

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Friday, March 6, 2026

Dill Is Grounded...For a Great Cause Delta pilot will run in the Boston Marathon

By Cary Shuman

As a First Officer for world-renowned Delta Airlines, Bradley Dill has co-navigated the airways for trips measuring thousands of miles at a time.

Dill, who grew up in Lynn and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 2014, will be trading in his prestigious aviation uniform for traditional running attire on Monday, April 20 when he competes in the Boston Marathon on the famed 26-mile, 285-yard Hopkinton to Boston course.

"It's my first Boston and my first marathon ever, actually," said Dill, 29, who lives in Peabody with his wife, Paige. "I ran a half-marathon (13.1 miles) in Marblehead last April, so I'm doubling my distance."

Dill has been doing some of his training along Lynn Beach, an effort hindered by a succession of snowstorms this winter.

"The snow has made it super

tough this year, so I'm done my training more than I've wanted to indoors on the treadmill," said Dill. "But as long there's half-decent footing, I'm outside, even if it's cold."

Dill will be running the marathon as a member of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Stepping Strong Team. He will be raising funds for the Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation. Ms. Reny was critically injured in the bombing in 2013 and treated at the hospital.

"I have family members that have been treated at the Brigham, so that was how I first heard of the team," related Dill. "I started running a couple of years ago, building up to longer distances. I felt this effort would be an excellent opportunity to contribute to a great cause that has helped my family and others."

To-date, Dill has surpassed his fundraising goal of \$15,000 for the cause and the donation



Dr. Mary Dill, Dr. Dan Dill, Connie Dill, Jim Dill, Paige Dill, Bradley Dill, Estelle Dill, and Thomas Dill.

drive is continuing. One of the Dill family's major fundraisers was a New Year's Eve party in

his honor at the Knights of Columbus in Lynn.

"The party was a great success," said Bradley. "I give a shout-out to the Knights of Columbus who were amazing. And Rolly's Tavern [in Wyoma Square] was awesome."

Bradley's mother, Estelle Dill, Jane Kelley, and Bradley himself were the organizers of the event that featured a delicious buffet dinner, music, raffles, and dancing. Bradley's father, Thomas Dill, was among the many family members welcoming friends and neighbors to the festive celebration.

Well-established Lynn roots leading to career in flight

Bradley Dill played baseball in the Wyoma Little League and the Greater Lynn Babe Ruth organization, football in East Lynn Pop Warner, and Lynn Youth Hockey. He was a member of the St. Mary's High School golf team and still plays at Gannon Golf Course ("I'm not very good, I'm an 18-handicap, but I enjoy Gannon, which is a Lynn treasure," he said).

Following his graduation from St. Mary's, Bradley at-

tended Bridgewater State University where he received a degree in Aviation Science. While in college, he was a teacher at Bridgewater State and later returned in a flight standards and evaluation position in charge of flight instructors. He also worked as a flight instructor at Beverly Flight Center.

He was a pilot for regional airlines flying to such well-known destination as the Hamptons in Long Island, before taking a position at jetBlue. He has been with Delta Airlines for the past three years in addition to being a teacher in the aviation program at North Shore Community College. In 2023, he received his master's degree in aviation from Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.

His aviation career has taken him all over the globe, from New York City to the West Coast to South America and Europe.

"I love going to Europe," said Dill. "I love the people, the food, it's awesome. I've been to London, Paris, Edinburgh,

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Beccia makes his case for Congress

Lynnfield resident builds early momentum in race for 6th District seat

By Cary Shuman

Lynnfield resident John Beccia, who is running for the Democratic nomination for the 6th Congressional District seat, has opened a campaign headquarters in Lynn.

Beccia is a candidate for the seat held by Rep. Seth Moulton, who has decided to run for the U.S. Senate in the 2026 election.

Beccia has emerged in the current field of seven candidates as a formidable contender for the seat. He is a graduate of Milford High School, Providence College and Roger Williams University School of Law. He completed an LLM (Master of Laws) at Boston University School of Law and he has taught at the school as an adjunct professor for the past 15 years. He has a background



John Beccia

in financial services and regulation and was a general counsel before starting his own business, a consulting firm.

Beccia has announced the launch of his "People Over Politics" Listening Tour, a district-wide, 39-town tour across Massachusetts' 6th Congressional District focused on lis-

tening to voters and building a grassroots movement for a North Shore that works for everyone.

As his campaign website states, "John Beccia is a Lynnfield dad and business leader running for Congress to bring a new kind of leadership to Washington – leadership rooted in working-class values, proven in the private sector, and driven by a commitment to make government work for people again."

Interestingly, Beccia played basketball and football at Milford High with Todd Boldy, who is the father of U.S. Olympic hockey star Matt Boldy, who scored the first goal in the gold medal game versus Canada.

During an interview with reporters at his headquarters,

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EDITORIAL

OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS ONCE AGAIN ARE DEFENDING FREEDOM

Regardless of whether one agrees with the undertaking of an undeclared war with Iran that ignited over the weekend, these hostilities once again have placed the lives of American soldiers at immediate risk on the front line.

However, as our men and women in uniform have done throughout our history, they are answering the call to perform their duty with the utmost skill and bravery.

The news that three of our soldiers died and five more were seriously injured in an Iranian missile attack on a U.S. military base in Kuwait over the weekend brought on a profound sense of sadness to the nation.

Equally heartbreaking are the reports that more than 150 Iranian children were killed when a missile struck their elementary school, a staggering loss of innocent life. Similarly, the news of the deaths of nine Israeli civilians, including three teenage siblings, when a missile landed on their bomb-shelter, has been heart-rending.

Every parent, regardless of nationality, can relate to these tragic events deeply and profoundly.

As for the war itself, no one will be shedding any tears for Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamanei, who perished on Saturday morning when his compound was bombed by Israeli missiles.

The violent demise of Khamanei and many of his generals brings to mind the biblical directive, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap."

Under Khamanei's 36-year rule, the Iranian regime not only has murdered, tortured, and imprisoned tens of thousands of its own citizens, but it also has spread its message of hate throughout the world.

Iran has provided arms to terrorist organizations in the Middle East and elsewhere with the directive, "Death to America, Death to Israel." One of those terrorist groups, Hamas, launched the attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, that resulted in the cold-blooded murder of more than 1200 Israeli citizens, precipitating the current conflict.

More ominously, Iran's persistent effort to develop a nuclear weapon threatens not only Israel, but civilization as we know it.

Ever since the Iranian theocrats took power in January, 1979, and seized the U.S. embassy a few months later, the Iranian regime has been an obstacle to the attainment of world peace, not only in the Middle East, but also across the globe.

American foreign policy with Iran up to this point essentially has been one of appeasement. But as history has shown, trying to achieve "peace" with zealous, murderous dictators who only care about enlarging their power is a fool's mission.

America finally has taken Khamenei and Iran's authoritarian leaders at their word -- and their message of hate at last has been met with an appropriate response.

We know we join with all Americans in praying for a speedy end to the conflict and for the safety of our military men and women and innocent civilians throughout the Middle East.

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MBTA developing rail modernization plan to provide more reliable regional rail service

Special to the Journal

The MBTA today announced that it is developing an updated regional rail strategy to transform its rail system known as the Rail Modernization Plan. Identifying near-term investments and long-term needs, the Rail Modernization Plan will consider how the MBTA can enhance frequency, reliability, and accessibility across the communities served by rail while advancing decarbonization strategies.

