

United South End Settlements opens new Bright Space art studio

United South End Settlements and the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children opened a new Bright Space art studio at the organization's headquarters at 48 Rutland St. on March 23.

The space is part of the Bright Horizons Foundation's Bright Spaces program, which creates dedicated play and learning environments for



Continued on page 6

Photo by Julia Tenore.

Ellis Early Learning leader receives Light of Dawn Award

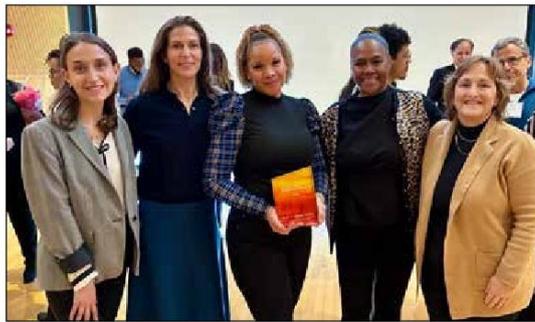


Photo courtesy of Ellis Early Learning.

Tiffany Sheets, assistant vice president of programs at Ellis Early Learning, has been named a recipient of the 2026 Light of Dawn Award, recognizing non-profit professionals for service and compassion in their communities.

Sheets has been connected to Ellis Early Learning for more than 25 years. She joined the organization as a teenager in a part-time role and later served as an assistant teacher and lead teacher before moving into

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Pine Street Inn holds annual "Home Remedy" breakfast

BY SOUTH END NEWS STAFF

The Pine Street Inn held its annual Home Remedy fundraising breakfast on March 26 at the The Westin Copley Place, bringing together hundreds of supporters to raise funds and awareness for programs addressing homelessness in Boston.

The morning event featured inspirational speaker and author Liz Murray, whose story of overcoming homelessness to graduate from Harvard University was later adapted into the film Homeless to Harvard. The program was emceed by Callie



(l-r) - Pine Street Inn Board of Directors member Fr. John Unni, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Pine Street Inn Deputy Director April Stevens, Chair of the Pine Street Inn Board of Directors Lorn Davis, Pine Street Inn President & Executive Director Lyndia Downie, Liz Murray — featured speaker and New York Times bestselling author; Home Remedy emcee and GBH radio host Callie Crossley, Pine Street Inn tenant speaker Omar; Pine Street Inn case manager speaker Christian Petit-Frere. Photo by Allegro Photography.

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Advocates press city to release funding for South End library project



Rendering courtesy of Friends of the South End Library.

BY SOUTH END NEWS STAFF

Council budget hearing.

Community advocates urged Boston officials to move forward with long-planned funding for a new South End branch of the Boston Public Library during a recent City

During a March 24 hearing of the Boston City Council Ways and Means Committee, supporters testified that the project to replace

Continued on page 4

OBITUARIES

Paul W. Duffy

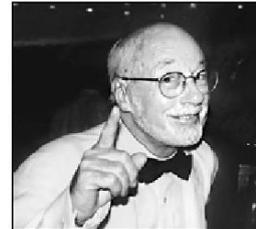


Photo via legacy.com.

Paul W. Duffy, a lifelong resident of Boston's South End known to friends and neighbors simply as "Duffy," died Dec. 14, 2025, at his home surrounded by family and friends. He was 86.

Duffy was widely known in the neighborhood for his involvement in community and business organizations, including the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association and the South End Business Alliance. He was also a member of the Greater

Continued on page 6

Ryan Louis Hurley



Photo via grahamfuneral.com.

Ryan Louis Hurley of Boston died unexpectedly of natural causes March 9, 2026.

Hurley graduated from Winchester High School in 2001 and later from Suffolk University. He spent most of his career working in human resources and most recently held a role in the renewable wind-energy industry, a field he was passionate about.

Family members said Hurley enjoyed traveling, sailing along the

Continued on page 6

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CRIME

Police release photo of person of interest in South End shooting

Boston police are asking for the public's help identifying a person of interest connected to a shooting earlier this month along one of the South End's busiest commercial corridors.

Officers assigned to District D-4 responded about 7:45 p.m. March 15 to a report of a person shot near Washington Street and East Berkeley Street, according to a Boston Police Department community alert. Police found a victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported by Boston EMS to a hospital and was reported to be in serious but stable condition.

