through this notice, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is requesting applications to fill the following vacancies:

- One individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation or employee of such individual;
- One individual who represents a public interest or consumer interest group; and
- One individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry.

Appointees will serve through Jan. 2032. Additionally, AMS seeks applications for a pool of candidates that the Secretary of Agriculture can draw upon as replacement appointees if unexpected vacancies occur.

**How to Apply**

Written applications must include:

- Resume
- AD-755 Advisory Committee Background Information Form
- Name of the position(s) to which you are applying.

Applications may also include:

- Cover letter (optional), and
- Letters of reference (optional). Reference letters will be accepted after the application deadline and can be submitted separately.

Electronic submissions are preferred and should be emailed to Andrew.Malone@usda.gov.

**Additional information**

- Federal Register Notice
- Recommendation on Criteria for Board Membership (pdf)
- Nominations page. - Information about the Board, time commitments, workload, and how to apply
- About the Board - Current Members, Activities, Policy & Procedures Manual, Resources

**Contact**

Andrew Malone, Associate Deputy Administrator, National Organic Program, Andrew.Malone@usda.gov.

## LACE UP! BAY STATE SKATING SCHOOL ANNOUNCES NEW AND ONGOING ICE SKATING CLASSES ACROSS GREATER BOSTON

Registration is open for learn-to-skate programs for children and teens ages 4 – 18.

GREATER BOSTON – Bay State Skating School, a non-profit organization with more than 55 years of experience teaching children to skate is welcoming registrations for new and ongoing learn-to-skate classes at 10 rink locations across the region. Whether stepping onto the ice for the first time or building existing skills young skaters can learn in a fun, supportive environment.

### FIND A CLASS NEAR YOU

BROOKLINE. Cleveland Circle, Reilly Rink
Thurs. & Friday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m.

BROOKLINE. Larz Anderson Rink Sat. & Sun. 10:45 a.m. Starts Dec.

CAMBRIDGE. Simoni Rink Sat. 2:00 p.m.

MEDFORD. LoConte Rink Sun. 1:00 p.m.

NEWTON/BRIGHTON. Daly Memorial Rink, Sun. 2:00 p.m.

QUINCY. Shea Memorial Rink Sun. 11:00 a.m.

SOMERVILLE. Veterans Memorial Rink Sun. 4:00 p.m.

WALTHAM. Veterans Memorial Rink Sat. 1:00 p.m. Sun. 4:00 p.m.

WEST ROXBURY. Jim Roche Community Arena Sun. 4:00 p.m.

WEYMOUTH. Connell Memorial Rink Sun. 2:00 p.m.

Each 50 minute class includes 25 minutes of instruction and 25 minutes of supervised instruction. NEW CLASSES. ONGOING CLASSES. MORE CHANCES TO SKATE.
For the latest class dates, availability, full details and registration, visit www.baystateskatingschool.org or Call 781-890-8480

# A CONVERSATION WITH VETERANS

By Paul Feeney

Bill Brett is having a special Veterans Day event at the Florian Hall in Neponset being called A Conversation with Veterans this Sunday, November 1, 2026 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Bill's new book is "Boston Veterans Appreciation" and he's put together a team of Boston's very well-known veterans including Ed Kelly, Joe Finn, Sam Dillon, Dan McGoon and Tommy Lyons along with General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Kelly, Finn, Dillon and McGoon rose to high positions as veterans who became Boston firefighters while Lyons was a leader with the South Boston veterans who created the first-in-the-nation Vietnam Memorial at M Street Park.

Join them in honoring those who served along with your host Bill Brett and moderator Jim Fagan.This is just one of several books published by Bill Brett. He told me the average book produced in America sells only 125 copies while his latest effort has already sold 5,000 copies. The book will make a nice gift to give others for Veterans Day or for Christmas. Buy one from the author at this event and it will be signed by none other than the Boston Globe's head of photography during his 50 years of taking photos. Remember the Globe's long ago advertising slogan: The Globe's Here?