"Transportation has no boundaries -- as MassDOT Secretary and MBTA General Manager, I know how important it is that we create a robust and complete transportation network across the Commonwealth that facilitates access to jobs, homes, economic opportunities, and more," said Interim MassDOT Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. "Working with the highway system, municipal roadways, and regional transit authorities, rail modernization -- bidirectional travel, shorter trips, and tackling congestion through mode shift -- is a key piece in making all movement both viable and appealing. None of this would be possible without the leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and support of the Legislature, and I thank the entire MBTA team for their dedicated work in continuing to move this forward and make the Rail Modernization Plan a reality."

Supporting many of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's objectives for regional mobility and connectivity, enhancements to the rail network will ultimately increase service to the public while supporting the Commonwealth in achieving its broader housing, climate, mobility, and economic development goals. The upcoming Rail Modernization Plan will focus on how to better serve passengers from across our service area by emphasizing investments in more frequent, more reliable, and more accessible service while we move to decarbonize

the system.

Almost three quarters of Massachusetts residents live within the MBTA service area, and more frequent and reliable Regional Rail service will have major benefits for the residents and businesses of Massachusetts -- as well as those of surrounding states. In fact, 64% of Commonwealth residents and 39% of Rhode Island residents live within three miles of an MBTA station. Not only can reliable train service address travel time challenges today, a more robust network enhances the Commonwealth's goals for commercially viable developments near transit stations spurring future housing production.

The MBTA will need to make investments in the coming years to:

Improve Frequency, such as through the elimination of legacy bottlenecks in our single-track, at-grade system;

Increase Reliability, by investing in new locomotives for our passengers while also modernizing our layover and main-

tenance facilities for current and future fleets;

Enhance Accessibility, by introducing level-boarding at inaccessible stations throughout the system; and

Pursue Decarbonization, by developing an electrification plan and through the strategic installation of discontinuous overhead catenary wire, charging, and transmission infrastructure.

The MBTA invites the public to engage with the T during this planning process, to help determine both the vision for future service and to help prioritize investments as funding becomes available. The MBTA will launch a series of public meetings, tabling events, targeted conversations with stakeholders, and virtual engagement strategies. More information can be found at MBTA.com/RailModernization.

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook / TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

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Bishop Fenwick High School and St. Mary of the Annunciation School appoint Dr. Michael R. Volonnino next President

Special to the Journal

Bishop Fenwick High School and St. Mary of the Annunciation School announced today the appointment of Dr. Michael R. Volonnino as its next President, effective July 1, 2026.

Dr. Volonnino brings a distinguished record of Catholic educational leadership, currently serving as Principal of Archbishop Williams High School, where he has helped lead significant enrollment growth, major capital improvements, and mission-centered academic and spiritual development. He combines practical leadership experience with strong academic credentials, having earned a Ph.D. in Education Administration from The University of Texas at Austin, an M.Ed. from Rutgers University, and an A.B. from Harvard



Dr. Michael R. Volonnino

University.

A nationally recognized leader in Catholic education, Dr. Volonnino has presented at multiple National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) conventions and has contribut-

ed scholarly work on instructional leadership and educator effectiveness.

This appointment follows a comprehensive national search conducted over the past four months. The final candidates each spent two days on campus, meeting with faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni as part of a thorough and collaborative evaluation process. The Board of Trustees unanimously affirmed the Search Committee's recommendation, reflecting a strong and unified confidence in Dr. Volonnino's leadership, vision, and character.

"I am incredibly grateful and excited to join the Fenwick and St. Mary's community. There is a visible momentum here that is hard to ignore, and it's been inspiring to see how deeply the mission is lived out every day. My first priority is to listen

and learn from all of you as we move forward together, staying focused on what matters most: preparing our students for lives of leadership, service, and purpose." - Dr. Michael R. Volonnino

Our newly formed Transition Committee will move promptly and thoughtfully, alongside current President Thomas E. Nunan, Jr., to ensure a smooth and seamless leadership transition in the months ahead.

About Bishop Fenwick High School

Founded in 1959, Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, Massachusetts, is a co-educational Catholic college preparatory school serving students in grades 9-12. Rooted in the values of Faith, Integrity, Respect, Scholarship, and Tradition - Fenwick FIRST - the school is committed to forming young men and wom-

en for lives of leadership, service, and purpose. With a nationally recognized academic program, award-winning arts, competitive athletics, and a vibrant campus ministry, Fenwick provides an Education for Life that prepares students for success in college and beyond.

About St. Mary of the Annunciation School

St. Mary of the Annunciation School is a PreK-8 co-ed Catholic school located in Danvers, Massachusetts. St. Mary's mission is to create a welcoming atmosphere in the Catholic tradition where faith and knowledge meet to provide a sound foundation for life-long learning. We empower each child to reach their full potential through an experience that promotes scholarship, service and self-discipline.

New England Patriots Wide Receiver DeMario "Pop" Douglas partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts to champion youth mentorship

Special to the Journal

Known for his speed, determination, and playmaking ability on Sundays, New England Patriots Wide Receiver DeMario "Pop" Douglas is taking his impact beyond the gridiron, partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM) to help expand access to year-round, one-to-one youth mentoring programs across the region. Through this partnership, Douglas will serve as an ambassador for the organization, engaging with mentoring matches - referred to as Bigs and Littles - and supporting the nonprofit's recruitment, fundraising, and community engagement efforts throughout the year.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is the state's leading one-to-one youth mentoring organization, partnering with families to provide children with caring adult mentors who help them reach their fullest potential. Ground-

ed in research and proven outcomes, BBBSEM creates matches based on shared interests, geography, and personality and provides ongoing professional support to Bigs, Littles, and their families. The organization welcomes youth and volunteers of all races, ethnicities, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, and physical abilities, serving as a bridge between communities and helping close opportunity gaps in education and access to resources.

"Having someone in your corner who believes in you and pushes you to be better can change everything," says Douglas. "Mentorship is about showing up every day, putting in the work, and staying consistent - on and off the field. It's about letting young people know that their future matters. I'm proud to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts to help create those opportunities for kids who deserve the same support

and guidance that helped shape me."

Last month, Douglas debuted as a BBBSEM ambassador during a "Mentorship in Action" Flag Football event at Gillette Stadium, where he joined youth, volunteers, and fellow Patriots players as a "Big for a Day." The experience underscored the power of teamwork and leadership, reinforcing his commitment to using his platform to inspire young people and encourage others to step onto the field as mentors.

As a BBBSEM ambassador, Douglas will participate in agency events, connect with mentoring matches, and help raise awareness about the urgent need for more volunteer mentors across Eastern Massachusetts. His involvement will help build momentum for the organization's mission to ensure every child has access to a positive, life-changing mentoring relationship.

"Pop embodies what it means to lead with heart, au-

thenticity, and purpose," says Mark O'Donnell, President & CEO of BBBSEM. "His passion for mentorship and willingness to invest his time and voice in our mission makes him an incredible role model for the young people we serve. We're thrilled to welcome him into the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts community."

BBBSEM supports thousands of youth annually through community, school and campus-based mentoring programs, enrolling new Bigs and Littles and encouraging community members to get involved. In its 76th year, the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in New England has created and served more than 25,000 mentoring relationships. To learn more, enroll a child, or become a volunteer mentor, visit www.emassbigs.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is an innovative, energetic organization that is making a real differ-

ence in the lives of over 4,000 youth annually by providing them with an invested, caring adult mentor in long-term, professionally supported relationships. With research and proven outcomes at its core, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is working to defend the potential of children facing adversity and ensure every child has the support from caring adults that they need for healthy development and success in life. The organization's vision is to inspire, engage and transform communities in Eastern Massachusetts by helping youth achieve their full potential, contributing to healthier families, better schools, more confident futures and stronger communities. Throughout its 76 years, the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in New England has created and served more than 25,000 youth. For more information about the agency and its mission, visit www.emassbigs.org.

