

THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS

POST-GAZETTE

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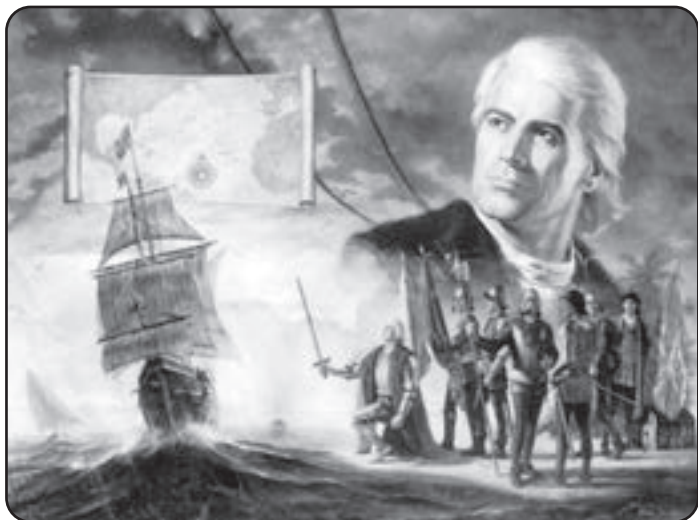
VOL. 131 - NO. 41

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, OCTOBER 9, 2026

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COLUMBUS DAY

(Observed Monday, October 12, 2026)



America — Land of Dreamers

The year was 1492, a young man from Genoa, Italy, Cristoforo Colombo, was convinced a route to the Far East could be found by sailing West and he wanted a chance to prove it. Many thought he was a dreamer. Luckily he was able to persuade others and turned his dream into a reality.

In the years that followed, America became a melting pot for people who, like Columbus, had a dream and were willing to take a chance on what they believed in. The English, the French, the Jews, the Irish, the Italians, and countless others, all came seeking the freedom to make their own decisions and to have the opportunity to make their dreams a reality. They wanted the best of both worlds and got it. These people were proud to call themselves Americans and equally proud to hold on to the traditions of their homeland. Where else but in America would this be possible?

Five hundred and thirty-four years later, we salute the man who took a chance — Christopher Columbus. A man who was a model for future explorers to emulate. We are the product of all the Christopher Columbuses that came before us.

We are Americans — the envy of other nations — where opportunities are boundless for every person. Some call America the “Land of Dreamers.” We’re not offended by this. Instead, we’re proud to be able to dream and, like Columbus, make our dreams come true!

Italian Heritage Month Celebrated at Boston City Hall with Italian Flag Raising

As a fourth-generation Italian-American as well as lead sponsor and host of the Boston City Hall Italian flag raising ceremony honoring Italian Heritage Month, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata understands the importance of celebrating the ancestry and tri-color legacy of the generations who came before her. “I’m proud to host this annual tradition to honor our history, traditions, and rich culture, and to celebrate the vibrant Italian-American community that makes Boston so special,” stated Councilor

(Continued on Page 9)



The Italian Flag flies proudly next to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Flag, The American Flag and the POW/MIA Flag, on City Hall Plaza during Italian Heritage Month 2026.



(L to R) City Councilor Sharon Durkan, President of Italian Heritage Month Richard Vita, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Consul General of Italy in Boston Arnaldo Minuti, City Councilor John Fitzgerald, and Director of Global Affairs for the City of Boston James Reginald Colimon, following the raising of the Italian Flag on City Hall Plaza in honor of October as Italian Heritage Month.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Bringing the Bombers Home

The U.S. Air Force has brought home its bombers stationed at a U.S.-run military air base in England used to strike Iran following an investigation into a planned terror attack at the RAF Fairford base. The bombers were redeployed to their home bases in the United States, according to a Pentagon official who was not authorized to discuss sensitive military movements.

Dozens of B-52 and B-1 bombers have been operating out of Fairford since the beginning of the War with Iran and had been observed flying out of the base this past Sunday reportedly heading home this past weekend.

Pilots Now the Terrorists?

The hijacking of that Dubai airliner, according to many, might be the beginning of a horrifying new terrorist tactic of recruiting and radicalizing pilots to do 9/11-like attacks and could be deemed worse than 9/11 according to a former IDF colonel and intel

(Continued on Page 15)

Boston Residents Still Uneasy in Downtown Areas

by Patti Sartori

The Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association (DBNA) newly released survey found a 22% increase in residents who feel unsafe in downtown areas of the city, including the Boston Common, resulting in 56% of residents feeling unsafe this year compared to 34% from last year.

Downtown’s public safety was rated an urgent issue by 90% of survey respondents, up from 81% last year. Over 50% tagged the issue with the highest level of urgency. “Drugs and needles remained the most frequently cited concern, while violence rose considerably as a top issue. 45% of respondents called for more visible police and patrols. This is the highest share in three years of the survey.”

Residents are extremely concerned about their safety at the Boston Common and Park Street corridor according to survey results (46%), Tremont Street (27%), Washington Street (22%) and Winter Street (21%). Of those surveyed 45% said drugs and needles were a top safety concern, followed by homelessness and loitering (30%), violence (20%), scooters, e-bikes, and traffic (15%) and mental illness and erratic behavior (13%).

Violence showed a major increase from 7% in 2025 to 20% in this year’s survey. These concerns are not new; in fact, they have been flagged by the DBNA a number of times over the past couple years. The most recent statistics, current

through September 27 of this year, released by Area A-1 show Boston Police responded to more reports of domestic aggravated assaults and miscellaneous larceny compared to the past 5-year average over the same period. Non-domestic aggravated assaults are higher in the district this year, with 163 currently compared to 148 during the same period last year.

The DBNA believes the survey showed residents feel a more consistent police presence is needed to maintain safety in those areas. “Respondents repeatedly described progress as possible but fragile,” and in the past have credited visible police patrols as a deterrent to crime.

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

A weekly column highlighting some of the more interesting aspects of our ancestry . . . our lineage . . . our roots.



MORE STAINED GLASS

The most beautiful stained glass windows ever to be produced are said to be in the Cathedral at Chartres. The edifice stands on a low hill, 55 miles south of Paris, and it dominates all of the other buildings in the vicinity. The church spires can be seen 20 miles away. Fire destroyed two previous churches, which stood on the same site. While the church was being built for the third time, preachers solicited gifts from all over France. People gave money, food, or labor. Other churches were larger, higher, and more richly decorated, but Chartres is known for being a people church, and also a pilgrim church. Students from the Sorbonne, part of the University of Paris, make an annual weekend pilgrimage to this church by walking the 55 miles, inspecting the stained glass, camping overnight in the church and then hiking back the next day.

We must be mindful of the fact that during this time in history, it was the clerks and scribes who were literate, but almost all others could not read or write and had to be told about their religion in picture form. Early Christian art started on the walls of the catacombs, and gradually grew into a vast language of symbolism, which told stories of the Bible and of the Lives of the Saints. The Creation, Flood, Annunciation, Nativity, Miracles of Christ,



Cathedral at Chartres, Chartres, France — Side-Chapel, Bay 23, *Life of Saint Thomas the Apostle*, 1210–1240. Restored late 19th century-early 20th century by Lorin and Gaudin

The Crucifixion and The Resurrection were retold many times in this manner. The dove became the symbol of Peace and the Resurrection of Christ, the anchor symbolized faith, and a fish was the symbol for Christ.

Even the saints had their distinctions: St. Peter always held the keys to the gates of Heaven and St. Paul held a scroll, while St. Matthew held a purse. St. Catherine was always shown

with her wheel of martyrdom and St. Mark was shown with his lion, to name just a few.

During medieval times, people asked “What should one do upon entering a church?” and the answer usually was: 1. Take Holy Water; 2. Pray to the Almighty; and 3. Read the stained glass windows. The windows in the medieval cathedral became a spiritual encyclopedia to show the people what they were to believe.

NEXT ISSUE: *Vitrum*

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey Picks Up Key Endorsement

by Patti Sartori



Governor Maura Healey and Mayor Michelle Wu

During a recent event in East Boston, highlighting a joint \$7.3 million dollar city and state investment at the James Otis Elementary School, incumbent Democratic Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey picked up a re-election endorsement from Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to work alongside the governor and lieutenant governor every day. There’s a lot more work to do, but housing, transportation, economic development, and making sure that our kids and families have what they need, that’s what the job is, and I’m really excited to support Governor Healey in doing that job,” stated Mayor Wu outside the school event.

Healey was thrilled to have the mayor’s endorsement, stating “You know, as the hub city goes, so goes Massachusetts, and so this partnership is super important. To have her formal endorsement in this race is meaningful, particularly at this time. People are starting to get their ballots actually in the mail so I really appreciate the endorsement in this moment.”

Hopefully Healey will fare better than the most recent candidates endorsed by Wu, all of whom lost their state senatorial challenges. “Boston and Massachusetts have to work hand in hand, and the issues that affect our city, our businesses, our residents, our economy are issues that will impact the entire state, and the governor’s been a really important partner making sure that have constant dialogue and communication,” added Mayor Wu.

Happy Columbus Day!



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Happy Columbus Day



AARON MICHLEWITZ
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 3

Happy Columbus Day!

RICHARD J. VITA, ESQ.,
PRESIDENT
Italian Heritage Month Committee of Massachusetts and Daughters
KRISTIN, KIMBERLY AND KATELYN



Happy Columbus Day!



ADRIAN MADARO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HAPPY Italian Heritage Month!
FROM SENATOR EDWARDS
PROUDLY SERVING THE THIRD SUFFOLK DISTRICT

May we honor the rich traditions, culture, and history that have shaped our communities and continue to inspire future generations.

Lydia Edwards
State Senator



POST-GAZETTE

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James V. Donnaruma 1896 to 1953 *Caesar L. Donnaruma 1953 to 1971* *Phyllis F. Donnaruma 1971 to 1990*

Vol. 131 - No. 41 **Friday, October 9, 2026**

OUR POLICY: *To help preserve the ideals and sacred traditions of this our adopted country the United States of America: To revere its laws and inspire others to respect and obey them: To strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty: In all ways to aid in making this country greater and better than we found it.*

HELEN L. GRADY



Helen L. Grady (Cuneo), of East Boston, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on October 1, 2026. She was 77 years old.
Born on February 24, 1949, Helen was the cherished daughter of the late Joseph and Josephine Cuneo.

Helen was the devoted wife of James “Jimmy” Grady, with whom she shared 57 wonderful years of marriage. She was the loving mother of Patricia Medeiros and her husband, Mark, and Cheryl Silvestro and her husband, Mark. She was the dear sister of Joanne Cuneo Tuxbury and Alfred “Mickey” Cuneo and his wife, Linda.

Above all else, Helen treasured her family. She was the adored grandmother of Dylan and Morgan, who were truly the lights of her life. Helen played an important role in helping to raise her grandchildren and cherished every moment spent with them. She was also the loving aunt of Kristen Tuxbury and Kelly Brogna, and is survived by many other beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Helen will be remembered for her warm heart, joyful spirit, and unwavering devotion to the people she loved. She was happy, fun-loving, and always there for anyone who needed her. She loved spending time with her family and especially enjoyed traveling to Aruba, where she could relax in the sunshine she loved so much.

