

Ed Kennedy



STATE SENATE
First Middlesex District

A Message from Senator Kennedy

After a busy 193rd Legislative Session, I am excited to be in your inbox again to share some exciting updates from the First Middlesex Senate District.

On September 30th, Senator Bruce Tarr and I hosted our second roundtable discussion regarding [Combined Sewer Overflows](#) (CSOs) in municipalities along the Merrimack River. This meeting followed a similar discussion in April, with stakeholders and elected officials from New Hampshire included in the September meeting. I am happy to report that the meeting was very productive and Senator Tarr and I are working on planning a third meeting in February.

There were many fun events throughout the district this month. The annual [Lowell Celebrates Kerouac](#) festival was October 10th through 14th and combined music, poetry, and tours of Lowell to celebrate the life and work of Lowell native and author Jack Kerouac. I had the honor of attending a commemorative event and speaking about my late friend, Thomas Mansour.

I also was the official starter for the [Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race](#), one of my favorite annual events in the First Middlesex Senate district. The race attracts entries from artists, engineers, performers, and visionaries by promoting the synthesis of the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) fields, disruptive innovation, and physical activity.

[Secretary of Veterans' Services](#) Jon Santiago spent two days in the First Middlesex Senate District. The meeting on the first day was in Pepperell and

the second day's meeting was at the Lowell VA clinic. The discussion included the recently passed HERO Act, medical services available to veterans, and other issues pertaining to veterans and their families.

Keep reading for more on these events and others!

Lastly, with just a few days until election day on November 5th, consider this one more reminder to VOTE! Whether it be at the polls or by mail, your voice is important.

Visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote> to find your nearest polling location.

Until next month,



Edward J. Kennedy
State Senator,
First Middlesex District



Legislators from Massachusetts and New Hampshire Discuss Merrimack River CSOs

On Monday, September 30th, State Senator Ed Kennedy and Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr hosted their second bipartisan roundtable discussion on Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) along the Merrimack River. In attendance were legislators and officials from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as well

as representatives of the federal legislative delegations from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and environmental experts. The discussion focused on topics that included technological advances for detecting bacteria and the potential for federal funding to eliminate CSOs in the Merrimack River. [Read more about the meeting and CSOs](#) on Senator Kennedy's website.

Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race



On September 21st, the streets of Downtown Lowell were blocked off for the annual Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race. Organized by Bianca Mauro and Michael Roundy, the Lowell Kinetic Sculpture race takes place on the third Saturday of September. Senator Kennedy has been the official starter for the STEAM event since its inception in 2016. This year's race drew a huge crowd at the starting line in Downtown Lowell and at the finish

line at Lowell Heritage State Park. A little rain didn't dampen the festivities.

Kinetic sculptures are human-powered, all-terrain amphibious vehicles made from new and repurposed materials and engineered to race over streets, water, mud, and sand. The race seeks to energize artists, engineers, performers, and future innovators by championing the fusion of STEAM fields, disruptive innovation, and emphasizing the importance of physical activity.



The annual race is open to all ages and works with students from local schools and after-school programs, artists, engineers, bike enthusiasts, and anyone with a spark of creativity and a sense of adventure. The Lowell Kinetic

Sculpture Race is the only race of its kind in New England and attracts participants from other parts of the country. Besides the race, the annual event also includes activities for kids and families, live bands, food trucks, and a theatrical opening ceremony. Visit <https://www.lowellkinetic.com/> to learn more.

Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Services, Jon Santiago, Visits Pepperell & Lowell



Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Services, Jon Santiago, spent two days visiting the First Middlesex Senate District. On October 8th, he met with State Representative Margaret Scarsdale, Senator Kennedy's Chief of Staff, Patti Kirwin-Keilty, Chair of the Pepperell Select Board, Mark Matthews,

Veterans' Service Agents from surrounding towns, and other members of the Pepperell veteran community at the Pepperell VFW post 3291 to discuss the [HERO Act](#) and other updates to veterans' services. On October 9th, Secretary Santiago toured the Lowell VA Clinic and concluded his visit with a roundtable [discussion with the Lowell delegation](#) and city officials. The discussion included the HERO Act, veteran homelessness, available medical services, and other legislative matters.

The HERO Act expands benefits for veterans, servicemen and women, and their families, and modernizes veterans' services, ensuring that Massachusetts is unrivaled among the states in providing care for its service members and veterans. Since 2016, Lowell has been one of three communities that have achieved a virtual zero regarding veteran homelessness. New Bedford and Lynn also have virtual zero.

Varnum Brook Recognized as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School

Congratulations to the Varnum Brook Elementary School in Pepperell for being

recognized as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School and receiving a National Banner! Varnum Brook Elementary School, as well as 18 other Massachusetts schools, received this status as a result of reaching 10 standards of excellence designated by the Special Olympics of North



America. This achievement was reached through various programs at Varnum Brook Elementary School, most notably their Sidekick program, in which students in grades 1-4 build relationships with special needs students through inclusive activities.

