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Saving local strays



Co-founders of Peabody's new cat shelter and rehabilitation center, the Cat Distribution Center, Sandra Perry and Cass Warren pose for a photo inside the facility located on Main Street in downtown Peabody on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026.

New cat shelter, rehab center set to open in Peabody

By Caroline Enos
» Staff Writer

PEABODY — A new sanctuary for cats in need will open in Peabody this fall, and donations of cat supplies and other goods are still needed to make the space as kitty-friendly as possible.

The Cat Distribution Center is a completely volunteer-run and community centered shelter and rehabilitation facility that will open at 150 Main St. by early October. When it does, it will house 20 to 30 cats that

have been rescued by PALS Animal Life Savers.

“The vision is to increase our space so that we can help more cats,” said the new facility’s co-founder and PALS board member Sandra Perry. “There’s a tremendous need out there, and there’s just never enough space for all the cats that need rehoming.”

PALS started out of Peabody and has rescued stray and surrendered cats in the area for 30

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Shelves and a cat tower are seen in the community room which features a large window looking into the cat “senior center” inside the Cat Distribution Center, a new cat shelter that will open on Main Street in downtown Peabody this fall.

DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

State installs wrong-way driving devices

By Stephen Hagan
» Staff Writer

After a recent spate of fatal wrong-way crashes, the state is installing new traffic detection and wrong-way prevention devices on Route 128 aimed at stopping motorists from heading in the wrong direction.

Workers began installing the state-backed “countermeasures” on Route 128 between Peabody and Gloucester on Tuesday.

The daytime highway work will continue Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. “until further notice,” according to a Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) advisory. The work is weather dependent and the schedule is subject to change without notice, MassDOT said.

The work will require temporary closures of shoulders along the highway to enable work crews to install signage “safely and effectively.”

John Goggin, a MassDOT communications analyst, said much of the work will take place on or adjacent to highway ramps and placement was identified through a “corridor assessment” of Route 128 between Peabody and Gloucester.

“This is part of our statewide deployment of wrong-way driving prevention,” he said. “On Route 128 that will consist of upgraded signage and pavement markings.”

“The assessment evaluated existing conditions at each interchange and identified proven countermeasures and design enhancements intended to improve driver awareness, reinforce right-way driving and reduce the potential for wrong-way movements,” he said.

Besides upgraded signage and pavement markings, Goggin said

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Beverly Airport manager disputes claims around jet traffic

By Caroline Enos
» Staff Writer

BEVERLY — A Danvers resident is once again sharing concerns about Beverly Regional Airport. This time, with a focus on jets.

“They have become a noise polluter and emissions polluter,” Mark Zuberek said during a one-man protest outside of the airport’s grounds earlier this month.

Zuberek believes upgrades that are underway at the airport will create more jet traffic in the area, pointing to a new, 40,000-square-foot hangar built by Flight Level Aviation at the facility and a planned 600-foot expansion to Runway 16/34 as part of the runway’s total reconstruction.

Between 2021 and 2024, the number of jet operations at the airport increased from 2,210 to 2,734, according to data shared with The Salem



Danvers resident Mark Zuberek held a one-man protest outside of Beverly Regional Airport on Aug. 7. He says the airport is working to expand jet traffic there, a claim airport General Manager Gabriel Hanafin disputes.

STAFF PHOTO

News by the airport’s general manager, Gabriel Hanafin.

That meant the airport saw an average of six or seven jet trips a day. During that time, jets represented just under 3% of all aircraft operations there annually, according to

the data.

Jet use decreased slightly at the airport in 2025, when the facility reported a total of 2,706 jet trips. But they made up just over 4% of all aircraft operations that year as the total number of aircraft

trips went down to 66,861, a significant difference from the year prior.

For the first 223 days of this year, Beverly Airport has seen 1,613 jet operations, seven more than the same amount of jet operations reported during this time in 2025, Hanafin said.

His office has received 182 noise complaints so far this year, with 12 (or 6.6%) of them regarding jets, he said. Last year, 15% of the airport’s 233 complaints pertained to jets.

His office has worked to improve the noise complaint submission and response process since he took over the airport several years ago. Hanafin and his staff also pass on these complaints and make recommendations to the airport’s tenants to try to improve noise issues, he said.

“What I’ve noticed with the noise complaints now

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Salem to restore grand wood entrance doors at City Hall

By Michael McHugh
» Staff Writer

SALEM — The city of Salem has removed the grand wood entrance doors at City Hall for restoration, with the repair work expected to last several weeks before they are reinstalled in October.

On Tuesday, Aug. 18, Mayor Dominick Pangallo announced that the double doors will be restored in celebration of the city’s quadri-centennial commemorations.

Salem City Hall, constructed in 1837, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Greek Revival style building is one of the oldest continually operating City Halls in the United States, according to the city.

The building’s double doors, which are not believed to be original to the building but have been in place since at least 1926, have lost their protective finish over time,

with the wood exhibiting cracks, splits at the joints, and discoloration.

Jeremy Campbell of CVC Installations, a restoration carpenter, has removed the doors for transport to his studio where he will remove remaining finish, repair and consolidate wood where necessary, and add several layers of protective varnish. The door hardware will also be cleaned and polished to retain its historic patina.

“For nearly two centuries, the doors of Salem City Hall have stood at the heart of civic life, and have been a point of welcome for generations of Salem residents, often on especially significant days in their lives,” Pangallo said. “As we mark Salem 400+, this restoration project is a meaningful investment in preserving our

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