A devout Catholic, Helen’s faith was an important part of her life and a source of strength and comfort throughout the years.

Family and friends will honor Helen’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, on Friday, October 9, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and again on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m., before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks Street, East Boston, for a 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass in celebration of her life.

Services will conclude with Helen being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden, Massachusetts.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Helen’s name may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Helen’s kindness, laughter, faith, and love for her family will remain in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Happy Columbus Day!

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Barbara Jean Coocen

April 30, 1939 - September 30, 2026

Barbara Jean Coocen, 87, of Saugus, MA peacefully passed away on September 30, 2026, at Beverly Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. Born on April 30, 1939, she was the daughter of the late Luciano and Jean (Razney) Graffeo.

Barbara devoted her life to raising her five children, whom she cherished beyond measure. She was an amazing wife, mother, and grandmother, who always put her family first. Barbara enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. She loved spending time in her garden, tending to her flowers and plants, and could often be found enjoying a game of bingo with family and friends. Barbara was a shopaholic and loved to express herself through fashion. She was known for always being the best-dressed person in the room, carefully accessorizing each outfit



with matching jewelry and handbags.

Barbara will be dearly missed and is survived by her loving children, Nicholas Coocen, Jay Coocen, and Lysa Coocen; her brothers, John Graffeo, Luciano Graffeo, and Michael Graffeo; her nine beloved grandchildren; and eleven cherished great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Barbara was predeceased by her beloved husband, James Walter Coocen, and her cherished children, Barbara Lyn Coocen and Frederick Coocen.

Relatives and friends gathered to attend visiting hours on Monday, October 5, 2026, at Solimine Funeral Home, Lynn, MA. A funeral service took place on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at Solimine Funeral Home, Lynn, MA. Burial followed at Pine Grove Cemetery, Lynn, MA.

Massachusetts Senate Race Hits Home Malden or Chevy Chase, Maryland

by Patti Sartori

United States Senate Republican Candidate John Deaton is taking direct aim at Massachusetts incumbent Democratic Senator Ed Markey for backing out of a scheduled debate and challenging his supposed residency in his hometown of Malden.

Deaton’s campaign parked a billboard truck outside Senator Markey’s house in Chevy Chase Maryland, and the U.S. Capitol Building. The billboard played a video of Deaton standing next to a photo of a milk carton stating, “Missing: Ed Markey. Markey’s backed out of forums, interviews and debates. How about backing out of the U.S. Senate? Debate John Deaton, Twice.”

As for the question of Markey’s residency in Malden, Massachusetts, that has been a topic during a number of re-election campaign campaigns, including media outlets and former challengers like Joseph Kennedy III asking how much time the incumbent Senator actually spends at his childhood home.

Markey has refused to release a utility bill from his Malden home which could prove he sleeps there enough to require the use of utilities. Markey has never truly addressed the issue, instead pointing to his record of long-time service and requirement to be in Maryland for lengthy stays. “Ed Markey has lived his entire life in Malden, the community that shaped the fight he brings to the Senate every day. He does also spend time in Washington, when the Senate is in sessions, a requirement of the job, his opponent may not be aware of,” stated Markey’s Campaign Manager Cam Charbonnier.

Currently the race is heavily leaning in Markey’s favor,

with a UNH Survey Center Poll released last week showing 53% of respondents say they

would vote to re-elect Markey to 30% stating support for Deaton.



OCTOBER ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH COMMITTEE (OIHMC) OF MASSACHUSETTS
RICHARD J. VITA, PRESIDENT

cordially invites you to

The Columbus Day breakfast

OCTOBER 12TH, 2026 AT 9AM-12PM
at the Dante Alighieri Cultural Center,
41 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA

Welcoming remarks Kevin Caira, OIHMC Chairman
Remarks Arnaldo Minuti, Consul General of Italy in Boston
Remarks Richard J. Vita, OIHMC President

Guest Speaker
Sal R. Perricone

author of “Cobblestones: a New Orleans Tragedy” will give a presentation about the lynching of 11 Italian immigrants and the establishment of Columbus Day

Complimentary buffet breakfast from Mr Jack’s Catering, Billerica
Music entertainment by the band Pasquale & The Good Italians
Raffle prizes (with first prize sponsored by Bella Vista Tours)
Event is free and open to the public
Free street parking



Italian Heritage Month



A HISTORY OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.

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Tours and Travel

L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Italy, the Home of Haunts and Land of Legends

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



(Photo by teksomolika on Magnific)

Halloween season is officially upon us! An old-fashioned holiday sign hangs upon my door, boasting Victorian images of smiling pumpkins, black cats sporting pointy witch hats, and bats in mid-flight. Jack-o-lanterns and ghastly ghosts grin mischievously from store shelves, with thin lights flickering inside them like little captured sunbeams. The cornstalks and scarecrows that adorn my neighbors’ front steps speak of the concluding harvest season, while the colorful leaves that flutter to the ground against the backdrop of a slate-gray sky remind us that the year itself now winds down to its close. Halloween is the time to revel in all these examples of a world turned upside-down, of the pleasure of the unknown and the thrill of everything that is mysterious and spine-tingling. Though modern Halloween celebrations are largely an American phenomenon, the United States does not have a monopoly on spooky imagery or mythical creatures. Across the ocean in Italy, people also ready themselves for Halloween, and may draw upon their own unique mythology and folklore. So, in the spirit of Halloween, let’s dive into the eerier side of Italy, the side that you may not find in guide books but certainly plays an important part in the Italian character!

Italy has long had a fascination with the occult, stretching back to the days of Ancient Rome. The modern Italian prejudice against the number seventeen, similar to the American superstition of unlucky thirteen, stems from the burial customs of the Romans. The Roman numeral for seventeen, XVII, can be rearranged to spell VIXI, or the Latin word meaning

“he lived” — a phrase frequently carved into ancient tombstones, and therefore linking the number with death. Ancient Rome’s penchant for the macabre did not end with numbers, however. Romans shivered with fear over the *lemures*, or terrifying ghosts. These ethereal beings haunted certain houses or roads because, as many ghost stories stated, they could find no rest due to an improper burial or some sort of injustice committed against them during their lifetime. The Romans even devoted the month of May to a holiday called *Lemuria* which sought to appease these spirits, and this creepy feast may form the origin of an olden superstition that advised against marrying in May. Ancient Romans also resorted to supernatural omens in order to predict the future. Priests known as *augurs* interpreted the flight of birds to divine looming events and outcomes. *Haruspices* had to report the future with a much yuckier method: they scoured the entrails of sacrificed animals for omens! While modern Italians are certainly less superstitious than their ancient counterparts, many remnants of Rome’s mysterious folklore persist to this day, such as the ubiquitous charms against the evil eye and the popular red horn-shaped amulets said to bring good luck.

Though Ancient Rome’s love for the mysterious is well-studied, contemporary Italy nevertheless brims with a plethora of scary monsters and eerie folktales. Werewolf stories abound in Italy, where the hairy shape-shifting beast bears the name *licantropo*. The fear of the *licantropo* hearkens back to the time when the wolf stood as the most dreaded predator in the

forests of Europe, especially during the nights of the full moon, when certain men could morph into this formidable animal. My father frequently spoke of hearing the plaintive howls of wolves in his secluded Italian village, and such a chilling memory is a testament to the strength of the werewolf myth. Similarly, the witch, or *strega*, constitutes a complex symbol in Italian society, sometimes functioning as an example of evil and other times signifying benign and astute female power. The gift-bringer of the Italian Christmas season, *La Befana*, is even depicted as a kindly fairy-witch figure. Unique mythological creatures also roam localized areas of Italy. The *Badalisc* is a large, hairy beast that inhabits the Alpine woods of Lombardy in northern Italy. It can only be captured on the Epiphany, and this event forms a part of the region’s folksy holiday celebrations to this day. Visitors to Naples may hear tales of the *Monaciello*, or “little monk,” a gnome-like creature who resides in the city’s old abbeys, monasteries, and canals, playing harmless tricks on people and offering help to wayward travelers. Meanwhile, the famous Lake Como boasts its own version of the Loch Ness Monster, a living dinosaur known as the *Lariosauro*! With all of these fascinating legends and beings, Italy is a prime destination for Halloween thrills and hair-raising adventures.

Halloween provides us with the wonderful opportunity to have fun with the mysterious. From witches to ghosts to vampires, all of the hidden, spookier aspects of society come out to play during this chilly autumnal night. This Halloween season, I will also be thinking about the mythical creatures and unnerving legends that form a part of my Italian heritage, old and new. After all, folktales and myths do a lot more than just give us a thrill. They connect with the universal fears, concerns, and desires of people across generations, emotions made manifest in guiding superstitions and metaphorical monsters. Let’s celebrate the unknown on Halloween and reflect on how it impacts our lives as humans and our collective unconsciousness. Halloween teaches us that there is far more to the world than immediately meets our eye, and the legends and beings of yore are prime examples of this lesson!

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicenso89@gmail.com.

THINKING
OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani

Moving Buses and Traffic Would Happen Much Faster Without Politics and Bad Narratives

My two favorite newspapers, which I read every morning religiously, are the *Boston Herald* and the *New York Post*. Both are great on news and opinion. Both are worth the price too. I have my favorite columnists in both papers. I also have those columnists that I immediately skip over. Then, I have those columnists I can’t stand but read them to see how off the mark they can be at times

Once again *Boston Herald* columnist Ed Gaskin has not disappointed me with his latest on the need for a better way to move MBTA passengers along Blue Hill Avenue. As of late he has two apparent allies on the Boston City Council in Minard Culpepper and Brian Worrell both representing different parts of Dorchester in their respective Districts.

When I was growing up in Roxbury I would often take one of those orange-colored streetcars with my family at Egleston Square MBTA station up to the Franklin Park Zoo. As those streetcars continued up on Blue Hill Avenue, there was a separate streetcar right of way pathway in the middle of the avenue all the way up to Mattapan Square to the Red Line and back. Streetcars were replaced with trolleybuses and eventually with regular buses sharing the road with ordinary street traffic.

Building an MBTA train tunnel under Blue Hill Avenue is plain nuts. It is a solution for a problem which does not exist. Can I tell you this? I am a smart guy but the more I read Gaskin’s September 30 piece the less I could comprehend what he was selling. I really don’t think adding more trees along the avenue helps moving traffic either. Also, when has this avenue not been congested, especially during rush hours?

Does Blue Hill Avenue’s traffic flow need some new fresh ideas? Of course it does. However, we need less babble repeated endlessly over and over again. The simplest answer is a dedicated right of way for buses along the avenue as the MBTA has already accomplished along portions of Columbus Avue headed toward Egleston Square. When you make things too complicated, little gets done. Keep it simple. This is not brain surgery and not rocket science. Lately, also on Columbus Avenue, it appears that Mayor Wu is no longer supportive of extending the dedicated busway on Columbus any further than it has already gone. Here some common sense made its way into the mix. Sometimes, dedicated busways can’t work. Sometimes they can like they do on Blue Hill Avenue.

Sometimes I can even agree with Ed Gaskin’s opinions too (not that often) but when he babbles on about how the MBTA can make the traffic flow run smoother on Blue Hill Avenue, he needs more institutional memory on how things once were in order to find the solution that works for the future of the avenue today.