DILL (from pg. 1)

and Dublin, where I ran a 5-kilometer race, which was cool. My mother is a tennis coach at Classical, so I've tried to get tickets to Wimbledon (London) and the French Open (Paris), but it's difficult. A lot of the events run late, and I have to get to bed a little early (to rest up for international flights). So,

what we do is informal dinners with the flight crew and check out the big sites."

Support and encouragement from his parents

While his mother gets the MVO (Most Valuable Organizer) for the incredible NYE gathering at the Knights of Co-

lumbus, Bradley said the support and encouragement he has received from both his parents has been instrumental and positive in his life.

"I love my parents, they have supported me in everything that I ever wanted to do," said Bradley. "I couldn't thank them enough, and I wouldn't be where I am professionally or where I am in any other part of my life without them."



Former city councilor Rick Starbard and Lois Starbard.



Pauline Sabino and Stacy Brotherton.



Bradley Dill's aunt and uncle, Genia Enders and Shaun Enders.



From left, Bradley's Dill's uncle, Leo Gibley, father, Thomas Dill, and uncle, Dr. Dan Dill.



Patty Hale, School Committeewoman Lorraine Gatley, and Marilyn Bonneau.



Former Wyoma Little League President Maura Scherrer (back), who donated many raffle items, and Jane Kelley, who helped coordinate the New Year's Eve Party Fundraiser.



Bradley Dill delivers his remarks thanking the guests for supporting his run in the Boston Marathon for the Brigham and Women's Stepping Strong team.



Former Lynn school principal Dr. Mary Dill and Dr. Dan Dill.



Natalia Olivera and Colin Kennedy.



Rick Scherrer and Maura Scherrer.



David Bray and Brenda Reese.



Paige Dill, Bradley Dill, and uncle, Leo Gibley.



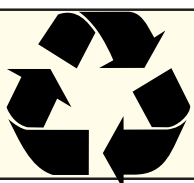
Bradley Dill, with his wife, Paige Dill (left), and his mother, Estelle Dill (right).



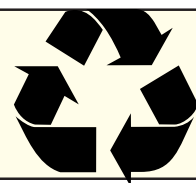
Thomas Dill, Estelle Dill, Glenn Christy, and Melissa Christy.



Donald Castle, Wayne Johnson, and Kris Johnson.



PLEASE RECYCLE



KIPP ACADEMY LYNN ELEMENTARY HOSTS 100TH DAY CELEBRATION

The celebration commemorated the major academic milestone of students reaching the halfway point of the school year.

In honor of the 100th day of school, KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary, serving grades K-4, hosted a celebration on Friday, January 30.

The school-wide celebration featured a school assembly where students dressed as “100 year olds” and participated in games and competitions.

Marking the halfway point of the school year, the celebration is meant to bring the school community together and highlight the hard work students, staff, and families have put toward their academic journeys. KIPP’s official 100th day of school landed on Wednesday February 4.

KIPP Massachusetts is a network of five open enrollment public charter schools serving over 1,890 students in Lynn and Mattapan, and part of a national network of 209 KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) schools located in 20 states and the District of Columbia serving 88,000 students. Its mission is to create an environment where students will develop the academic skills, intellectual habits, and character traits necessary to maximize their potential in college and in life. KIPP alumni are graduating from college at rates that exceed the national average and at approximately five times the rates of peers from low-income communities. To learn more, visit <https://kipma.org/>.



PHOTOS COURTESY KIPP ACADEMY LYNN

The school-wide celebration featured a school assembly where students dressed as “100 year olds” and participated in games and competitions.



Massachusetts House passes bills regulating AI use in elections

Special to the Journal

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed bills regulating the use of artificial intelligence in political advertisements. The bills would require the disclosure of AI use in political advertisements and would ban deceptive communications about a candidate or about the electoral process within three months of an election.

“As artificial intelligence

continues to reshape our economy and many aspects of our daily lives, lawmakers have a responsibility to ensure that AI does not further the spread of misinformation in our politics. That’s why these bills are so important, as they mandate that campaigns disclose the use of AI in any political advertisements, and they ban the use of AI in campaign ads 90 days before an election,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I want to thank

my colleagues in the House for their work on this legislation, and for recognizing the importance of the safeguards that these bills put in place.”

“If you watched the Super Bowl, you saw how widespread artificial intelligence has become. AI is no longer theoretical - it is in our everyday lives,” said Representative Daniel Hunt (D-Dorchester), House Chair of the Committee on Election Laws. “At the same time, the conversation around

election security, which has been front and center for the last several years, feels more turbulent and under siege. Voters deserve to know that what they’re seeing is real. That’s why the Legislature continues to strengthen our election infrastructure, and why we’re focused today on setting clear standards for the use of AI in election materials, so we can guard against deceptive or misleading content.”

“The use of AI-generated

deepfakes for the purposes of manipulating voters and disrupting elections is an attack on democracy,” said Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier, House Chair on the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity. “As technology advances at a rapid pace, voters should not have to wade through maliciously altered or AI-generated con-

See AI USE Page 10

CITY PAWS

Pet ID updates

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The recent news that one of the microchip registration companies, "Save This Life," has gone out of business prompted us to remind our readers to update their pets' identification. The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) published this recommendation: "Pet owners should take quick action to ensure their pet is registered with a legitimate provider in case their pet goes missing. The easiest way to do this is to recommend pet parents get their pet scanned at their local veterinary practice. Once that's done, the number that comes up can be used on AAHA's Microchip Registry Lookup tool."

We recommend keeping the microchip number on your phone, along with copies of your vaccinations, licenses, and other vital information that may help in any pet emergency.

Other ID Options

Today, we have more options for locating our furry friends if they are escape artists. GPS trackers can help you locate your dog or cat for quick recovery. Remember to start your search inside your home if your critter has a history of hiding in unusual places.

Once you know you're tracking an escapee, call your local animal control or animal services to create a record. Take a

moment to call a trusted friend who could stay in your home in case someone returns your dog or cat, thanks to a collar tag with your address.

That possibility raises the question of updating all your pet's identification when you move. You don't want that good Samaritan bringing your dog to the wrong address.

Reddit Boston and the local Nextdoor groups have large followings of people who might help with the search or at least spread the word. One commenter on Nextdoor suggested the Facebook group "Missing Dogs Massachusetts," noting that it is a group of highly trained volunteers who could support the search.

When Traveling

Current and accurate Pet IDs are essential when traveling with your pet. In addition to your home information, you should add a tag that says, "We are traveling with our dog. Please call this cell phone to reach us." That would explain why a dog with a Boston address is in Maine.

We also carry cards in our wallets with our own identification that state we have a dog waiting for us at home and list who to call for help if something happens to us. When we travel, we have one that indicates we are traveling with our dog and where we are staying locally.

Preparation and Prevention!

None of us is a perfect guardian, and we've all had scary near-escape moments. However, there are steps you can take to help prevent these situations. Leash or confine your dog when people are coming and going from your home. Especially if a door leading outdoors is available.

Don't use pinch collars. A British coalition headed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has called for an end to the sale and use of both shock collars and pinch or prong collars. We've lost count of how many times we've seen someone trying to get one of the latter back on a dog after the dog has broken



Current and accurate Pet IDs are essential when traveling with your pet.

free.