Investigators released a surveillance image of a person of interest seen leaving the area following the shooting and asked the public for help identifying the individual, the department said in the alert.

The intersection of Washington and East Berkeley streets sits in a busy South End stretch lined with restaurants, bars and retail shops. Residents and business owners have periodically raised concerns about safety in the area late at night as the neighborhood's nightlife activity has grown.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Boston police detectives at 617-343-4244. Anonymous tips can be submitted through Boston Police CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-

494-TIPS (8477), texting TIP to CRIME (27463), or submitting a tip online through the Boston Police CrimeStoppers website.

Two injured in South End shooting near Shawmut Avenue

Boston police are investigating after two people were injured in a shooting in the South End late Sunday.

Officers responded shortly after 7 p.m. March 29 to reports of gunfire near Shawmut Avenue and Kendall Street and found two people suffering from gunshot wounds and applied tourniquets before Boston EMS transported both victims to local hospitals. Authorities said the injuries were believed to be non-life-threatening, according to NBC10 Boston.

Investigators recovered ballistic evidence at the scene. As of March 30, no arrests had been reported and the investigation remained ongoing.

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Written with information from the Boston Police Department and published reports.

Croft School

Update: Parents raise emergency funds

BY SOUTH END NEWS STAFF

Parents connected to the Croft School say they are working to keep the private school network operating after allegations of financial misconduct involving its founder triggered a leadership shake-up and raised concerns about the school's future.

The school's board suspended co-founder Julian Croft earlier in March after discovering what it described as significant financial irregularities and previously undisclosed debt. School leaders warned families that the network had limited cash on hand and could face payroll shortfalls within days if emergency funding was not secured.

Parents and supporters quickly organized a fundraising effort to keep the schools

operating through the end of the academic year, according to GBH news. The effort is intended to stabilize the network while the board investigates the financial situation and determines long-term plans for the schools.

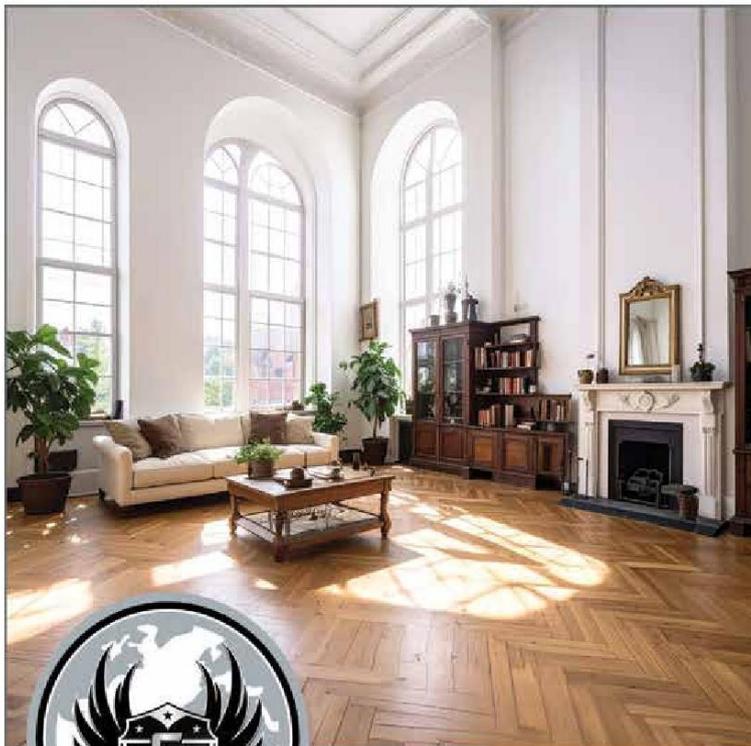
The network includes a campus in Boston's South End, where families have been closely monitoring developments. Some parents told GBH News their immediate priority is ensuring students can finish the school year with minimal disruption.

The crisis has also spilled into the courts. A landlord who owns a South End building tied to a planned Croft campus has filed a lawsuit alleging the founder used falsified financial documents during lease negotiations, according to Universal Hub.

School officials have said they are continuing to assess the network's finances and working with families on next steps.