Happy Columbus Day!!

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Boston Parks and Planning Department Hosts Christopher Columbus Park and Long Wharf Improvement Event

As the rain moved out, and sun began to peek through the clouds, residents and neighbors of the North End/Waterfront were welcomed by Boston Parks Department as part of the first community event for improvements to Christopher Columbus Park and Long Wharf Project.

The City of Boston Parks and Planning Departments are seeking input on climate resilience and open space improvements at this waterfront jewel. The goal for this project is to build upon existing ongoing planning and design for flood mitigation for the Long Wharf property and to propose a schematic-level design that is accessible and implementable for both sites.

The city set up stations throughout the park, with the first providing a history and overview of the project and past studies that will guide it. The second station noted who visits the park and wharf, who lives nearby, and how people's relationship to the waterfront has changed over the centuries. Station 3 explained how the site has evolved over time, the defining qualities of the park and wharf, and responses to changing needs. The last station covered the role of the park and wharf in protecting the city from rising water while providing a comfortable place for people to enjoy the waterfront.

Today, the Christopher Columbus Park and Long Wharf



provide open space for neighbors and visitors and connect people to the waterfront. This was not always the case. How people use, view, and experience this site have evolved over the years. In the mid-1700s Long Wharf construction was com was established, acting as an important maritime trade site. A century later, in the mid-1800s The Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act (Chapter 91) was established, requiring that non-water dependent projects must provide greater benefits than detriments to the public's rights in waterways. In 1976 the newly built Christopher Columbus Park was dedicated on the country's bicentennial. In 2008 the Rose Kennedy Greenway opened adjacent to Columbus Park, on the former footprint of the Central Artery.

Today, Columbus Park and Long Wharf plays host to a variety of events, throughout the year, including fitness classes in the spring, ferry pickups and drops to harbor

islands and other waterfront destinations in the summer, vibrant community festivals in the fall and a lit-up trellis in the winter. Christopher Columbus Park is an all-year-round destination for residents and visitors alike.

According to the Boston Parks Department it's been over 20 years since the waterfront jewel has been renovated and over 30 years since Long Wharf has undergone significant renewal. This project aims to make improvements in how the site serves its main communities and users. Throughout the 18 month design process, the team will undertake an equitable and inclusive planning and decision-making process to create a shared vision for the future of a resilient waterfront.

Christopher Columbus Park and Long Wharf are intended to be the first link in a district-wide solution to sea level rise and storm surge flooding. This project aims to create a flood protection alignment that responds to the community priorities. The Parks and Planning Department would like to know what roles the park and wharf can play in protecting the city and providing a comfortable, engaging environment for residents and visitors.

To offer input and recommendations, please contact Abigail.chatfield@boston.gov

Happy Columbus Day

umbria

Italian steakhouse
& mia

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Happy Columbus Day ...



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Happy Columbus Day!



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Alfred's Sicily

by Alfred M. Zappala

Meet Mamma Etna

I live in Aci Catena, roughly twenty-two kilometers from Mount Etna, and there is hardly a day when I don't glance toward her. I simply step outside my door, look up, and there she is — sometimes perfectly clear against the Sicilian sky, sometimes crowned with snow, sometimes hiding behind clouds, and occasionally sending a plume of smoke into the air as a gentle reminder of exactly who runs this part of Sicily.

Etna is always with me. People in America sometimes see spectacular television pictures of an eruption—red lava flowing through the darkness and fountains of fire shooting into the sky — and immediately send me messages.

“Aren't you afraid?”
Not particularly.
After all these years, I don't think of Etna primarily as a volcano. She's a neighbor. Some days magnificent, some days troublesome, but always there.

And yes, Etna is a lady. I settled that question long ago. No man could possibly be this beautiful, this temperamental, this unpredictable, and still have everybody adore him after causing so much trouble.

There is also a reason those of us living beneath Etna can watch spectacular eruptions with considerably less anxiety than people watching them on television thousands of miles away. The mountain contains enormous natural features that have received lava from countless eruptions, particularly the Valle del Leone and the immense Valle del Bove.

The Valle del Bove, on Etna's eastern flank, is roughly seven kilometers long and four and a half kilometers wide, covering approximately thirty-seven square kilometers. Its enormous floor has received lava flow after lava flow.

There is an awful lot of room up there.

I'm seventy-seven years old, and I'm fairly confident Etna isn't going to fill it during my lifetime. Neither will she fill it during yours. And unless the old lady becomes considerably more ambitious, my great-great-great-grandchildren probably don't have much to worry about either.

That doesn't make Etna harmless. History has taught Sicily otherwise. But most of the time when you see those magnificent rivers of lava on television, we're watching one of nature's greatest shows from a respectful distance.

Then the wind changes.
And I stop worrying about lava because the damned ash is headed for my house.

Volcanic ash is the unglamorous side of living near Mount

Etna. It gets everywhere — terraces, balconies, cars, plants and places you didn't even know you had.

I have approximately forty steps leading into my house. This past week I swept them three separate times.

There is something humbling about sweeping volcanic ash. You work from the top to the bottom, finally get everything clean, put away the broom and foolishly believe you have accomplished something.

Etna notices.
The next morning, she sends reinforcements.

I have a broom. She has roughly half a million years of geological experience.

She is winning.
People have been negotiating this relationship with Etna for thousands of years. Greeks and Romans wrote about her, poets turned her into mythology, and generations of Sicilians learned that living beneath the mountain required a certain amount of accommodation.

One of my favorite episodes occurred in 122 B.C., when a violent eruption dumped enormous quantities of volcanic material upon ancient Catania. The damage was so severe that the Romans reportedly granted the city a ten-year exemption from taxes.

I find this historical fact deeply moving.

Not because of the eruption. Because of the taxes.

Apparently somebody in Rome surveyed the devastation and decided these poor Sicilians had suffered enough. More than two thousand years later, I occasionally stand on my forty steps holding my broom and wait for somebody from the Italian government to arrive with similar news.

So far, nobody has shown up. Apparently some Roman traditions survived better than others.

Etna has occasionally been far less amusing. The great eruption of 1669 sent lava toward Catania, eventually reaching the city and the sea. In 1928, lava essentially destroyed old Mascali. This wasn't ancient history. People were evacuated, the town was rebuilt elsewhere, and life continued.

That may be one of the most Sicilian sentences ever written. Life continued.

Today, Etna has discovered a thoroughly modern way to cause trouble.

She attacks the airplanes.

Not literally, of course. She doesn't have to. All she needs to do is send volcanic ash into the wrong part of the sky.

Catania's Fontanarossa Airport is one of Sicily's principal gateways, and volcanic ash can be hazardous to aircraft

engines. When Etna becomes active, therefore, those of us who depend upon the airport watch not only the mountain but the wind. An eruption can be spectacular while the airport operates normally if the ash blows in another direction. Let that wind shift toward Catania and flights can be restricted, delayed, diverted or canceled.

This becomes particularly interesting when you run tours.

When twelve Americans are scheduled to land in Catania, I am no longer looking at Etna as a romantic Sicilian admiring his volcano. I'm looking at her as a tour operator with twelve people expecting a bus, a hotel room and dinner.

I can control the hotel. I can control the bus. I can control the restaurant.

Mount Etna has proven less cooperative.

Occasionally I would like to telephone her.

“Listen, sweetheart, I've got twelve people landing at Fontanarossa this afternoon. Could you possibly knock it off for three hours?”

Etna doesn't negotiate.

And yet, for everything she takes, Etna gives Sicily enormously more.

Her volcanic soil nourishes vineyards, orchards and farms. Extraordinary wines are produced on her slopes. Her dark lava stone appears in the buildings, streets, walls and churches of eastern Sicily. She has shaped not only our landscape but the character of the people who have lived beneath her for generations.

Perhaps that is why Sicilians don't panic every time Etna makes noise. They watch her. They respect her. They check the wind and, when necessary, the airport. Then they continue with their lives.

The earth may be rumbling beneath us, but lunch is still at one.

After all these years, Etna can still stop me in my tracks. On a clear evening, when the summit glows orange against the darkness, I look toward the mountain and remember that the earth beneath us is alive. When I have been away from Sicily, seeing Etna again tells me unmistakably that I am home.

So, I have accepted our arrangement.

She provides the magnificent view, the fertile earth, the wine, the history, the occasional fireworks and a reminder that human beings are not entirely in charge of this world.

I provide the broom.

Although I still think the Romans offered a better deal.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alfred M. Zappala is an attorney, author and co-founder of *You, Me & Sicily*, a video series devoted to Sicilian culture, history and everyday life. A dual American-Italian citizen, he has lived in Sicily for many years and is the author of seven books about the island and the experience of making Sicily his home. He is also chairman of The Sicilian Project, a nonprofit organization that has provided English-language education to thousands of Sicilian students.

Saint Maria Crescentia Höss

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Saint Maria Crescentia Höss. Born Anna Höss in Kaufbeuren, Bavaria in 1682, she was the daughter of a poor weaver. She spent play time praying in the parish church, assisted those even poorer than herself and had so mastered the truths of her religion that she was permitted to make her first Holy Communion at the then unusually early age of 7. In the town she was called “the little angel.”Her beautiful singing voice initially attracted locals to the parish, but her true desire was to enter the local Franciscan convent.

Because her family could not afford the mandatory dowry, the convent rejected her. However, the town's mayor intervened on her behalf, securing her admission in 1703. Resentful of her lack of a dowry, the superior and other sisters initially subjected her to menial tasks and unpleasantness which she

accepted with a cheerful disposition. She endured these trials with extraordinary patience.

Her circumstances shifted dramatically when a new superior recognized her virtue and appointed her portress. In 1726, she became the mistress of novices, a role where her deep mystical experiences, spiritual discernment, and gentle wisdom earned her the community's respect.

In 1741, the community unanimously elected her mother superior. Though she served for only three years, she transformed the monastery, earning a legacy as its “second foundress”. She famously declared that “God wants the convent rich in virtue, not in temporal goods,” yet her competent leadership stabilized their financial struggles. She focused her community on the Gospels, devotion to Jesus Crucified, and unconditional trust in divine providence.

Bodily afflictions and pain were always with her. First it was headaches and toothaches. Then she lost the ability to walk, her hands and feet gradually becoming crippled. In the spirit of Francis she cried out, “Oh, you bodily members, praise God that he has given you the capacity to suffer.” Despite her sufferings she was filled with peace and joy as she passed away on Easter Sunday in 1744.

Pope Leo XIII beatified her in 1900, and Pope John Paul II canonized her on November 25, 2001. The feast day of Saint Maria Crescentia Höss is celebrated on April 5.

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A Game of Hide and Seek with Massachusetts Resident’s Money

by Patti Sartori



Massachusetts State Treasurer Deb Goldberg

Is it \$3 billion, \$4 billion or \$5 billion the Massachusetts State Treasurer’s Offices is sitting on in unclaimed money? Depends on who you ask. Massachusetts State Treasurer Deb Goldberg’s office claims to hold over \$3 billion in unclaimed property as of September, 2026, but watchdog, Ron Lizzi, believes the total amount could be closer to \$5 billion.