Finally, keep your dog on a short, strong leash with a secure collar or harness. If you have a dog with aggression or fear issues, add a second safety connection. Our fearful Poppy

has her leash connected to both a collar and a harness.

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

Public invited to United States Naval Academy Glee Club performance aboard USS Constitution

The public is invited to attend a performance by the United States Naval Academy Glee Club aboard USS Constitution on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 11 a.m.

This free event will feature a musical performance by midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy. In case of inclement weather, the performance will take place in the visitor center.

Boarding of USS Constitution will begin at 10 a.m., and the event will conclude at 11:30

a.m. All guests ages 18 and older must present a valid state- or federal-issued photo ID or passport to board.

USS Constitution is open for free public visitation Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State, USS Constitution played a vital role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, safeguarding American sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

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'Spring Forward' into safety when you change your clocks, check your alarms on March 8

Special to the Journal

With daylight saving time beginning on March 8, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents to check their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms when they change their clocks.

"Smoke and CO alarms save lives, but only if they're working properly," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "As we spring forward this weekend, remember to check your alarms when you change your clocks. The manufacturing date is printed on the back of the device, so take a look and replace any alarms that have gone out of date. And unless you have newer alarms with sealed, long-life batteries, this is a great time to replace the alkaline batteries in all your alarms."

Smoke and CO alarms are like any other appliance – they don't last forever. Smoke alarms need to be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms need to be replaced after 5, 7, or 10 years, depending on the make and model. If your alarm is out of date, or if there's no date at all, it's time

to replace it. Outdated alarms may not offer the life-saving protection that every household needs.

Most Fire Deaths Take Place at Home Overnight

Of the 44 fire deaths in Massachusetts last year,[1] 90% took place in residential settings – and 28 of these took place in the overnight and early morning hours.

"Most fire deaths take place at home and they're most common when we're sleeping," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "Tragically, we see this fact pattern play out again and again, especially with seniors in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be on the ceiling of each bedroom and in the hallway outside so you can hear the beep where you sleep."

Older Adults at Greatest Risk

More than half of last year's residential fire deaths involved adults aged 65 and older. State Fire Marshal Davine asked residents to check in on older relatives, friends, and neighbors



who may need help installing, testing, or replacing their alarms. Seniors can also contact their local fire department, council on aging, or senior center for assistance: Department of Fire Services' Senior SAFE grant program awarded nearly half a million dollars to fire departments across Massachusetts last year to support assistance with alarm installation and testing.

Replacing an out-of-date alarm?

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code requires replacement battery-op-

erated smoke alarms in older one- and two-family homes to have sealed, long-life batteries and a hush feature. These alarms are easier to maintain and less likely to be disabled while cooking or by someone using the batteries for other household appliances.

Alarms that meet UL Standard 217, 8th Edition or later, use the latest multi-criteria detection technology to prevent alarms caused by cooking smoke. Fire officials recommend choosing these alarms to reduce nuisance alarms – and the risk that a user will disable the alarm after burning food in the oven.

"Disabling a smoke alarm puts you and everyone in your building at risk," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Never remove the batteries from a smoke alarm until it's time to replace them or the alarm itself."

Fire officials recommend that you choose alarms from a well-known, national brand. Look for the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as UL or Intertek. Many Massachusetts fire departments

have found alarms purchased on Amazon and other online retailers that do not meet the Fire Code – and may not perform when they're needed most.

"If the price seems too good to be true, then it probably is," said State Fire Marshal Davine.

Carbon Monoxide Hazards

Heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide at home, State Fire Marshal Davine said, but CO remains a hazard even in warmer weather. While many carbon monoxide incidents involve furnaces and other heating appliances, CO is also produced by stoves, grills, and vehicles, as well as generators put into use during a power outage.

"Massachusetts firefighters report detecting carbon monoxide at about 5,000 calls each year," the Marshal said. "We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide. Working CO alarms are the only way to detect this silent, invisible killer. Please be sure you have them in place at home. If you hear them sounding, get out to fresh air right away and call 9-1-1 for help."

Boston Lyric Opera announces landmark 50th anniversary season

Special to the Journal

Boston Lyric Opera (BLO), New England's largest and most enduring opera company, celebrates its 50th anniversary with an expansive 18-month observance that spans calendar year 2026 (its 50th year) and the 2026/27 programming season (its 50th Season). Collectively, the anniversary includes the company's most extensive year-round onstage and community programming in its history, a deepened commitment to community engagement throughout the city, and a reimagined creative space in one of Boston's most historic and culturally significant neighborhoods.

The 50th Anniversary follows a period of extended success for the company, including a five-year-plus growth in budget size and a significantly diversifying audience demo-

graphic. During its 2024/25 Season, BLO welcomed more than 22,000 audience members – its highest figures in more than a decade, marking a 14 percent boost in ticket buyers. Between 2019 and 2025, audience members 18-34 years old have tripled in number and audience racial diversity has increased by 70 percent, with notable growth in attendees who identify as AAPI and Black or African American.

Since 2021 BLO co-commissioned and co-produced the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera *Omar* (Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels) and the Grammy-nominated opera *An American Soldier* (Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang), and supported the creative economy by creating more than 3,000 paid artist engagements. In the same period, the company strengthened its governance by ex-

panding its Board of Directors from 23 to 30 members, and reinforced its financial and operational stability, positioning BLO for continued growth and innovation in its next chapter.

With a board-approved 2026/27 fiscal year budget that exceeds \$15 million, the company moves into Budget One status, a designation by national service organization OPERA America that places BLO among America's eleven largest opera companies, including San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Los Angeles Opera, The Metropolitan Opera, and others. In a move to ensure BLO's ongoing stability and growth, the Board of Directors has renewed Stanford Calderwood General Director & CEO Bradley Vernatter's contract through June 30, 2030. Vernatter has led the

company since 2021 and began his tenure with BLO in 2013.

A cornerstone of BLO's anniversary is the opening of its Opera + Community Studios next month. The renovated and repurposed space at Midway Artist Studios in Boston's Fort Point neighborhood will serve as a rehearsal center and administrative headquarters, and operate as a shared creative hub available to regional arts organizations and community groups. The opening is marked by a new production of Gustav Mahler's *Song of the Earth* (*Das Lied Von Der Erde*), reimagined and staged by BLO Artistic Associate Anne Bogart, and conducted by BLO Music Director David Angus, March 20-29, 2026.

"Celebrating 50 years is a milestone that speaks to the remarkable legacy of Boston Lyric Opera, and to the

enduring role opera plays in civic life," Vernatter (l.) says. "For five decades, BLO has created spaces where people gather, collaborate and create shared cultural experiences. This anniversary is both a celebration of the company's legacy and a recognition of what sustained cultural investment makes possible: artists and audiences growing together, generations connecting through music and storytelling, and a region strengthened by vibrant creative expression. Celebrating 50 years reminds us that opera's greatest value lies in sharing creative, multicultural experiences that inspire, nourish and expand our hearts and minds"

For more information and a full schedule of upcoming events for the 50th season, please visit: <https://blo.org/50years/>

Save the Harbor's Annual JetBlue Shamrock Splash set for March 8

Special to the Journal

On Sunday, March 8, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and JetBlue will be hosting the 16th Annual Shamrock Splash on Constitution Beach, 199 Coleridge St, East Boston from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Participants or "splashers" will go into the freezing water as well as enjoy Boston's best winter beach party with drinks and food from Sam Adams, Downeast Cider, Dogfish Head, Vitamin Water, Topo Chico, and The Daily Catch. Splashers are also encouraged to participate in an aquatic-themed costume contest. The winners of the costume contest, the biggest fundraiser, and the captain of the largest team will win free JetBlue roundtrip flights to any destination. The event will be hosted by Mix 104.1's Kennedy Eley and music will be provided by Boston Music Award Winning Artist Rilla Force. This event will proceed rain, snow or shine.