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SOUTH END CALENDAR

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

SoWa First Friday Gallery Night

5-9 p.m.
SoWa Arts District, Harrison Avenue
Monthly open studios and gallery receptions featuring local artists, exhibitions and neighborhood businesses.
Info: sowaboston.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Ringgold Park Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. (sharp)
Ringgold Park, 1538 Washington St.
Annual neighborhood egg hunt with a visit from the Easter Bunny.
Info: givebutter.com/ringgold-park-2026Fundraiser

SoWa Vintage Market

Every Sunday
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
450 Harrison Ave.
Indoor vintage and antiques market featuring collectibles, retro clothing and unique goods.
Info: sowaboston.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Ringgold Park Annual Fundraiser

6-8 p.m.
Posto, 1357 Washington St.
Neighborhood fundraiser supporting park maintenance and improvements.
Info: givebutter.com/ringgold-park-2026Fundraiser

South End Landmark District Commission Public Hearing (Virtual)

5:30 p.m.
Zoom
Monthly public hearing reviewing proposed changes to historic properties in the South End.
Info: boston.gov/landmarks

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

St. Botolph Neighborhood Association Spring Meeting

6:30-8:30 p.m.
Union Church, 485 Columbus Ave.
Community meeting featuring neighborhood updates and discussion with local officials.
Info: stbna.org

MONDAY, APRIL 13

Boston Police "Walk in the Park Night"

5:30 p.m.
Ramsay Park
Meet officers from Boston Police community service, bicycle and interaction teams. Residents can discuss park conditions and neighborhood safety concerns.
Info: boston.gov/police

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

South End Library Book Club (Virtual)

2-3 p.m.
Online
"The Scoop" book club discusses CuetheSun! as part of Boston Public Library programming while the South End branch remains closed.
Info: bpl.org

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Virtual Author Talk: Linda Stasi

6:30-8 p.m.
Online
Author Linda Stasi discusses her novel The Descendant as part of Boston Public Library programming.
Info: bpl.org

FRIDAY, MAY 1

SoWa First Friday Gallery Night

5-9 p.m.
SoWa Arts District
Monthly open studios and gallery receptions across the district.
Info: sowaboston.com

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 2-3

SoWa Art Walk

11 a.m.-5 p.m.
SoWa Arts District
Open studios weekend featuring artists from the SoWa Artists Guild.
Info: sowaartists.com

SUNDAY, MAY 3

SoWa Open Market Opening Day

11 a.m.-5 p.m.
500 Harrison Ave.
Outdoor market featuring artists, craftspeople, farmers and food trucks. Runs Sundays through November.
Info: sowaboston.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

South End Spring Stroll

4-8 p.m.
Throughout the South End
Neighborhood shopping and dining event with extended hours and special promotions from local businesses.
Info: southendbusinessalliance.org

FRIDAY, MAY 8

United South End Settlements Neighborhood Gala

6-9 p.m.
Artists for Humanity Epicenter, 100 W. Second St.
Annual fundraiser supporting USES programs and community initiatives.
Info: uses.org

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Tropicaliente - Hurley School Annual Fundraiser

6-9 p.m.
Artists for Humanity Epicenter, 100 W. Second St.
Community fundraiser supporting enrichment programs and classroom resources for Hurley School students.
Info: cbo.io/app/public/bidapp/tropi26

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Boston Pride for the People Parade and Festival

Citywide
Parade and festival celebrating the LGBTQ+ community and advocacy.
Info: bostonprideforthepeople.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

South End Garden Tour

Various South End Locations
Self-guided tour of private and community gardens throughout the neighborhood.
Info: southendgardentour.org

ONGOING

South End Stoop Sessions Podcast

Latest episode features Shawna Christensen of Brassica Kitchen + Café discussing the South End dining scene.
Listen on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and other major podcast platforms.



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LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

FOSEL

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the closed South End library branch is ready to move forward but still requires the city to release capital funds.

In written testimony submitted to the committee, Yvette Jarreau, president of the Friends of the South End Library, said the project has been included in the city's capital plan for \$32.5 million, with a proposal before the council to increase that allocation to

\$35 million. Jarreau urged the city's Office of Budget Management to release the funds so the project can move into the construction bidding phase, according to testimony published by the Friends of the South End Library.

The neighborhood branch has been closed for several years after severe flooding damaged the building shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jarreau said in her testimony. The closure has left the South End without a local library while the city plans a

replacement facility.

Architectural plans for the new branch, designed by the Boston firm Utile, have recently been updated to address concerns from nearby residents about alley access for vehicles, Jarreau said.

Supporters told councilors the project is ready to proceed once the city authorizes the funding.