“It has been using that \$3.4 billion figure for eight years. That number is not constant; it just constantly increases. So, at this point, it should be well over \$4 billion. It could be even closer to \$5 billion,” stated Lizzie, as he blamed an antiquated process for residents to collect unclaimed money. While many states, including New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Maine, automatically return unclaimed money, some using a program called Money Match, Bay State residents must figure out for themselves if they have unclaimed property and must request it from the State Treasurer’s Office.

“Most states automatically return moneys and typically you don’t even have to file a claim. You don’t have to search for anything. A check just shows up in your mail, typically a letter comes first, and then a check follows. Massachusetts is not doing that,” said Lizzi.

There is also the potential the Treasurer’s office could be hiding an additional \$450 million of forgotten funds which Lizzie suggests could be used to supplement the state’s general fund to cover increased state spending of billions of dollars each year. “My understanding is that unclaimed money, eventually ends up in the state’s general fund,” Lizzie explained. Unclaimed property owners are not just made up of individual residents but also include property owners, such as businesses, hospitals, colleges, universities, charitable organizations, and municipal governments.

A Massachusetts resident can check for unclaimed money for free by visiting the official Find Mass Money website run by State Treasurer Deb Goldberg’s office.

Donne 2000 is Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

by Doreen Giammarco



(L-R) Back: Doreen Giammarco, Yvonne Ricci, Debbie Nevers, Miranda Federico, and Maria Ferrusi; Front: Maria Leo, Connie Federico, Jeanette Borelli, Rose Giammarco, Maria Trinofi, and Anna Ristaino

Team Donne 2000 participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, October 3rd. It was a beautiful day for a walk along the Charles River and for a great cause. We would like to thank all our walkers, sponsors and supporters. We raised close to \$2000.00 thus far ! This is wonderful team effort! Unite Conquistiamo! (United We Conquer) has been our team

motto over the past 17 years that we have participated in this worthy cause. If you would like to donate you can go to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer website and go to our team page by typing in Team Donne 2000.

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk is a powerful and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community, to honor breast cancer survivors, remember those brave souls who lost their battle to breast cancer and raise awareness about steps we can take to

reduce the risk of getting breast cancer. The money raised helps The American Cancer Society to fund groundbreaking breast cancer research, provide information and support 24-7 and provide access to mammograms for women who need them. Together we are helping to save lives from breast cancer.

Donne 2000 is a non-profit organization that keeps traditions alive from generation to generation through ethnic and cultural events. For more information visit/like our Donne 2000 Facebook page.

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East Boston Columbus/Italian Heritage Day Parade is Back!!!



The East Boston Italian Heritage Parade, known to native East Bostonians as *The Columbus Day Parade*, will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2026, after an eight-year hiatus. Following the past thirteen months of meeting, planning and fundraising, the Parade Committee, Chaired by Joe Ruggiero, Sr., led by Nicky Moulaison, and supported by Ann Guange, Gina Guange, Al Mangini, Jr., Josephine Speranza-Tescione, Patti Sartori-Braid and John Zirpolo, will finally kick the parade off at 1:00 P.M. from Suffolk Downs on Walley Street, proceed onto Bennington Street, through Day Square, continue down Chelsea Street turning onto Meridian Street as it reaches Maverick Square and finishing just past the U.S. Postal Service and East Boston District Court House.

The 2026 parade is dedicated to the late Albergy “Buddy” Mangini, who was a long-time organizer of past parades. East Boston High School Headmaster Phil Brangiforte will serve as Grand Marshall and George Gambale, United States Veteran and past parade volunteer has been named Honorary Chief Marshall. Andrew Biggio will receive the Veteran of the Year Award during a ceremony at the conclusion of the parade.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Governor Maura Healey, Senator Lydia Edwards, State Representative Adrian Madaro, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Republican Gubernatorial candidate Mike Minogue and U.S. Republican Senatorial Candidate John Deaton are all expected to march in the parade.

Almost two dozen marching bands are expected, a full contingency of Shriners, military and first responders, entertainment, Italian-American cultural organizations, local businesses, sports teams and many other surprises to be on the lookout all along the parade route. David Arinella and Catie Ruggiero will be the Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN) television commentators set on a bandstand in front of the VFW on Meridian Street.

As Nicky Moulaison has stated numerous times over the past year, “This celebration belongs to our community. It’s about coming together, celebrating our Italian heritage, and expressing the pride that makes East Boston so special.” The committee would like to extend its deepest gratitude to all the sponsors, businesses, and individuals that donated to the fundraising events, including the disco nights, pasta dinner and comedy night. Whether you purchased a ticket, made a donation, volunteered, or helped spread the word, you all played a part in making this parade possible. *We couldn’t have done it without you!*

Parade Leadership & Honorees, Joseph Ruggiero – Parade Chairman; East Boston Italian Heritage Parade Committee; Phil Brangiforte – Chief Marshal; George Gambale – Honorary Chief Marshal; Andrew Biggio – Veteran of the Year; Parade Special Guests & Dignitaries

Military, Veterans & Public Safety, Military Honor Guard, National Lancers – Ceremonial Mounted Cavalry, Massachusetts State Police Pipes & Drums, VFW Post 6712 & Auxiliary, N.E.V.A. North End Veterans Alliance, Boston Firemen’s Band, Greater Boston American Firefighters Band, East Boston Fire, East Boston Police, Boston Sparks

Marching Bands, Brass Bands & Musical Entertainment, Roma Band, Italian American Band, New Magnolia Jazz Band, Byer’s Bands, Hot Tamale Brass Band, Great American Marching Band, Oompa Meisters, Bagpipe Band, North End Marching Band, Tony Barrie Band, The New Liberty Jazz Band, LYNX Band, Sticks & Bones, The Platters, Blues Brothers the Next Generation, Uncle Sam Jazz Band, Mickey Bones

Performance & Entertainment Groups, Aleppo Shriners, Beverly Richards Dance Center, Miss Massachusetts – Officer Ashlyn Mercier, Dance Revolution with Erika, Lil Phunk – Boston Celtics Jr. Dance Team, Jessica Gordan’s Academy of Performing Arts, Roberto Clemente Dancers, Clowns, Massachusetts Ghostbusters, Ghosts and Goblins, The Parade Man

Italian-American, Cultural & Community Organizations, San Rocco Society, Italian American Civil Rights League, Boston Renaissance Lodge — Sons of Italy, Wilmington Sons of Italy, Italian American Alliance, Winthrop Mixed Lodge #2057 — Sons of Italy, Santa Maria & Italia Unita, St. Theresa Society — North End

Elected Officials, Candidates & Representatives, Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards, Massachusetts State Representative Adrian Madaro , City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, John Deaton U.S. Senator Candidate, Elizabeth Deaton State Treasurer Candidate, Mike Minogue MA Governor Candidate

Local Businesses & Community Participants, EBHS ROTC, EBHS Band, EBHS Sports Teams - football, hockey, cheerleaders, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, softball, baseball, soccer, EBHS Honor Society, Boston Scores, East Boston Pop Warner Cheerleaders, East Boston Little League, Salesians, East Boston Chamber of Commerce, ZUMIX, Danilchuk Autobody, Todisco Towing, Stars Branding, Action Board, Hola Hair Salon, Eastern Bank, First Priority Credit Union, Republic Waste, EZ Disposal, Guido & Stevie Snacks, Pazza on Porter & Caffè Dello Sport, Meridian Market, Angela’s Cafe, Mi Pueblito, Sammy Carlos, Taqueria Jalisco, Classic Cars of Boston, Original Boston Mob Tours, Essence TM, Petrillo Removal, NAMI Greater Boston, East Boston Central Catholic School.

Italian Heritage Month Annual Mass



Members of the 2026 Italian Heritage Month: (L to R) Kevin Caira, Chairman of the Board; Marisa Di Pietro, Board Member; Florence Guidara, Board Member; Silvia Salomoni, Deputy Consul General of Italy in Boston; Debbie Tremblay, Board Member and Chairperson of the Italian Heritage Month Annual Mass; Gioconda Motta, Director of Education; Arnaldo Minuti, Consul General of Italy in Boston; Francesca Seta, Recording Secretary; and Richard Vita, Esq., President

The Italian Heritage Month Committee celebrated the 27th Anniversary of October as Italian Heritage Month with a 12:00 p.m. Mass at St. Leonard Church in the North End on Sunday, October 4, offered by Father Antonio.

It was a beautiful mass, filled with family, friends, and parishioners who all came together to honor their Italian heritage. Following the Mass, everyone gathered in St. Joseph Hall to enjoy a wonderful selection of refreshments.

Happy Columbus Day



Italian American Alliance



www.theitalianamericanalliance.com

President James DiStefano

Vice President Tom Damigella



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• **Boston City Hall Raises Italian Flag** (Continued from Page 1)

Coletta-Zapata at the start of the afternoon celebration. Italian immigrants, like her grandparents who arrived at the immigration station on Marginal Street, in the Jeffries Point section of East Boston, with hopes and dreams of building a better life for themselves and their children, set to work climbing the golden stairway one step at a time. Italian-Americans are proud and resilient people who value



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu welcomes attendees to the City Hall Italian Flag raising ceremony as part of Italian Heritage Month.

their culture and traditions. These immigrants embraced their new land with love and respect, weaving into the fabric of the American dream as they laid the foundation all across their adoptive country, working tirelessly to build roadways, bridges, railroads, businesses, and many other sectors of America, all while battling prejudice and discrimination, never letting anything deter them from moving forward. Councilor Coletta-Zapata would like to thank Mayor Michelle Wu, Consul General of

Italy in Boston Arnaldo Muinuti, North End State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, East Boston State Representative Adrian Madaro, and other city elected officials who attended the celebration. A special thank you to the Eliot School students, from the North End, for their beautiful performances of the American and Italian National Anthems, and to everyone who joined in for this special celebration. “Grazie Mille to all who came out to celebrate with us. May ‘Il Tre Colori’ wave proudly above Boston City Hall,” exclaimed Councilor Coletta Zapata.



Boston City Councilor John Fitzgerald speaks at the Italian Flag raising event on City Hall Plaza.



North End State Representative Aaron Michlewitz and East Boston State Representative Adrian Madaro on Boston City Hall Plaza during the 2026 Italian Heritage Month flag raising ceremony.



Students from the Eliot School in the North End of Boston sang both the American and Italian National Anthems on Boston City Hall Plaza prior to the Italian Flag Raising during Italian Heritage Month 2026.

(Photos by Gerri Palladino)

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**Fundraiser Held in North End for
Mike Minogue
Massachusetts Republican
Gubernatorial Candidate**



(L to R) Toni Gilardi, Tara Gear, Massachusetts Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Mike Minogue and owner of Antico Forno Carla Agrippino Gomes at a recent fundraiser held in support of his candidacy.