Save the Harbor hosts this annual fundraiser in partnership with JetBlue to raise mon-

ey for its Better Beaches Grant Program. The Better Beaches Grant Program awards small grants to individuals and organizations who put on free public events and programs each summer on Department of Conservation and Recreation's beaches from Nahant to Nantasket. Last summer, Save the Harbor supported nearly 200 events aimed to bring people of color, Queer people, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, multilingual people, and low-income community members to the Boston Harbor.

The winners of the costume contest will be announced at 12:45 p.m. with the polar plunge at 1 p.m.

For more information visit the Shamrock Splash website.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is the region's leading voice for clean water and continued public investment in Boston Harbor, the region's public beaches, and the Boston Harbor Islands. Since 1986, our mission has been to restore and protect Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay, and the marine environment, and share them with the public for everyone to



KATY ROGERS PHOTO

2025 Shamrock Splash participants during the annual polar plunge, which raises money for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Grant Program.

enjoy.

Save the Harbor is committed to making Boston Harbor, the Islands, our beaches, and our programs inclusive, equitable, diverse, and accessible to everyone and anyone. We pro-

vide free programs, events and create opportunities for people to experience Boston Harbor and our spectacular urban nat-

ural resources first-hand, with an emphasis on breaking down barriers of race, language, income and ability.

Maple Sugarin' at Breakheart!

Saturday March 14th 10am-2pm

Tap a tree!
Collect the sap!
Try real syrup!

Free!
Family!
Fun!

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Call for more information:
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DEBORAH KARSON PHOTO

2025 Shamrock Splash participants during the annual polar plunge, which raises money for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Grant Program.



MIKE MUROWCHICK PHOTO

2025 Shamrock Splash participants during the annual polar plunge, which raises money for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Grant Program.

MWRA votes to reject plans to virtually eliminate CSOs

Special to the Journal

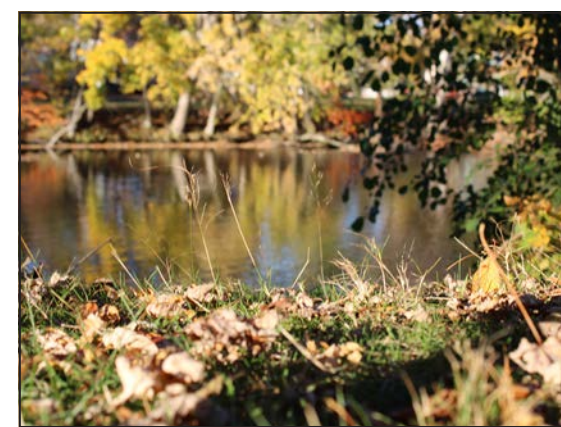
At their monthly meeting last week, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Board of Directors voted to approve a plan that would ensure the ongoing release of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the Mystic River, Charles River, and Alewife Brook for a generation or more. Though the new plans are an incremental improvement over an October 2025 proposal, which was shelved after public backlash, they still fall short of what our rivers and public health deserve.

“The Mystic River and Alewife Brook, just like the Charles, are treasured resources for hundreds of thousands of people across greater Boston,” says Patrick Herron, Executive Director for the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA). “But MWRA is still proposing projects that have us running in place against climate change as opposed to outlining the investments necessary to create a modernized, 21st-century water infrastruc-

ture to match our world-class cities. MWRA’s own financial models show that more ambitious plans are affordable, so why are we holding back on solving this problem once and for all?”

The new proposal promises “Zero CSOs in a 2050 typical year” in the Mystic, Charles, and Alewife, but this description gives a rosier picture than the reality bears out. We know that MWRA’s draft plan would ensure the release of CSOs to all three waterbodies, including the Alewife Brook, in some, if not most, years. We also know that 2050 conditions will not last forever. Climate change is bringing bigger, more intense storms that will cause more CSO activations as time goes on.

MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville have presented alternatives that go further, and these plans are not budget-breaking. In the data they presented, even the most expensive plans would amount to only about a 10% increase above average base MWRA rates – the cost of an extra



COURTESY PHOTOS

Photos of Alewife Brook where combined sewer overflows (CSO) are most severe.

lunch out every month. And this rate change would be rolled out slowly, over decades. MWRA’s own Financial Capability Analysis found the projects to have “low impact” for even the most ambitious plans.

With approval from the MWRA board, plans will move next to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) and to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which hold the regulatory authority to approve or amend it. As this process moves forward, MyRWA will continue to advo-

cate for the virtual elimination of CSOs.

Mystic River

Watershed at a Glance

The 76-square-mile Mystic River Watershed stretches from Reading through the northern shoreline of Boston Harbor to Revere.

It is now one of New England’s most densely populated, urbanized watersheds.

Its 21 municipalities are home to 600,000 residents, including many who are disproportionately vulnerable to extreme weather: environmental justice communities, new Americans, residents of color,

elders, low-income residents and employees, people living with disabilities, and English-language learners.

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) builds shared solutions so that all people, no matter who you are or where you live across the Mystic River Watershed, have safe and easy access to nature and a healthy environment. MyRWA believes that understanding the roots of current inequity, access to information, and opportunities to learn about the natural world empower us all to work together for a better future in the Mystic.

AI USE (from Page 6)

tent to get the facts about an election. The House is taking reasonable and timely steps to mitigate any possible negative outcomes and preserve election integrity.”

“As we approach another election season, we cannot ignore the reality of artificial intelligence being weaponized to spread misinformation at an unprecedented scale,” said Representative Jessica Ann Giannino (D-Revere). “Deepfakes and synthetic media pose a direct threat to voter trust and to the integrity of our democratic process. These bills send a clear message: in Massachusetts, we will not allow deception to un-

dermine our elections. Voters deserve to know that what they are seeing and hearing is real. I am grateful to Speaker Mariano, Chairman Hunt, Chair Farley-Bouvier, and our colleagues for their leadership in advancing these critical protections to safeguard our democracy.”

“Integrity in our elections is essential to our democracy. These pieces of legislation require that the public be notified when AI is used in a political campaign and prohibits the unlawful use of AI to create fake ads. I am pleased to support both of these bills,” said State Representative Jeffrey Rosario Turco (D. Winthrop).

Project Bread’s annual Walk for Hunger opens registration

Registration is now open for Project Bread’s Walk for Hunger, the organization’s signature community fundraiser and one of Massachusetts’ most enduring anti-hunger events, turning compassion into action. Set for Sunday, May 3 on the Boston Common, the one-day celebration will bring together thousands of walkers for a family-friendly 3-mile loop featuring food, entertainment, and activities for all ages.

Now in its 58th year, the Walk for Hunger remains a beacon of hope for local families, raising \$1 million to support Project Bread’s proven, statewide approach to advancing food security and ensuring access to nutritious food for children and families across Massachusetts.

Like-minded anti-hunger organizations are also invited to participate through Project Bread’s co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth. Participating nonprofits can



PHOTO BY DAVID LEIFER

A look at last year’s walk.

form teams to raise funds for their own missions while contributing to Project Bread’s broader statewide impact.