Sources: Friends of the South End Library testimony to the Boston City Council Ways and Means Committee.

Pine Street Inn

Continued from page 1

Crossley, host of GBH Radio's Under the Radar, according to Pine Street Inn.

Home Remedy is one of Pine Street Inn's major annual fundraising events and supports the organization's work providing emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, workforce development and street outreach services. The nonprofit says it assists more

than 2,400 people each day as they move from homelessness to stable housing.

More than 500 supporters attended the 2026 breakfast, according to the organization, which described the event as a gathering focused on helping people move "from homeless to hopeful."

Pine Street Inn is headquartered in Boston's South End and is one of the largest homelessness providers in New England.

Sources: Pine Street Inn



Pine Street Inn Board of Directors Life Trustee Dave Manzo, MA Senator Bill Driscoll, Lyndia Downie, Pine Street Inn BoD member Fr. John Unni. Photo by Allegro Photography.



Keynote speaker Liz Murray. Photo by Allegro Photography.



Co-Founder and Executive Director, Break-time Connor Schoen, and Marty Martinez President & Chief Executive Officer, United Way. Photo by Allegro Photography.



Omar, Pine Street's tenant speaker; and Christian Petit-Frere, Pine Street Inn case manager on stage. Photo by Allegro Photography.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU20P0378EA
In the matter of: Robert M. Wallace Date of Death: 12/17/2018	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300
To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Karen M. Wallace of Uxbridge, MA requesting allowance of the First Annual account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.	
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 04/08/2026.	
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, action may be taken without further notice to you.	
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 11, 2026 <i>Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate</i>	

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU26P0545GD
In the matter of: Juan Dela-Rivero Of: Boston, MA	RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brigham & Women's Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Juan Dela-Rivero is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.	
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.	
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/23/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.	
IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.	
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 26, 2026 <i>Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate</i>	

Ellis
Continued from page 1

her current leadership position. The award honors the legacy of Dawn Ashley Jaffier, a Boston nonprofit leader whose work focused on supporting fami-

lies and strengthening communities. Award recipients receive a \$5,000 prize. Sheets was recognized during the 12th annual Light of Dawn Awards ceremony March 17 at the West End House Boys & Girls Club in Boston. She was honored alongside two other nonprofit professionals and three high school students.



Photo courtesy of Ellis Early Learning.

USES
Continued from page 1

children served by nonprofit organizations. The foundation has created more than 300 Bright Spaces across the United States, according to the organizations. The new space restores the historic

Children's Art Centre at United South End Settlements, which had been unused for several years. The renovated area includes an open art studio designed for creative activities and storage for children's art projects. The Bright Space was created in honor of Dr. Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, a former Bright Horizons board member who selected United South End Settlements for the project after raising her children in the South End and serving on the organization's board from 1975 to 1978. United South End Settlements serves more than 350 families each year through early education and family support programs. *Source: United South End Settlements press release.*

Duffy
Continued from page 1

Boston Concierge Association and a supporter of organizations such as Boston Ballet and Project Place. Friends remembered him as a famil-

iar presence on South End stoops and sidewalks, where he often stopped to greet neighbors and share stories. He also supported local restaurants and businesses, including The Beehive and Picco, reflecting his commitment to the neighborhood's small-business community. He is survived by his daughter, Siobhan Duffy Claffin; her husband, Will Claffin; and two grandchildren. He also leaves several siblings, nieces, nephews and many friends in the South End community. *Source: Legacy.com*

Hurley
Continued from page 1

New England coast and spending time with friends and loved ones. He was also remembered for his devotion to family and

his willingness to support others when they needed help. He is survived by his parents, Maureen and Clifford Hurley; sisters Carolyn and Jodie; his partner, Steve Loidas; and extended family members. Visiting hours were held March 19 at the Arthur P. Graham Funeral Home in Woburn, followed by a funeral service March 20 at the Parish of the Epiphany Episcopal Church in Winchester. *Source: Graham Funeral Home obituary*



LETTERS POLICY

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be accompanied by a mailing address and phone number.

Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

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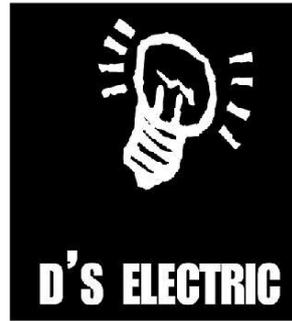
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