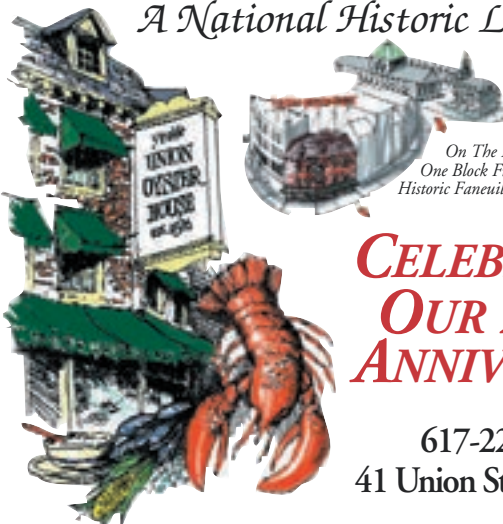
Massachusetts Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Mike Minogue was warmly welcomed into the North End, Boston, for a fundraiser at Antico Forno Restaurant on Salem Street. The recent event, hosted by restaurateur Carla Agrippino Gomes, Toni Gilardi and Tara Gear, was held on Monday, October 5, was very well attended and a perfect opportunity for neighbors, residents of the area to ask questions of the candidate and for others to contribute as well as express their support of Minogue’s candidacy.

“Happy Columbus Day”



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LANDMAN (Blu-ray)
Paramount

In Season Two, as oil rises from the Earth, so do secrets — and Tommy Norris’s (Billy Bob Thornton) breaking point may be closer than he realizes. Facing mounting pressure from M-Tex Oil, Cami Miller (Demi Moore), and the shadow of his kin, survival in West Texas isn’t noble — it’s brutal. And sooner or later something’s got to break. The Texas-sized drama is driven by a riveting cast of co-stars that includes Andy Garcia as nefarious investor Gallino, Ali Larter as Tommy’s stunning ex-wife, Angela, and Sam Elliott as Tommy’s father, T.L. This 3-disc Blu-ray set includes all 10 episodes from Season Two.

BAD COUNSELORS (DVD)
Loam Entertainment/SDG

Hungover, handcuffed, and two weeks from facing expulsion, two party-hard frat bros must serve 120 hours of community service. Their answer to prayer? Faking it as Christian camp counselors. Their problem? They wouldn’t know a hymn from a hot dog.

**STOP! THAT! TRAIN!
(Blu-ray)**
Bleeker Street Media

Stop! That! Train! follows best friends Tess (Ginger Minj) and DeeDee (Jujubee), train stewardesses who trade their dreary shifts on the Stank Rail for the glitzy Glamazonian Express. When a catastrophic “Stormaganza” threatens to derail the high-speed train and crash it into Florida, the duo in coach must join forces with the snobby first-class attendants (Symone, Brooke Lynn Hytes, Marcia Marcia Marcia) and

President Gagwell (RuPaul) to save the day in this wild ride of camp and comedy.

**SCARY MOVIE (4K Ultra HD
+ Blu-ray + Digital -
Steelbook)**
Paramount

Carmen Electra, Shannon Elizabeth, Anna Faris, Regina Hall, Cheri Oteri, Marlon Wayans and Shawn Wayans star in this outrageous parody slasher — now out on 4K Ultra HD for the first time. A year after accidentally killing a man, a group of teenagers find themselves stalked by a familiar masked madman. As the body count rises, this hilarious satire delivers gut-busting shocks and side-spitting laughs.

**FIREFLIES AT EL MOZOTE
(Blu-ray)**
Magenta Light

Some battles are fought beyond the front lines. In a country torn apart by violence and corruption, during the brutal war of 1980s El Salvador, a ten-year-old boy joins a group of ordinary survivors fighting for freedom, as he seeks to avenge the destruction of his village, and the deaths of his family, amid the deadliest civilian massacre in modern Latin American history.

**THE MADISON –
SEASON ONE (Blu-ray)**
Paramount

Three-time Academy Award nominee Michelle Pfeiffer and Golden Globe nominee Kurt Russell lead a stellar cast in *The Madison*, the acclaimed new drama from Taylor Sheridan. Stacy and Preston Clyburn seem to have it all with their beautiful grown daughters (Beau Garrett and Elle Chapman) and grandchildren. The Clyburns uproot their comfortable New York City lives to the wild, untamed beauty of Montana’s Madison River Valley on a heartfelt search for human connection. After an unthinkable event shatters their world, they discover that sometimes falling apart is the only path to finding a way forward.

**THE AGENCY –
SEASON ONE (DVD)**
Paramount

Betrayed, compromised, and haunted by the woman he couldn’t save, CIA agent Martian’s (Michael Fassbender) world unravels as a mole hunt plunges London Station into chaos. As covert wars collide across Tehran and the rainforests of Africa, every move risks igniting a global firestorm. When loyalties fracture, the truth becomes a weapon

(Continued on Page 15)

The time has come, the walrus said,
TO TALK OF MANY THINGS
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

**20TH ANNUAL SALESIANS
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
PASTA DINNER**

Time certainly flies, doesn’t it? Once again it is almost time for the Salesians Boys & Girls Club’s Annual Pasta Dinner on Friday night, November 20 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. I never miss this annual pasta fundraiser. This event never runs out of pasta nor fun. Put this event on your calendar right now.

**DISCOVER: THE
“ITALIANS OF NORTH END”**

The North End Historical Society will be holding a museum presentation of Italian Heritage Month on Monday, October 19 over at the Museum (3 Prince Street). Meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. Presentation by local author Patricia Annino talking about her new book *Italians of North End*. Museum holds 40 guests. There are still a few seats available. Contact: Museum 857-302-9642 HURRY!

**SOMETIMES THE BEST
OPINIONS CAN BE FOUND
ON THE FUNNY PAGES**

The other day while reading the funny pages, I came upon the *Brewster Rockit* strip dealing with the subject of AI. One scientist talking to another scientist says in the first panel, “Good news. If Artificial Intelligence goes rogue, it likely won’t kill us all.” In the second panel, the scientist adds,

*Happy
Columbus Day!*

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in the
Post-Gazette’s
Columbus Day Edition

H7 Memorial Ceremony



Six former Metropolitan District Commission Police and Massachusetts State Police Blue Hills Station Commanders pictured with Colonel Noble (L-R): Lt. Bill O’Connell, Lt. Jeff Lugas, Lt. Richard Flaherty, Major Jim Bazzinotti, Lt. Bill Baird, and Captain Kenny Jenkins, all retired! Former MDC Officers all with the exception of Major Bazzinotti (honorary member) They were gathered to honor and remember the six fallen MDC officers who were killed in the line of duty while working at the Blue Hills barracks. They are as follows: Robert Mateer-Drowining, Robert D. Stewart thrown from his horse, Robert A. Edmonds Cruiser overturned in a pursuit, Paul M. Kennefick car accident (hit and run) unsolved, Robert Dana shot in line of duty, and Joseph McCain shot in line of duty and died years later from injuries

A crowd of over 100 plus MSP command staff were on hand to honor and remember!

MSP Trooper Jim Gordon spent time and research developing the memorial!

“Sure, it could shut down the economy, utilities, commerce, cybersecurity, government ...” In the third panel, he adds “medical care, travel ...” The second scientist’s retort? “Wow. I feel so much better.”

**DON’T FORGET
COLUMBUS
THIS WEEKEND**

This upcoming Sunday, October 11, the first annual Italian American Heritage Parade will be held in East Boston. We can’t call it Columbus Day in Boston because Mayor Wu apparently doesn’t like this very important and historical guy.

Seems he doesn’t live up to 21st century values. I guess being a 15th century kind of guy hurts his reputation today, huh?

The parade will follow the old route from Suffolk Downs to Maverick Square. It starts at 1pm. The following Day the Italian American Alliance will be holding its annual Columbus Day Celebration over at the Tall Ship near Piers Park. Last year it rained a lot but usually this celebration gets great weather. We all must start praying now for no rain. Remember you might actually see Columbus at the Tall Ship too.

**HALLOWEEN
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**Happy
Columbus Day**

**NORTH END
CARES**

Copps Hill Spruces Up



Copps Hill, sits high atop Charter Street, offering a scenic view of Boston’s Waterfront, overlooking Commercial Street in the Boston’s North End, including the USS Constitution in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Patricia Abelson, who cares for Copps Hill, along with Robyn Reed and Teresa O’Connell, chose to plant a beautiful bed of colorful flowers, as a focal point for anyone wishing to take photos in this beautiful area. Thank you to this trio for beautifying the site for residents and visitors.



Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Titian



Titian born in Pieve di Cadore in a small town in the Dolomites in 1485. He was to become the greatest Venetian artist of the sixteenth century, eventually gaining international fame. Titian is known above all for his remarkable use of color; his painterly approach was highly influential well into the seventeenth century. Titian contributed to all of the major areas of Renaissance art, painting altarpieces, portraits, mythologies, and pastoral landscapes with figures.

Hailed by his contemporaries as “the sun amidst small stars,” he transformed Western art through his revolutionary application of color, light, and fluid brushwork. Unlike his Florentine peers who prioritized precise drawing, Titian championed colorito, building form and emotional resonance directly through rich, saturated pigments and layered oil glazes.

Titian, was the supreme master of the Venetian school during the Italian Renaissance. He trained in Venice under Giovanni Bellini and collaborated closely with Giorgione, absorbing their poetic approaches to landscape and atmosphere. He quickly surpassed his mentors, achieving international fame with his explosive altarpiece, The Assumption of the Virgin (1518), which introduced a dynamic High Renaissance energy to Venice.

His exceptional versatility spanned multiple genres. As a portraitist, he penetrated human character with immense pictorial brilliance, capturing the psychology of the era’s elite. In his mythological series — notably his sensual “poesie” based on Ovid for King Philip II — he explored human passion and divinity with unprecedented painterly daring.

Titian’s career was a triumph of patronage. He secured an international clientele that included European monarchs, popes, and the Habsburg emperors Charles V and Philip II. This broad appeal allowed him to operate with immense creative freedom.

In his twilight years, Titian’s style underwent a radical, proto-modern transformation. He abandoned precise details for highly expressive, loose brushstrokes, sometimes applying paint directly with his fingers to evoke profound emotional and spiritual depth. This late “magic impressionism” pushed his art toward near- abstraction, leaving a lasting legacy that deeply inspired future generations, from Rubens and Rembrandt to the Impressionists.

Titian passed away in 1576
Titian is renowned for his rich reds, luminous golds, and vibrant blues of the Venetian school, but he brilliantly depicted lush vegetation using copper-based green pigments. In art history, “Titian Green” refers to the masterful way Titian depicted vibrant flora, landscapes, and garments.

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— October —

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THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

Forgotten America, Route 66: Williams, Arizona, the Gateway to the Grand Canyon

One particular scene from Pixar’s *Cars* (one of the most charming tributes to America’s Highway the movies have produced) stands in my memory. Learning to love the Podunk town of Radiator Springs where he currently finds himself sentenced to labor after a night of reckless driving damaged the town’s crumbling roadway (yes, the references to Route 66 are many and subtle), Lightning McQueen, the daredevil racecar, cuts loose and takes off for a drive through the desert with his new friend Sally, the resident Porsche. Mostly they frolic through the desert landscape characteristic of Radiator Springs until the scenery changes to a pine forest where they splash through puddles.

It’s a beautiful scene, capturing the diverse landscapes of Route 66. And so, as I made my way to Williams, Arizona, the desert gradually became a forest with pines thinner than I



Williams

by the road, but the pine forest gave me a distinct comfort reminding me of the pine forests back east.