Well, when Bill Brett arrived at an event to take photos that's what they said upon his arrival, The Globe's Here. He was the real public face of the Globe.

Florian Hall is located at 55 Hallet Street and is home to the Boston Firefighters Union Local 718. Check out Bills complete offerings at FACEBOOKBILLBRETT.COM or at mycitygear.com


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# English High School of Boston Alumni Gather to Celebrate School Pride and a Living Legacy

***All-Class Reunion Marks School's 205th Anniversary***

***By Stan Hurwitz***

**BOSTON, MASS.** -- A festive Caribbean atmosphere set the tone for an unforgettable school reunion this month, where alumni gathered to celebrate friendship, school pride and the extraordinary life of a 100-year-old graduate who once helped break barriers as a Tuskegee Airman.

The English High School of Boston's All-Class Reunion brought together alumni from multiple generations for an evening of music, food and memories, while organizers honored centenarian veteran, Brigadier General Enoch 'Woody' Woodhouse, Class of 1944, for both his military service and his enduring connection to the school community.

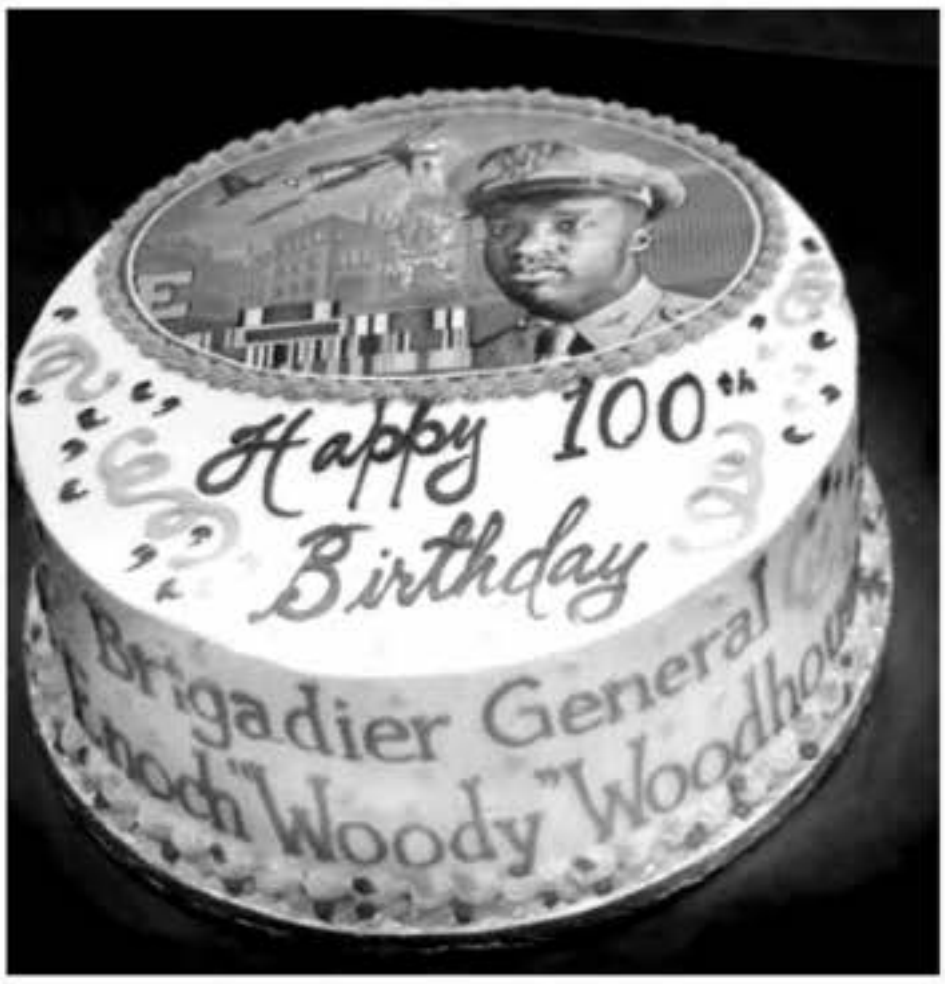
A replica of a Tuskegee Red Tail airplane model was presented to EHS by Marco Altobello of the Museum of Aviation. Built by Bob Desourdis, the plane will be on permanent display at EHS.

English High, America's first free public high school, is marking its 205th anniversary. The EHS band members kicked off the event with a drum line ceremony.

Welcoming the crowd of nearly 170 were Bill Gallagher, EHS Alumni Association Director, Greg Hayes, Board Chair, Head of School Caitlin Murphy, and EHS Alum and Boston City Councilor Miniard Culpepper.

For additional information about the English High School Alumni Association, support of the Scholarship Fund, and upcoming events, visit **EnglishHighAlumni.org**. For info: **Bill Gallagher, 857-547-1391 / bgallagher@englishhighalumni.org**

**ABOUT THE ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** -- The English High School Alumni Association works to preserve and celebrate the history and traditions of The English High School of Boston while strengthening connections among alumni, supporting current students, and helping future generations understand the significance of being part of America's oldest public high school.






EHS ALUM AND Boston City Councilor Miniard Culpepper presents proclamation to 'Woody'




Guests dressed for the night's theme were Carlton Smith and his wife.



'Woody' Woodhouse (2nd from left) and EHS Alumni Board Chair Greg Hayes (far right) welcome Patrick O'Connor (next to Greg)



"Woody' Woodhouse (EHS '44) is greeted by Head of School Caitlin Murphy.

Photos by John Murphy '67, EHS Alumni

Story by Stan Hurwitz '67, EHS Alumni

*VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11TH*

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# *Irish Events*

## In Greater Boston

## NOVEMBER 2026

### The Boston Irish Social Club

119 Park Street, West Roxbury

**SUNDAY IRISH DANCE SCHEDULE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday, Nov. 1st | Fintan Stanley |
| Sunday, Nov. 8th | Erin's Melody |
| Sunday, Nov. 15th | Ally Harron % Marian Curry |
| Sunday, Nov. 22nd | Mossie Coughlin |
| Sunday, Nov. 29th | Black Velvet Band |

**SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT**
**FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 2026**
**FROM 5:OO to 10:00 P.M.**
**"Together For The Kellys"**

Join us at the Irish Social Club supporting, Matt, Molly and their young family as Matt continues his fight against cancer. $25.00 is the suggested donation. Pay at the door or through VENMO in advance. Kids are FREE. There will be a silent auction, kids activities, music and food.

### THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE

**200 New Boston Road, Canton, MA**

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Friday Night Irish Music Sessions. Every Friday

Second Saturday of the Month. Reserved for a Seniors Coffee Time

Mondays. Children's Play Group from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For details on what's happening at the ICC in Canton, call 781-8291. There's always something happening so don't miss out IRISH FOOTBALL. The Cultural Centre is the official home of the GAA.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GALWAY CLUB FOR WINNING THE FIRST-EVER PAT KELLY CUP**

TOURNAMENT HELD ON SAT. OCTOBER 24TH.

Galway GFC defeated Kerry GFC in this Old Time 7-A-Side Gaelic Football competition.

### THE KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF ST. FINBARR – CORK CLUB

***We Support The Irish Pastoral Centre WITH OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT DANCE***

Announcing our Annual Benefit Dance in Honor of the Irish Pastoral Centre to be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at the Irish Social Club, 119 Park Street in West Roxbury.

The Benefit events start with Holy Mass celebrated by our Club Chaplain, Father Dan Finn at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to attend the Mass, we ask that you please be seated by 5:45 p.m.