Parlee Farms Voted Best Apple Orchard



Congratulations to Parlee Farms for being voted the #1 Best Apple Orchard in the country by [Newsweek](#). Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro is a fantastic First Middlesex Senate District option for apple picking, hayrides, and apple cider donuts. Parlee Farms is one of the many farms in the First Middlesex Senate District that offers agritourism activities to the public.



Lowell Celebrates Kerouac Remembers Tom Mansour

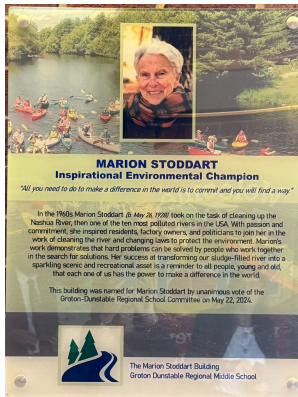
The annual [Lowell Celebrates Kerouac](#) (LCK) festival took place from October 10th to 14th and featured music, poetry, and historical tours to celebrate the life and work of renowned Lowell native and author, Jack Kerouac. At a Saturday morning event, Senator Kennedy commemorated his friend Tom Mansour who served on the LCK board before recently passing away. Tom was an outstanding resident of Lowell and an active and enthusiastic member of the LCK committee. Several of Tom's family and friends were in attendance at the Commemorative, which took place at Jack Kerouac Park in downtown Lowell.

Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations Rally at the State House

On Wednesday, October 30th, members of the Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations gathered on the front steps of the Massachusetts State House to ask Governor Maura Healey to sign an Executive Order that would create a commission to study the issue of crumbling concrete foundations. Residents at the rally came from several Massachusetts communities, including residents from the Winding Brook condominium complex in Dracut.



Dunstable-Groton Middle School Recognizes Marion Stoddart



On Friday, October 25th, Senator Kennedy attended a celebration at the Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School honoring Marion Stoddart as an environmental champion who continues to be an inspiration to all of us. When Marion Stoddart saw how polluted the Nashua



River was, she made cleaning it up her mission. She also helped to spearhead the passage of the Massachusetts Clean Water Act of 1965 and founded the Nashua River Watershed Association. The event also featured a showing of Susan Edwards' documentary "[Marion Stoddart: Work of 1000.](#)"

Senator Kennedy Nominates Diana Santana for 2024 Latino Excellence Awards

State Senator Ed Kennedy was proud to nominate Diana Santana for the 2024 Latino [Excellence Awards](#) hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. Diana is a Specialized Family & Supportive Services Manager at the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) for the Emergency Assistance program. She is also a board member of the Latinx Community Center for Empowerment (LCCE) and represents LCCE as a



commissioner for the City of Lowell's Hunger & Homeless Commission. Additionally, she is a leader within the Lowell Latinx community and frequently lends her voice to various advocacy and educational opportunities. Originally from the Dominican Republic, Diana is a graduate of Middlesex Community College and the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Diana focuses her work and volunteer efforts on making the Commonwealth an inclusive and diverse community. She is particularly passionate about advocating and caring for low-income, at-risk, and culturally diverse families. Diana has pulled from challenging life experiences to inform her work; ensuring individuals in Lowell and throughout the Commonwealth have an advocate on their side no matter how challenging the circumstance may be.





Pepperell Fall Fest

On Saturday, September 21st, Senator Kennedy attended the 2024 Pepperell Fall Festival. The festival offered several dozen booths that were occupied by nonprofit organizations, local vendors, and crafters, including one booth operated by the Pepperell Democratic Town Committee. There was also food and music throughout the festival. The proceeds from the festival are used to finance the annual Fourth of July celebration in Pepperell.

A highlight of the Pepperell Democratic Town Committee's booth was the kids' election in which future voters had the opportunity to vote for the best cartoon character. This was a great opportunity for kids to learn about democracy and vote for the first time. Elsa from Frozen came in first place by a small margin.

Senator Kennedy Tours Lowell Community Justice Support Center

On Wednesday, October 9th, Senator Kennedy attended an open house at the Lowell Community Justice Support Center. The visit included a tour of the facility and a description of the various services provided at the Center.

The Lowell Community Justice Support Center offers cognitive behavioral

treatment, education, career counseling, clinical case management, and community service opportunities. Courts can sentence those convicted of a crime to intensive supervision with treatment at a Support Center in lieu of a sentence to the Department of Correction or House of Correction.



Karen Frederick Retires from Community Teamwork



Senator Kennedy was honored to join hundreds of well-wishers at a retirement party for Karen Frederick on Thursday, October 24th. After twenty years as the Chief Executive Officer of Community Teamwork, Karen

Frederick will retire on November 1st. Community Teamwork serves 58 thousand people and has more than 36 programs and 600 employees. During Senator Kennedy's time as a City Councilor, Mayor, and State Senator, he had the pleasure of working with Karen on several different projects. Her impact on the Greater Lowell community has been immeasurable.

Vinfen's New Residential Program

On Wednesday, October 16th, Senator Kennedy attended the Open House at Vinfen's new residential program in Lowell. This program will provide transitional services for residents who will live there for a period of 12-24 months. Several residents gave tours of the home as part of the Open House.