It would prove a fitting welcome to what would be my favorite city on this trip. Ironically, Williams also marks a sad point in the history of Route 66. When I-40 bypassed the town in October of 1984, the death-knell of Route 66 was officially recognized. A year later, the Mother Road, America’s Highway, the path to dreams for so many was decommissioned.



Santa Fe

was used to seeing. I loved the wide variety of vistas offered

that Route 66 saw its effective demise in Williams, its portion

in that city was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The strip abounds with historic buildings that once served as the city’s post-office, drug store or department stores and have now been given a new lease on life as souvenir shops, saloons and convenience stores. Many of these buildings, dating back to the early 20th-century, just as the population of Williams (which was founded in 1881 and named after an eccentric trapper by the name of William Shirley



Route 66

“Old Bill” Williams, have survived fires and decay. But with the astounding resiliency that defines Route 66 and the courageous pioneers and dreamers who have traversed it over the decades, they stand tall.

After all, long before Route 66, transportation was the foundation of Williams.

A year prior to its founding, work began on the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, which saw an influx of railroad workers who brought and raised their families in the camps surrounding what a year later would be incorporated as Williams, Arizona. After the Atlantic and Pacific was completed in 1882, the Saginaw Lumber Company brought business to the new town the following year along with more inhabitants.

Seven years later copper was discovered in the mountains just north of the city and mining became the dominant industry in Williams until 1901 when the Santa Fe Railway turned the abandoned mining tracks as passages to the Grand Canyon, attracting tourists by the score. This legacy lives on in the city that, once again in 1984, was christened the Gateway to the Grand Canyon.

For all its liveliness, Williams is a relaxing city and a much welcome change of pace. I discovered a pleasant restaurant, Station 66 Italian bistro which pays tribute in both namesake and architecture to its former life as a Texaco gas station. The outdoor seating helps make the most of the warm summer weather and musicians often perform before guests. Across the street is the Pine Country Restaurant which I recommend for its wide variety of pies. I spent most of the evening learning about the historic buildings and preparing for the next day when Williams would be my own gateway to the Grand Canyon.



CODE RED

The Left, the Right, China, and the Race to Control AI

BY WYNTON HALL

Review by John Joseph Fahey

Certainly, one of the most controversial topics today — whether in the political, educational or overall social realm is Artificial Intelligence. A subject that deserves to be addressed with both its positive and potentially negative consequences. This is what the recently published *CODE RED* with subtitle *The Left, the Right, China, and the Race to Control AI* by Wynton Hall successfully does.

The author clearly approaches this provocative field from an overtly conservative perspective — indeed, Hall is social media director for Breitbart News. However, while Hall allows the reader insight of what Artificial Intelligence means for society respective to national defense, social relationships, computer generated reasoning and justification, as well as the heavily debated issue of students heavily relying on AI for academic success, his coverage of AI’s ramifications is cogently spelled out with amply examples.

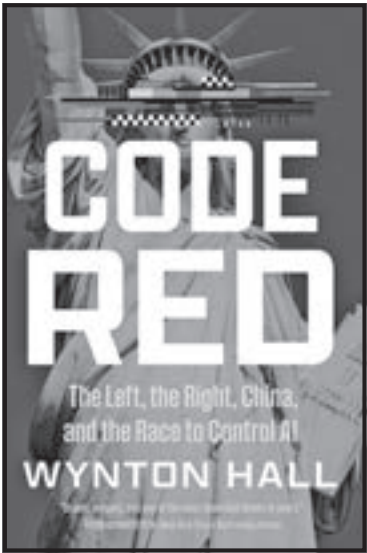
AI has permitted for enormous informational exposure, nanosecond responses, and endless algorithmic possibilities, but Hall’s thesis is palpable — and at what expense?

This is where the political aspects of AI can be looked at; although the work is presented from one with a partisan background — the book unfolds with matter-of-fact statistics, well researched issues, and objective analysis. The challenge — and anxiety, not only addressed now within the sphere of public discourse but debated long into the future is how compromised will one’s security and privacy be — and not only for the individual but for society as a whole!

One might argue that for those leaning to the right of the political spectrum invasion of privacy by AI is definitely a threat but the author’s position is that while AI has its moments in making life easier for many, its encroaching scope and subtle, and not so subtle influence will be a detriment. Hall provides multiple examples — for example with Big Tech’s predisposition to control algorithms to favor leftist ideology.

An additional concern of AI is the disruption of the job force; and with much unemployment due to robotic replacements, what will this mean for society. Hall cites the plausible solution is to provide the decreasing work sector with funding via Universal Basic Income (UBI.) One wonders if full-fledged socialism is far behind.

The author also includes a chapter on the effects of AI in the educational world — and



how students rely on information obtained via computer searches — allowing students to circumvent actual studying and copying and pasting answers as if it were their own. Readers cannot dismiss how pivotal this subject has been in all strata of educational instruction.

ChatGPT brings the prosaic searches to an all-new level — a computer-generated voice and visual manifestation. Often, one must be discerning in knowing the difference between that and human; AI can often obscure the distinction. Hall gives the reader example of interesting and yet alarming instances where the ChatGPT and reality advanced to a stage where the user was less than discerning, leading to an unfortunate demise.

As suggested in the book’s subtitle, the subject of International Relations, more specifically defense, is a particular concern with Artificial Intelligence — especially respective to China. The author focuses on the topic in the chapter “Threat Vectors: Autonomous AI Warfare, Terrorism, and Containment.” Edifying to be sure but disquieting — one can see the potential for AI to supersede objectives that should only be under the control and rational judgement of humans.

CODE RED ... is a recommended primer for those wanting to understand AI, and for those who already may be familiar with this significant feature of our culture. Certainly, AI’s impact — both adverse and constructive that it has on both the individual and civilization is worthy of dialogue. *CODE RED, The Left, the Right, China, and the Race to Control AI* allows the reader enough background to know that now is the time to consider solutions.

CODE RED, The Left, the Right, China, and the Race to Control AI is published by Broadside Books (2026), a Division of HarperCollins and is 309 pages.

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Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



It was October and the cottage in Winthrop, Maine had been closed up since Labor Day. The leaves were starting to turn in Boston and Mom and Dad knew that the foliage in central Maine would be beautiful. As a result, it would be time to take a ride north to see what the colors of the leaves would be. Dad would have a substitute bass player take his place for the weekend jobs he had booked and packed up what we would need for the weekend. Nanna and Babbononno would be joining us for the trip to Winthrop, Maine.

Seeing we were going up on a Friday afternoon and returning on that Sunday, we wouldn't need much except warm clothes and bed linens. There would have been a pile of firewood already cut and stacked and covered with a tarp for a cold fall weekend. Depending on the temperature, we were ready with a clean pot belly stove in the living room and a couple of electric heaters for the bedrooms

Both Mom and Dad put overnight bags together for the trip and Mom told Nanna not to pack too much, but it fell on deaf ears where Babbononno was concerned. I had a boy scout duffle bag that I used for sports equipment and put in a pair of hiking boots, warm clothes and a bomber jacket, but when we picked up my grandparents, they each had suitcases filled with clothes and bags of things to cook with, enough food to feed a group of hungry truck drivers, a gallon of Zi'Antonio's best red wine and a bottle of Brioschi, just in case. When we picked them up, Dad told them that we were probably going to eat out for our main meals, but that too fell on deaf ears. Nanna had packed a can of espresso for Babbononno's morning coffee, a bottle of milk and a pound of sugar to add in, a couple of dozen eggs, three loaves of Italian bread, two jars of gravy, a few pounds of homemade macaroni, a dozen large meatballs, an eggplant or two, a dozen sausages and an assortment of cold cuts and cheese for lunch. All of this was explained by Nanna with, "Nel caso in cui." ("Just in case.")

Dad didn't argue as there was enough room in the trunk of his '54 Chevy so he helped my grandparents load everything they were bringing. We left East Boston in the afternoon on that Friday, and headed north. The trees had already started to turn locally but the foliage was

in full bloom as we headed into New Hampshire and then into Maine. By the time we reached Winthrop, it was dark. The only lights we saw as we drove down Memorial Drive to the cottage, were from the homes of the local residents all of whom lived across the street from the lake. The houses on the lake were summer cottages and all were closed up for the winter. Once we were inside our place, we unpacked, lit the pot bellied stove to take the chill out of the rooms and then put all of the food away.

Nanna wanted to cook but Dad thought it would be quicker if we headed to Winthrop Center and eat at the only restaurant open in the evenings, McNamera's. McNamera's was a local hang out at night. About the only way I can describe it is "Arnold's," from *Happy Days*. The most exotic item on the menu was pork chops with apple sauce on the side. It was past the dinner hour but we were all hungry and the hostess accompanied us to a table away from the teenagers sipping their Cokes and listening to the juke box at 5 cents per song or 6 for a quarter.

When the menus arrived, the waitress told us what they were out of, which seemed like everything except ham steak with pineapple chunks as a hot meal. She said that they could make any sandwich we wanted. Well, it was Friday night, and if you remember the old days, Catholics couldn't eat meat on Fridays. Babbononno started complaining, "What kind of Catholics are they, we can't eat meat. Dad told him that there were very few Catholics in that part of Maine, adding the fact that most of the people were Protestant. Nanna asked if they could eat meat on Fridays. Dad responded with, "As I understand it, yes, they can. The only people who can't are Roman Catholics and the members of Orthodox religions." When the waitress took our order, we all seemed to order tuna salad sandwiches. Babbononno asked for Scali bread. The waitress replied, "What's that, sir?" Discovering he was out of East Boston, Babbononno asked, "Wadda kinda bread you gudda?" The waitress said, "White and whole wheat." The resolve was the five of us eating tuna salad sandwiches on white bread with sweet pickles and potato chips on the side. Actually, the sandwiches weren't bad, but Babbononno swore in Italian after each bite.

What finally quieted him down were the desserts, homemade pies a la mode. Babbononno had a sweet tooth and worked his way through two orders of homemade apple pie with ice cream. On the way back to the cottage, he raved about the American food, especially the apple pie. Once we were back in the cottage which had been warming up for us, Babbononno had to wash down the apple pie with a glass of wine. That was his nightcap and all was well.

The next morning, we all went for a walk around Lake Maranacook looking at the colors of the leaves, bright jonquil yellow, Chinese red, burnt orange and everything in between. It was breathtaking. On the way back, Old Vic Gordon, one of the locals was waiting for us. He was sitting on the front steps of his son Arthur's house whittling away at a piece of wood. As we approached, he yelled in a very pronounced down-Maine accent, "Heard you folks was here foah the weekend, and was 'wondrin' if Mike brung some of that homemade Eye-talian wine with him." Between Vic's accent and Babbononno's fractured English, I don't know how they communicated, but they did.

Just then Old Vic's son, Arthur Gordon, and his wife, Arlene, appeared in the doorway. Arthur, who stuttered through his Maine accent, told us that they had heard we were there for the weekend and that lunch was ready. Nanna, Babbononno, Mom, Dad and I were ushered into the Gordon home and treated to lunch ... tuna fish salad sandwiches on white bread, with sweet pickles and chips on the side. What could we do but eat and rave about the lunch. Arlene mentioned that, seeing it was Saturday, there was a bean supper at the Baptist church in Winthrop Center and they were inviting us. Dad looked at the rest of us and accepted. What else could he do?