Ready to get involved? Register to walk in-person or vir-

tually, start a personal or team fundraising page, or make a donation at projectbread.org/walk. For more information, email walk@projectbread.org.



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

Special to the Journal

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

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

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

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

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

"I had no expectations coming in and was just hoping to make finals, so to actually win something this big means a lot," Särkipaju said. "I saw videos from last year and thought it was next level, but being here and feeling that crowd was unlike anything I've experienced. Their energy definitely made

the difference."

The single-day finals unfolded across three distinct zones integrated into City Hall Plaza's renovated architecture, with the Loon Mountain Terrain Park Team trucking in roughly 150 tons of snow to shape the competition zones. Riders competed for individual zone wins and overall titles as the field mixed contest standouts with video part heavy hitters, including Lucas Magoon, Egan Wint, Halldor Helgason, Jess Perlmutter and Zeb Powell.

Powell, one of the sport's most recognizable riders and a fixture at Red Bull Heavy Metal, said the event's second year in Boston raised the bar.

"This was another one for the books for Boston," Powell said. "Same energy just leveled up. The production was bigger, the features were cleaner and more playful, and it was more dialed in for everyone. Seeing the Northeast snowboard community show out in record numbers meant everything to me. I can't wait to see where we take Red Bull Heavy Metal from here."

Red Bull Heavy Metal's legacy is rooted in video part riding and rail innovation, led by generations of riders who built street snowboarding into what it is today. The 2026 season honored that history by providing a platform designed to elevate the next generation of talent and introduce more people to the sport.

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



PHOTOS BY MARK CLAVIN / RED BULL CONTENT POOL

Benny Milam hits the ledge at Red Bull Heavy Metal in Boston on February 21.



Lj Henriquez hits the jump at Red Bull Heavy Metal in Boston.

RED BULL HEAVY METAL 2026 WINNERS Overall

Men: LJ Henriquez
Women: Telma Särkipaju

Men: Zone 1

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

Men: Zone 2

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

Men: Zone 3

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

Women: Zone 1

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

Women: Zone 2

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

Women: Zone 3

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



RILEY HOWLAND / RED BULL CONTENT POOL

Nick Fox hits the jump at Red Bull Heavy Metal in Boston on February 21, 2026.



BRANDON PAYNE / RED BULL CONTENT POOL

Red Bull Heavy Metal 2026 Champions, Telma Särkipaju and LJ Henriquez.

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

Special to the Journal

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

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

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

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

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

This reimagined award-winning show promises to be a

thrilling experience.

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

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

It garnered 5 stars from the UK’s The Independent, Daily Mirror, Daily Express, Manchester Evening News, Metro.

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

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

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

Bad, as well as the previously unreleased song What Part of My Body Hurts the Most.

As the Lost boys and girls flee into the tunnels below the city from its ruler Falco, his teenage daughter Raven locks eyes with fearless leader of the Lost, the immortal Strat, and the immensity of their love-at-first-sight-obsessions threaten to destroy both of their families. Experience the thrill of the electrifying songs of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf’s epic collaboration: “Bat Out of Hell.”

Bat Out Of Hell - The Musical has book, music and lyrics by Jim Steinman, direction by Jay Scheib, with musical supervision and additional arrangements by Michael Reed, additional choreography by Xena Gusthart, set and costume design by Jon Bausor, original wig designs by Linda McKnight, video

design by Finn Ross, lighting design by Patrick Woodroffe, sound design by Gareth Owen, orchestrations by Steve Sidwell, original casting by David Grindrod CDG, North American Tour Casting by Kinlore Casting – Kate Lumpkin, CSA, and General Management by Evan Bernardin Productions – Jenna Lazar.

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

Website: BatOutOfHellMusical.com

Instagram, X & Facebook: @BatTheMusical

Massachusetts RMV announces special MA250 low number plate lottery

Special to the Journal

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is celebrating President’s Day by announcing a special low number lottery featuring the state’s new 250th Anniversary Plate. Residents can apply now and have until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026. Further information is available at Mass.Gov/MA250Plate.

The “Massachusetts 250 Years of Independence” plate is emblematic red, white, and blue and is now the most popular specialty plate in the Commonwealth with more than 57,000 issued in just over seven months.

The plate features a blue background, with the year “1776” surrounded by 13 stars and the phrase “250 Years of Independence” at the bottom. There are 1000 plates available through the lottery, numbered from 1-999 and including the symbolic 1776.

“Massachusetts is a state of many firsts, and it is only appropriate that we celebrate the nation’s 250th anniversary honoring our shared history with the opportunity to celebrate civic pride with a commemorative low number license plate through a lottery. This is a fun but meaningful and visible tribute to the historic occasion, allowing residents to participate in this once in a lifetime event,” said Interim MassDOT Secre-

tary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng.

“Since last May, the RMV has offered the patriotic-themed higher number plates (online) as part of the Massachusetts 250 festivities. We are so excited to continue this celebration of American and state history by enabling all qualified Massachusetts residents a chance to win a coveted low number on the popular commemorative plate. The RMV is thrilled to partner with the Massachusetts State Lottery and benefit from their lottery expertise. And thank you to the RMV team for their incredible efforts in planning this event,” shared Registry of Motor Vehicles Registrar Colleen Ogilvie.

“This event represents a unique opportunity to combine historical recognition with public engagement in a way that aligns with the Lottery’s mission. A commemorative low lottery plate is likely to generate strong interest from residents across the state while honoring an extraordinary milestone in our state’s history,” said Massachusetts State Lottery Executive Director Mark William Bracken.

Applications for the special 250th Anniversary Plate low number lottery will be available at myRMV Online Service Center (located under the Plates button) beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026. To be eligible for the

low number lottery applicants must apply by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026. Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Plates will be awarded using an electronic random number generator system.

Applicants should note that there is no fee to apply for the lottery. All specialty plates have a biennial \$40.00 special plate fee, along with a registration fee of \$60.00. The initial registration fee may vary depending upon the applicant’s current plate expiration date and the expiration date of the winning plate number.

Customers are encouraged to visit the RMV’s website or follow @MassRMV on X (formerly Twitter) for additional details about the lottery. In addition, lottery plate applicants will be sent a notification from the RMV to the email address they provided with lottery event details. The lottery winners will be announced on May 7, and residents will be able to watch the event online via the RMV website. Following the event, results will be available on the RMV website.

RMV Low Plate Lottery Rules and Eligibility Requirements

- A person (known as “applicant”) who applies for the Massachusetts 250 Low Number License Plate Lottery must be a Massachusetts resident with a current active, Massachusetts

registered, and insured passenger motor vehicle.

- As a condition of the application process, applicants consent to their name, zip code, and any other information that is required be released in accordance with the Massachusetts Public Records law.

- Only one entry per applicant will be accepted, regardless of the number of active passenger motor vehicle registrations the applicant has on file with the RMV.

- The following are ineligible to participate:

- Companies and corporations

- Commercial vehicles and motorcycles

- Any employee of MassDOT, including but not limited to executive level employees, RMV, Highway, MBTA, Rail and Transit, Aeronautics, all shared services within MassDOT, and contract employees

- Any employee of Mass Lottery, including but not limited to executive level employees and contract employees

- Immediate family members of any MassDOT employees (as described above) and Mass Lottery. This includes parents, spouses, children, and siblings.

- An applicant whose Massachusetts registration is not in an active status (i.e., in a non-renewal, suspended, or revoked status) at the time of entry, at the time of the lottery, or at the time of the plate swap.