AFTER THE MASS

Enjoy a sandwich with coffee or tea and delicious pastries.A presentation of the Father Dan Finn Community Award will be presented to a recipient named that evening selected by a Committee. After that, it's music and dancing to the sounds of the Erin's Meloday Band with Margaret Dalton.

The requested donation is just $20.00 and includes everything.There will also be a 50/50 Raffle with proceeds to be donated to the Irish Pastoral Centre. Donations are welcome to help support the great work of the IPC. Checks can be makde out to the Irish Pastoral Centre. Please spread the news about this important fundraiser and help keep the Centre's good works going for the year ahead.

### THE NORWOOD IRISH MUSIC CLUB

On Saturday, November 21, 2026 come and enjoy the music of the Connacht Band providing the music for the Norwood Club's Dance held at the K of C Hall at 572 Nichols Street in Norwood. Always a fun time with plenty of parking, a cash bar and complimentary doffee, tea and lots of delicious pastries etc. Starts at 7:00 p.m. Admission is only $10.00

### COMHALTAS CEOLTOIRI EIREANN

**Sunday, November 01, 2026**. Welcome to our Irish Music Session that starts at 3 p.m. and goes to 7 p.m. at the Canadian American Club located in 202 Arlington Street in Watertown. THE SESSIONS take place on the first Sunday of the month through to June 2027 Members $10.00. Non-Members always welcome $15 Admission.

**EVERY TUESDAY IT'S OUR SET/CEILI WORKSHOP**.

Join with Barbara and Alanna at the Canadian American Club and help keep the Irish traditions alive and well in the Boston area.Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is only $7.00

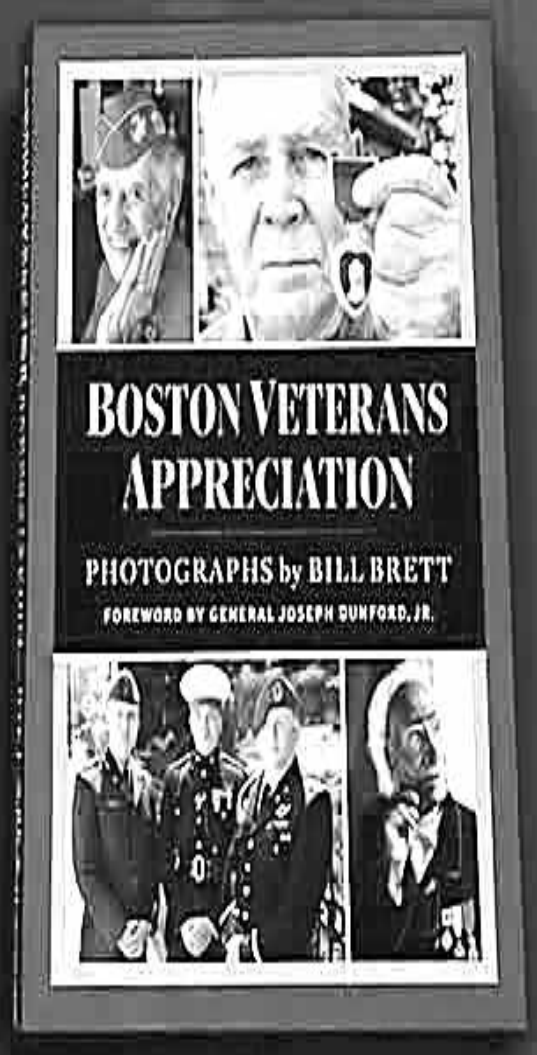
SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who came to the celebration of our 50th Anniversary recently at the Boston Irish Social Club.

**IRISH EVENTS** is a special effort by the Cork Club to help promote happenings in the Boston/New England area as a public service. For information or questions kindly email richarda10@hotmail.com or contact any member of the Cork Club.

# SAVE THE DATE

AN AFTERNOON HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

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