The following day was Sunday. We walked the mile and a half to the center to the small Catholic church for Mass. Nanna couldn't wait to get back to the cottage and begin to make dinner. Actually, she had risen about 6:00 a.m. and started her gravy. By the time everything was ready, the Gordons showed up as our guests. Old Vic and Babbononno put a dent in the gallon of wine and we had a down Maine Sunday dinner ...

ITALIAN STYLE.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL RETURNS OCTOBER 17

WITH MARQUEE AUTHORS AND ENGAGING EVENTS FOR ALL AGES



BBF 2025 Outdoor Festival by David Rider

Boston Book Festival (BBF) returns to Copley Square this fall with a ticketed evening event October 16 followed by its signature free Festival day October 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," says **BBF Executive Director Carlin Carr**. "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 ticketed event on Friday night: #1 *The 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+ 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+ 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.

OPENING NIGHT and KEYNOTES

This year's Festival stretches across genres, styles and topics, including current events, food, memoir, romance, dystopias, poetry, picture books and more. Many themes are threaded throughout the sessions including: belonging and community; AI's impact on our lives; reading together; journeys across American history; reimagined folklore and fairy tales; gothic horror; democracy and authoritarianism; romantic comedy; multi-generational sagas; the importance of art and architecture; and authenticity in storytelling.

SPECIAL TICKETED EVENT

Opening Night featuring Michael Lewis, in conversation with Geraldine Brooks Friday, October 16 at 7:30 PM – Old South Church in Copley Square

Tickets available at bostonbookfest.org The masterful storyteller (*Money Ball*, *Liar's Poker*) has a new book *Blockers: Rebels in the Deep State* that asks a pressing question: what happens to a country when its public servants are targeted? All tickets include a copy of *Blockers*; added donations support BBF's free festival day.

FESTIVAL DAY: KEYNOTE AUTHORS

Emily Wilson – Classics Keynote: Acclaimed translator and the first woman to translate *The Odyssey* from ancient Greek into English, **Emily Wilson** discusses her "enthraling and profoundly relevant" (Salman Rushdie) new book *Crossing the Wine-Dark Sea: Journeys Through Ancient Literature*.

Edwidge Danticat and Imbolo Mbue – Fiction Keynote: Lauded Haitian-American author **Edwidge Danticat** presents *Dèy*, a novel "so all-consuming that one never wants to be released from its grasp" (NPR). She appears with **Imbolo Mbue**, Cameroonian-American author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Behold the Dreamers*. A "storyteller of astonishing gifts" (Tracy K. Smith), Mbue discusses her new novel *Every Story Is a Love Story*.

Renée Watson – Young Adult Keynote: Named a 2026 Visionary by TIME magazine, The #1 *New York Times* bestselling and Newbery Medal-winning author **Renée Watson** shares her new YA romance, *Everything New Again*, a "gorgeous and deeply thoughtful meditation on love" (Nicola Yoon).

Tess Gerritsen and Walter Mosley – Thriller / Mystery Keynotes: Thrills master and retired physician **Tess Gerritsen**'s book *The Shadow Friends* finds former spies assailed by the long reach of the Cold War. She appears with **Walter Mosley**, a Mystery Writers of America Grand Master Award winner who also received the National Book Foundation's lifetime achievement award. Mosley's book *Hanging & Burning* is the story of a dying gangster's plea for detective Joe King Oliver to find a missing woman.

Michael P. Murphy – Architecture Keynote: Dubbed "tomorrow's greatest designer" by *The Atlantic*, **Michael P. Murphy** is co-founder of MASS Design Group and founder of collaborative design studio AMMA. He will discuss his new book *Our World in Ten Buildings: How Architecture Defines Who We Are and How We Live*.

Happy Columbus Day

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Plant, Grow and Enjoy Paperwhites

by Melinda Myers



Nir paperwhites have slightly larger flowers and a more subtle scent.
(Photo courtesy of www.Longfield-Gardens.com)

Brighten indoor décor with one or more containers of paperwhites. The fragrant flowers can perfume a room or if preferred, grow one of the less fragrant varieties. Just plant the bulbs – no cold treatment needed – and watch them grow into blooming beauties.

Ziva is intensely fragrant and the most common paperwhite variety sold for forcing. It blooms in about four weeks after planting indoors and can be grown outdoors in zones 8 through 11.

If looking for all the beauty but less fragrance, purchase Nir paperwhites with slightly larger flowers and a more subtle scent. For even less fragrance, grow Inbal paperwhites with half the fragrance intensity of Ziva. Order early to find these less common varieties.

Purchase firm healthy bulbs and store them in a cool location until you find time to plant. Buy enough bulbs to make several plantings to keep the winter blossoms continuing for months. Pot them all up at the same time and store them in a cool dark location. Then move them into a cool bright location and begin watering when ready to get a new batch of bulbs growing.

Grow paperwhites in gravel or a well-drained potting mix. Both methods work well and provide attractive displays and gifts to share. Use unique containers and planting methods described in the *6 Creative Ways to Gift Paperwhites* blog on Longfield Gardens' website, longfield-gardens.com.

Select a watertight container with sterile pea gravel, pebbles or marbles if looking to go soilless. Add just enough water to reach the top of the stones. Place 5 or more bulbs close together on the gravel base. Cover the bottom of the bulbs with more pebbles to hold them in place. Maintain the water level just below the bottom of the bulbs.

Or plant the bulbs in a container with drainage holes filled with any well-drained potting mix. Just leave the tops of the bulbs exposed and keep the potting mix moist but not wet.

Grow the bulbs in a cool, sunny location to help reduce flopping. Or try this Cornell University-tested, old-time technique to encourage compact growth. Once the leaves are 2 inches tall, replace the plain water in the pebbles with one cup of an 80-proof clear liquor mixed with 7 cups of water. But don't overdo it; more is not better and can prevent flowering or cause damage to the plants.

Despite these efforts, staking paperwhites may be necessary due to low-light conditions indoors. Cut bamboo stakes to length or harvest stems of red twig dogwoods, willow or others harvested in the landscape. They provide the support needed while bringing a bit of the outdoors inside to brighten homes.

Another option is to force them in a tall glass vase. The tall sides support the tall leaves and flower stems as they grow. Add some berry-covered stems or other decorative twigs for added color.

Once paperwhites are finished flowering, add them to the compost pile as they rarely can be forced to flower again. Think of it as the paperwhites becoming part of the garden in a different form, helping improve the soil.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* streaming courses and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI26P5005EA
Estate of
CAMILO E. QUINTERO
Also known as:
CAMILO QUINTERO
Date of Death: May 18, 2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joshua Quintero of Wilmington, MA** and **Sabrina Quintero of Medford, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Sabrina Quintero of Medford, MA** and **Joshua Quintero of Wilmington, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/26/2026.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 28, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 10/09/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI26D2756DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
YAJAIRA VIZCAINO-REYNOSO vs. ERICKSON ROMERO

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Yajaira Vizcaino-Reynoso, 28 Cork Street, Apartment 28C, Lowell, MA 01854** your answer, if any, on or before **November 11, 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 30, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 10/09/2026

The opinions expressed by our columnists and contributors are not necessarily the same as those of The Post-Gazette, its publisher or editor. Photo submissions are accepted by the Post-Gazette provided they are clear, original photos. There is a \$5 charge for each photo submitted. Photos can be submitted via e-mail: postgazette@aol.com. If you want your photos returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **October 24, 2026 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2014 FORD FUSION, GRAY
Vin# 1FA6P0HDXE5380395

2005 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY, GRAY
Vin# 2C4GP44R15R101068

2013 GMC TERRAIN, BLACK
Vin# 2GKFLREK8D6179194

2011 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT, BLACK
Vin# WVWMP7AN2BE707624

2012 CHEVROLET EQUINOX, WHITE
Vin# 2GNFLNE57C6340333

1999 TOYOTA RAV4, BLACK
Vin# JT3HP10V7X0217432

2006 BMW 330XI, WHITE
Vin# WBAVD33546KV67227

2005 GMC SAVANA, WHITE
Vin# 1GTTG25V151175921

2008 DODGE CHARGER, WHITE
Vin# 2B3KA43RX8H324248

2008 NISSAN ALTIMA, WHITE
Vin# 1N4AL3AP2EN359813

2018 SUBARU CROSSTREK, RED
Vin# JF2GTADC6J8248211

2022 SUBARU IMPREZA, WHITE
Vin # 4S3GTAV69N3706799

2026 FRP MINI DIRT BIKE, BLUE
Vin# L5AB2LDE5TWB00231

2017 TAOTAO CY50-E, BLUE
Vin# L9NTEACX5H1353791

2025 ZHILONG Q-MAX, BLUE
Vin# HZ2TCDMNXS1000880

2025 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
Vin# HZ2TBCNF6S1014571

2025 ZHILONG TANK, RED
Vin# HZ2TCDL41S1003546

Run dates: 10/09, 10/16, 10/23/2026

Small Ads Get Big Results

For more information call
617-227-8929

• Video Views (Continued from Page 10)

— and Martian’s only way out is deeper in. Also starring Jeffrey Wright, Jodie Turner-Smith and Richard Gere. This 3-disc DVD set includes all 10 explosive episodes from Season One.

SOUTH PARK – THE COMPLETE TWENTY-SEVENTH AND TWENTY-EIGHTH SEASONS (DVD) Paramount
South Park returns for its critically acclaimed 27th and 28th seasons! Join Stan, Kyle,

Cartman, and Kenny, plus the surprise return of Jesus, our savior as everyone prepares for Satan and the President to welcome their love child, the Antichrist. If that’s not enough, they must also contend with the end of woke culture, combat the scourge of AI slop, learn disturbing lessons about crypto, and face the threat of South Park’s imminent cancellation. For them, it’s all part of growing up in South Park!

JACKASS – BEST AND LAST (Blu-ray) Paramount

Johnny Knoxville and the gang return for one final fling at the big screen. Featuring all-new stunts and stupidity, along with the greatest hits and hardest laughs from the past, *jack-ass best and last* is a joyously raucous celebration of all the mischievous camaraderie that you’ve come to love and expect from these idiots over the past 25 years. So, grab your dumb little buddies, and get ready to laugh harder than ever — one last time.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
Middlesex Division
Docket No. 26W1316
MARK M. BRUNET JR., Plaintiff(s)
v.
AMANDA L. BETTENCOURT, Defendant(s)
To the above named Defendant **Amanda L. Bettencourt**
A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff seeking a Complaint for **Custody Support Parenting Time**.
You are required to serve upon **Mark M. Brunet Jr.**, or attorney for Plaintiff(s) **Mark M. Brunet Jr.**, whose address is 841 Bridge St., 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01850 your answer on or before **11th day of November 2026**.
If you fail to do so, the court will proceed with the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at **370 Jackson St., 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852**.
Witness, **HON. TERRI L. KLUG-CAFAZZO, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 30th day of September, 2026.**
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court
Run date: 10/09/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **October 19, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.
2005 FORD TAURUS
Vin #1FAFP56U25A134187
2011 SUBARU LEGACY
Vin #4S3BMBG62B3215559
2008 HONDA CIVIC
Vin #2HGFA16818H306286
2014 FORD F150
Vin #1FTMF1CM9EKF00593
2012 FORD FOCUS
Vin #1FAHP3K27CL322819
2020 HINO CONVENTIONAL
Vin #5PVNJ8JV7L4S76359
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 09/25, 10/02, 10/09/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI26D2246DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
EDVALDO Z. SENHORINHO vs.
MARIO A. COLON
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Edvaldo Z. Senhorinho, 120 Bow St., Everett, MA 02149** your answer, if any, on or before **November 05, 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, **HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: September 24, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 10/09/2026

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

officer. “An individual doesn’t give the Israeli government spokesperson that idea on his own. Somebody told him that if he did that you get your 72 virgins,” stated Miri Eisin speaking for the Israeli government. Reportedly, airlines will soon be installing technology that allows crews access to the cockpit in case of a copycat attack.