- An applicant with outstanding violations or obligations reported to the RMV

- Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Plates will be awarded using an electronic random number generator system.

- Submission deadline: Online entries will be accepted beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026, and must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026.

- Lottery results, such as winner’s name, place of residence, and winning plate number, will be available on the RMV website (Mass.Gov/RMV) within 5 business days of the lottery event, which will occur in May.

- All winners will be notified by mail with instructions on how to transfer their current registration to their new lottery plate. Winners will have until Friday, August 28, 2026, to pay for and swap their plates.

- Unclaimed plates by the deadline are considered forfeited by the initial winners, and those plates will be awarded to the pre-selected alternate winners after Friday, August 28, 2026.

- Plates will be registered only to the winning applicant specifically named on the application and cannot be transferred to anyone else.

- All plates remain the property of the RMV, including after registration.

2026 candidate nomination papers are now available

The process of qualifying for the 2026 ballot has officially begun, the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division announced today. Candidates seeking to run in the September 1st State Primaries or the November 3rd State Election may now obtain nomination papers.

Nomination papers, the petitions candidates use to request that their name be added to the ballot, are available at the Secretary of the Commonwealth's offices today. Papers will also be made available in select city and town election offices later in the week.

Offices on Massachusetts ballots this year include U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of the Commonwealth, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Governor's Councillor, State Senator, State Representative, District Attorney, and Register of Probate. Certain areas of the state may have additional county offices on the ballot.

Candidates for district and county offices have until April 28th to gather signatures from registered voters and submit

them to local registrars for certification. They will then have until May 26th to file their papers with the State Elections Division.

Candidates for federal and statewide offices running in the Democratic and Republican Primaries must submit their nomination papers to local registrars no later than May 5th, and then file the certified papers with the Elections Division by June 2nd.

Non-party candidates for federal and statewide offices will have until July 28, to turn in their nomination papers at local registrars' offices, and until August 25, to file them with the Elections Division.

The State Elections Division is located on the 17th Floor at One Ashburton Place, in Boston. The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Western Office is located at 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, while the Southeastern Office may be found at 218 South Main Street, Fall River.

Candidates may find additional information on how to run for office on the Elections Division's website.

Regis Men's Track and Field completes 2025-26 Season

The 2025 Regis Men's Indoor Track and Field team completed its 2025-26 season.

The Pride concluded the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championships with a strong third-place finish.

"As our winter seasons come to a close, I want to congratulate our student-athletes on their hard work and determination," said Dean of Athletics Pam Roecker. "The growth they've achieved through competition, discipline, and teamwork will stay with them well beyond the season."

Student-athletes who competed on the team include:

Edward Power, of Lynn (01904), who is studying Sport Management

Ryan Sweeney, of Lynn (01904), who is studying Business Management

Jones of Everett Competes on Regis Men's Track and Field

Jalen Jones, Class of 2028, and the Regis College Men's Indoor Track and Field team recently completed the 2025-26 season.

The Pride concluded the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championships with a strong third-place finish.

"As our winter seasons come to a close, I want to congratulate our student-athletes on their hard work and determination," said Dean of Athletics Pam Roecker. "The growth they've achieved through competition, discipline, and teamwork will stay with them well beyond the season."

Jones is majoring in Nursing at Regis.

The Pride are led by head coach, Kiera Murray.

BECCIA (from pg. 1)

Beccia displayed an in-depth knowledge of the issues while responding to a wide variety of questions. He is rightfully proud of his successful career as an attorney and business founder and expressed the joy of fatherhood and coaching his children in youth sports.

Beccia clearly realizes the prestige of being a member of Congress and the important responsibility of representing the more than 800,000 residents in the district that includes Lynn. Beccia said three issues on which he is especially focused are the economy, education, and healthcare.

Following are some excerpts from the interview with Mr. Beccia on a few topics:

On his inspiration to enter politics

"My father was in local politics, so I've always been interested in it from a young age, and in my career, I've spent a lot of time working with government on financial services regulations. So after the financial crisis, after Dodd-Frank (Act) and working on consumer protection regulations and the newer technology in financial services and helping create regulatory framework for those types of business, I spent some time with Congress, and state and federal regulators – I've been interested in the [governmental] process. But what was really the triggering point was what is going on right now with the Administration, and the fact we need everyday people to step up, people like me who have been in the community and really want to make a difference."

The response to his campaign

"The response to my campaign has been really positive. I feel like there is that dynamic where people want this type of change. People are appreciative that I am on the ground listening and that I'm meeting with these different groups. I'm not someone who is obsessed for running for office. I'm obsessed with helping people and doing public service, so people appreciate that I'm not running around looking for local endorsements. I'm trying to talk to groups. Right now, government is just taking things away from the most vulnerable, and we're not prioritizing the right

areas, and we're not creating opportunities for folks who need it most."

In addressing that issue, Beccia noted the presence of The Haven Project in Lynn and their outstanding work "in helping young adult homeless people to get back on their feet."

On health care

"I think we need better healthcare for all. We need to lower costs of private insurance and prescription drugs. Health care, to me, is a fundamental right. I want to expand different areas around mental health, not just put a band-aid on the problem, but understand how we get people back on their feet and to work through their issues. I want to expand veterans' benefits and elder care. We have an aging population, and we need to figure out ways to make sure and account for it. And there's a lot of low-hanging fruit around Medicare and Medicaid. For those programs, we need to reduce the red tape, so people get access to the care they need."

On having his campaign headquarters in Lynn and meeting local officials

"I'm proud to have my campaign headquarters in Lynn. I think Lynn is a very important community. Mayor [Jared] Nicholson is a great example of how things can get done at

the local level. I've been very impressed with his ability in building coalitions and building community – he's done a good job in terms of bringing these different groups together, whether it's improving the schools, improving the business community, the waterfront. If I'm in this office [Congress], I'm going to be working with our mayors, our select boards, and local officials addressing all these issues."

Setting himself apart from other candidates

"I'm someone who has a very different background [from other candidates]. I'm someone who has run a business, started a business and been able to build it up. I've been able to work and lead legal departments as a general counsel. I've been able to help create regulatory frameworks for new and emerging industries. I think that perspective, from a business perspective and as a lawyer, will be helpful. I've lived in this community. I understand this community. I deeply care about the community. My commitment to public service – I'm an outsider and every decision I make is going to focus on what's best for this community, not what's best for me. This election is not about me. It's about the Sixth District, and doing what's best for rebuilding and improving the lives of the people living in the Sixth District."



Breakheart Reservation

SPECIAL EVENT
Christopher P. Dunne Visitor Center
177 Forest St, Saugus, MA (781) 233-0834



MAPLE SUGARIN'!

Saturday March 14th
10am-2pm



Join us for this FUN annual event! Experience the process of maple sugarin' from tapping a tree to sampling real maple syrup.

Our hands-on tour includes the history of maple sugaring from Indigenous People to today, tree identification & tapping, wood splitting, the evaporator, and a tasting station!

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RESERVATION**

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL EMMANUEL COLLEGE STUDENTS MAKE DEAN'S LIST

In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 950 students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. The following local students were named to the Dean's List:

Walter Estrada, of Lynn. Estrada is majoring in Accounting.

Yelianis Veloz, of Lynn. Veloz is majoring in Accounting.

Arthur Oelke, of Lynn. Oelke is majoring in Biology - Health Sciences.

Shaymaa Salim, of Lynn. Salim is majoring in Computer Science.

Sofia Carballo, of Lynn. Carballo is majoring in Criminology & Criminal Justice.

Emely Rodriguez, of Lynn. Rodriguez is majoring in Criminology & Criminal Justice.

Alyssa Demayo, of Lynn. Demayo is majoring in Double Major; Communication and Media Studies; Writing, Editing and Publishing.

Stephanie Gomes Torres, of Lynn). Gomes Torres is majoring in Double Major; Criminology & Criminal Justice; Psychology.

Andrea Garza Guerra, of Lynn. Garza Guerra is majoring in Finance.

Michaelangelo Antonetti, of Lynn. Antonetti is majoring in Graphic Design.

Evelyn Luna Perlera, of Lynn. Luna Perlera is majoring in International Studies.

Chloe Nguyen-Som, of Lynn). Nguyen-Som is majoring in Nursing.

Danielle Leger, of Lynn. Leger is majoring in Studio Art.

Emme Lewey, of Lynn. Lewey has not declared her major.

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

With more than 80 majors and areas of study, Emmanuel College combines outstanding classroom instruction and real-world experience to prepare students for lives of professional achievement, lifelong learning, and purpose. Voted the #1 college location in America in 2025 by Niche.com, Emmanuel offers ready access to

world class medical, cultural, and business organizations in the Heart of Boston, all with a tight-knit 17-acre campus and 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

FRINGUELLI OF LYNN NAMED TO UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FALL 2025 PRESIDENTS LIST

Anna Fringuelli was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for Fall Semester 2025.

A total of 15,388 students enrolled during Fall Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news.ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

JOHNSON, OF LYNN, EARNED DEAN'S LIST HONORS

Cierra Johnson, of Lynn, earned dean's list honors at the University of Tampa for the Fall 2025 semester. Johnson is a Sophomore majoring in Nursing BSN. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

The University of Tampa is

a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University has about 200 programs of study and serves more than 11,500 students from 50 states and most of the world's countries.

LYNN STUDENT CONTRIBUTES THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING

Emme Lewey, of Lynn recently made an impact in the lives of young Bostonians through service learning.

Lewey contributed during the fall session of The Great American Experiment, an entry-level course at the School of Education that focuses on the history of education in the United States, plus a service-learning component to supplement classroom learning with real-world experience.

Students in the Great American Experiment contribute at the Mission Grammar School, the Sister Mary Hart after-school program, or the 3 Point Foundation.

BEATO OF LYNN EARNS DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

Jose R. Beato of Lynn, earned a(n) Master of Science President's List in Management: Human Resources Management from University of Maryland Global Campus in fall 2025. To qualify for the prestigious President's List at UMGC, students must have graduated with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 4.0.

Beato was one of more than 6,400 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the fall 2025 term.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary ed-

ucation in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland.

DEAN'S LIST HONORS ANNOUNCED AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Vatana Chen, Class of 2026, of Lynn.

Christopher Mendez Mendez, Class of 2026, of Lynn.

Iris Guzman De Leon, Class of 2027, of Lynn.

Alexa Santa Cruz, Class of 2027, of Lynn.

Jesse Kitumba, Class of 2028, of Lynn.

Alexa Nova Vargas, Class of 2028, of Lynn.

Angela Palma, Class of 2028, of Lynn.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

LYNN STUDENTS NAMED TO FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that Lynn students have been named to its Fall 2025 Dean's List. Among them are:

- Caitlin Kelley of Lynn.
- Laura Simpson of Lynn.
- Morufat Yakubu-Owolewa of Lynn.
- Jennifer Creamer of Lynn.

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation.

SHELBY GEANEY EARNS FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST HONORS AT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Shelby Geaney, of Lynn, has been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

About RWU: Roger Williams University offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the change-makers and leaders our world needs next.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

STONEHILL COLLEGE FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST ANNOUNCED

Stonehill College is pleased to recognize the students named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. To qualify for this honor, undergraduate students must have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher with a minimum of 12 credits from courses graded with standard letter grades.

Aidan Cole of Lynn.
Caroline Nerich of Lynn.
Colby Kelly of Lynn.
Jelder Deleon of Lynn

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

JANIVEL PEREZ OF LYNN HAS ACHIEVED DEAN'S LIST HONORS FOR FALL 2025 SEMESTER AT NICHOLS COLLEGE

Janivel Perez of Lynn, MA, has achieved Dean's List honors for the fall 2025 semester at Nichols College.

Dean's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and busi-

nesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

LYNN STUDENTS NAMED TO ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY FALL 2025 UNIVERSITY'S DEAN'S LIST

Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Alyssa Bennett of Lynn.
Julia Downey of Lynn.
Jamie Germano of Lynn.
Gianna Parker of Lynn.

"Earning the right to be named to the Assumption University's Dean's List is an extraordinary accomplishment and we congratulate those students who demonstrated exemplary academic excellence this semester," said Assumption University President Greg Weiner, Ph.D. "These students have demonstrated a deep commitment to the pursuit of truth in the company of friends that lies at the heart of the Catholic liberal education Assumption provides."

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good.

NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

Northern Essex Community College congratulates 1783 students who were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List.

To be included, students must attain a grade point average of 3.3 or higher within the term, carry six or more credits within the term, and be matriculated in a degree program.

Jaysir Guillen of Lynn.
Carmel Lozzi of Lynn.
Dauris Nunez of Lynn.
Annaliese Perry of Lynn.
Justin Souvannarath of Lynn.
Derek Torkildsen of Lynn.

Northern Essex Community College, the first Federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution in New England, is an education leader for the Merrimack Valley. Through a supportive learning environment and cultural inclusion, NECC embraces all identities and inspires initiative and excellence through top-notch affordable certificate and associate degree programs online and at campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. NECC offers many bachelor's degree transfer options, workforce development and community education classes, and is host to the NECC Police Academy, MassHire Merrimack Valley, and Gallaudet University's Regional Center for the deaf and hard of hearing.

LASELL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS NAMED TO FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

The Fall 2025 Dean's List includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Jalen Coriolan of Lynn.
Milvery Prenza Marchena of Lynn.

SNHU ANNOUNCES FALL 2025 PRESIDENT'S LIST

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a min-

imum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Stephanie Astrella of Lynn.
Lekeisha Ramsay of Lynn.
Camille Mendonca of Lynn.
Jartu Massaquoi of Lynn.
Briana Robinson of Lynn.
Fredeline Dalce Pierre of Lynn.
Samantha Centola of Lynn.
Athena Gomez Matsubara of Lynn.

Omar Mendez of Lynn
Ashlee Moore of Lynn.)

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

SNHU ANNOUNCES FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Mark Mishel of Lynn.
Jeremy Gantz of Lynn.
Sarah Boucher of Lynn.
Aylin Jimenez of Lynn.
Guevenide Danastor of Lynn.

OMOREGIE NAMED TO ULM'S FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

Derek Omoregie, a General Studies major from Lynn, was named to the University of Louisiana Monroe's Fall 2025 Dean's List.

Eligibility for the Dean's List requires full-time enrollment (minimum of 12 semester hours completed) and the list is calculated based on the following G.P.A. hours and term G.P.A.: an undergraduate student is required to earn at least a 3.5 grade point average.

The University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) is a comprehensive, state-funded institution of higher education that offers high quality educational and experiential opportunities to meet the academic, cultural, vocational, social, and personal needs of undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students.

SCAGLIONE NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST FOR FALL 2025 SEMESTER

Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. This semester there were a total of 702 students from 25 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 countries.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that Ryan Scaglione of Lynn, a Biology Major, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.