Death by Firing Squad
President Trump has

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI26D2621DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
WALESKA E. VEGA vs.
JALRO P. FIGUERO
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Waleska E. Vega, 1610 Worcester Rd., Unit 551A, Framingham, MA 01702** your answer, if any, on or before **November 11, 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, **HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: September 30, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 10/09/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI26P4716EA
Estate of
LINDA M. DONOVAN
Also known as:
LINDA M. BREEN
Date of Death: April 09, 2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **200 Governors OPCO LLC of Medford, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Raymond T. Weicker of Dracut, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/28/2026.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, **HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: September 30, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 10/09/2026

approved the use of a firing squad to execute convicted Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hassan who killed 12 U.S. service members, one civilian and wounded 32 others during his November 2009 rampage. The Secretary of the Army will set the time and place of the execution. Judgement day for Hassan has finally come.

President Trump Urging Republicans to Vote by Mail

President Trump, who has long been an opponent of mail in ballots, has recently been urging Republican voters to vote both early and by mail in the midterms. Previously, he opposed mailing in ballots and promoted claims that mail-in voting was rife with fraud. He had claimed numerous times

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **October 26, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.
2009 HONDA CIVIC
Vin #2HGFA16509H336743
2009 INFINITI G37
VIN #JNKC6V1FX9M053488
2000 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN #4T1BF22K8YU099507
2005 SUZUKI VL1500
VIN #JS1VY52A752101639
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 10/02, 10/09, 10/16/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI26P4185EA
Estate of
PATRICIA ANN MILLARD
Also known as:
PATRICIA A. MILLARD
Date of Death: March 20, 2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kathleen M. Murphy of Lynn, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Kathleen M. Murphy of Lynn, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/26/2026.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, **HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: September 28, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 10/09/2026

that this method of voting was “inherently corrupt.” In 2020 he stated he had beaten Joe Biden and that the election had been compromised by mail ballots. In 2020, more than 40 percent of voters mailed in their ballots.

Leavitt Joins Fox News
Former White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt is joining *Fox News* as an on-air contributor and is expected to appear across both Fox’s news and opinion programming. Leavitt becomes the second former Trump press secretary to move to *Fox News*, following Kayleigh McEnany.

Suit Hits Mickey D’s Prix Fix?

McDonald’s was sued in Chicago federal court in a proposed nationwide class action alleging the fast-food company illegally coordinates menu pricing across it franchises through an AI-powered system. The lawsuit filed last Friday accused the fast-food chain of conspiring with independent franchisees in fixing using algorithms trained on nonpublic data. McDonald’s earlier this week called the allegations both speculative and uninformed.

End Quote
“Ma cosa mi dici (You don’t say?) — *Topo Gigio*
If you’re a baby boomer, you should remember Topo Gigio. He was always on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Well, Peppino Mazzullo, the voice of the little mouse just passed away at 100 years old a few days ago in Italy.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI26P5000EA
Estate of
DAXA R. KUMAR
Also known as:
DAXA ROHIT KUMAR
Date of Death: September 20, 2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Rohit R. Kumar of Winchester, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Rohit R. Kumar of Winchester, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/26/2026.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, **HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: September 28, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 10/09/2026



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



No Soxtober Until the Sox Understand How to Play Baseball

Let's see, another fall without Soxtober. This year all the team had gas for was SEPTEMBERBALL!! They got wiped out in the Wild Card against the Yankees who seem to own the Sox in the postseason. We got walloped in two games. Totals were 18 runs for the Yankees and 2 runs for the Sox. Chad Tracy just signed up as next year's manager, throwing away his interim status for two games with horrible decisions on when to remove starting pitchers who seem to be doing a good job. Of course, Sonny Grey went out of his mind publicly. I don't see him wanting to return next season. Why should he?

Also, does anyone really believe Tracy when he said

removing two starting pitchers after 4 2/3 innings was a smart move? He also said the decision to do so was his decision and his decision alone. I will be waiting to see how the Red Sox brass moves through the offseason. How many more bogus moves will they make?

Moving forward though. The NY Yankees losing their first two games to the Rays looks terrible. This especially in game 2 (Monday night) with three errors in the first inning and then that dumb, dumb move later in the game. It looks like if lightning doesn't strike, the Rays stay alive for the next opponent.

I am rooting for the White Sox and Brewers to make it all the way to the World Series. I think the Brewers were great during

this season, doing all the right things at the right time. This would be a first for the Brewers getting to the World Series. That franchise started in Seattle as the Seattle Pilots before new team owners moved up and moved them to Milwaukee.

One last footnote for the Sox: they finished the season, the way they started it as a godawful pathetic team. If it wasn't for the crazy July and August they seemed to luck into, they never would have got close to 87 wins which, by the way, was two less wins than in '25.

Let's hope Anthony stops getting hurt so much. If we lose Gray let's hope we get a good pitcher to replace him. Finally, let's hope that Chad Tracy can prove me wrong.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



ANOTHER REASON FOR THE SWITCH – Many reasons have been posted as to why LeBron James left the Los Angeles Lakers – and why he settled on the Philadelphia 76ers as a landing place.

Writing in the October 12 edition of *Time* magazine, James gives one reason as his friendship and association with Tyrese Maxey, a much younger member of the 76ers.

“Tyrese Maxey gets better every season,” wrote James of the 6-2-point guard who will turn 27 on November 7.” I’ve seen him grow so much as a leader on and off the floor. We have been training together the past five years in the summer. Our relationship off the floor definitely influenced my decision to come to Philadelphia. It is up to us as his teammates to push him to be as great as he can be. I am happy to be a part of it.”

Born in Dallas, Maxey was an all-star in high school who went on to play for the University of Kentucky. He was selected 21st overall by Philadelphia in the 2020 NBA Draft.

He has played six seasons with the 76ers and averages 28 points per game last year with 70 starts.

So, fans can expect to see him on the floor – potentially with James – when Philadelphia visits the Garden this season.

In fact, there may be more people from this area following Philadelphia now that former Celtic star Jaylen Brown – as well as James – are with the 76ers. How Philadelphia fares during the upcoming 2026-2027 season will be one of the major story lines throughout the NBA – with special meaning to Celtics fans because of the transaction involving Brown this past summer.

In fact, we have always felt that the NBA had elements of being a semi-individualized sport for several decades. What we mean by that is a certain segment of fans follow individual players as they move around the league. We felt that this was especially true of Shaquille O’Neal, who played for six teams over the course of his 19-year career. And, of course, James.

James never left Cleveland – he was a Cleveland player who went on to play for different teams – while still retaining a passionate following in Cleveland.

But even more important—the feeling had to be mutual. And it was. James never really lost his affection for the home area where he was raised.

By the way, you notice that we read what James wrote about Tyrese Maxey was from *Time* magazine. Make that the print edition. Yes, we use a number of the latest devices to gather information for this column.

But, for some members of a certain generation, there still is something special about holding a publication in your hand while reading it.

So, while every day we consult a variety of sites online, we still continue to read material in print publications on a regular basis.

We don’t expect the members of younger generations to fully understand that as we continue a habit and tradition that is a lifelong one for us.

BAD FOR BASEBALL – As the playoffs continue in baseball leading up to the World Series, there are increasing references about a so-called work stoppage that could start in the diamond sport on December 1.

Of course, since this would be the offseason, no games would be posted. But if the stoppage extended even into February, one could start to see an impact. The early part of spring training could be affected—and a bit later the schedule of exhibition games could be impacted.

Basketball, with its various league college championship games followed by the March Madness Tournament – would take center stage – if it hasn’t already done so in parts of America.

Baseball would be out of sight and out of mind.

The powers-that-be in baseball need to be very careful how they proceed this winter. Baseball is already conducting its playoffs in an overcrowded marketplace – with some form of football (college or pro) filling nearly every weeknight. Regular season NHL games are already under way—soon to be joined by NBA games.

There are lots of alternatives to baseball these days and nights but what if there was not an alternative to baseball at all? Because it wasn’t there. Think about it.

WHISTLING IN THE WIND – Forbes magazine has written that MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred describes his two leagues “as a growth industry.”

Perhaps in a certain way – as we see the increasing number of empty seats as our screen scans various parks during games. Rather than talking about expansion there should be more discussion about how to improve the weaker teams that already exist in the two leagues.

Oakland, an existing franchise, is already building a stadium in Las Vegas – and is playing its home games in Sacramento in the meantime.

That is not expansion but it is a recognition that expansion is not needed.

Expansion means more teams – probably weaker teams – in the league plus players that would not have made the league if not for expansion. An NBA team is allowed an active roster of 15 players per night. Expand by two teams and that is now 30 players of dubious quality that were not in the league prior to expansion. And you can make that number about 50 if you mention baseball.

Expansion means asking fans to pay top dollar prices for a product that is inferior to the one that existed in prior years.

And that is not proper. More attention and effort should be put into improving teams that finish very low in the standings. In that way competition across existing franchises will increase and overall attendance may well improve.

Friends of DeFilippo Playground Hosts Annual Pickleball Tournament



Second Place Winners Christopher Tsai and Max Brown, Director of Facilities for DeFilippo Playground Al Skinner, President of the Friends of DeFilippo Playground Robyn Reed, First Place Winners Brandon Bocianski (holding Baby Jack) and Joe LaRuffa, following the 2026 Friends of DeFilippo Playground Pickleball Tournament.



Alexandra Salmon (left) receives a certificate for Best Community Garden from Al Skinner and Robyn Reed of Friends of DeFilippo Playground.

Friends of DeFilippo Playground (The Gassy) located on Prince Street in Boston’s North End hosted an annual pickleball tournament fundraiser on Sunday, October 4, 2026. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year. President of the Gassy is Robyn Reed, who along with Director of Facilities, Al Skinner, coordinated this successful and fun day full of friendly competition, prizes and food provided by Monica’s Restaurant on Prince Street.

The 2026 tournament was dedicated to John Rosato. Prizes were presented by his twin brother Joe Rosato. 21 Teams participated in the 2 out of 3 competition. The 2nd place winners were Christopher Tsai and Max Brown, with first place taken by Brandon Bocianski and Joe LaRuffa. The friends also awarded a certificate of Best Community Garden to Alexandra Salmon.

The Friends of the DeFilippo Playground would like to thank all who competed, participated and attended the event on what was a beautiful Sunny Sunday in the North End.



Joe Rosato assists Al Skinner and Robyn Reed with the 2026 Friends of DeFilippo Playground Annual Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser.