spaces





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East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS

See Page 11 for Happy Father's Day poems

Wednesday, June 16, 2021



East Boston High School Class of 2021 graduated at East Boston Stadium last Friday

By John Lynds

This year's East Boston High School graduation looked a lot different than the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 during the height of the pandemic. Last year, the usual graduation exercises at East Boston Memorial Stadium were cancelled and graduation for seniors was replaced with a socially distanced 'driveby' graduation in front of the high school on White

However, on Friday at the stadium nearly 300 EBHS seniors walked the stage and received their diplomas from Headmaster Phil Brangiforte.

The graduation exercises included speeches from Brangiforte, Boston Public School Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, Valedictorian Paola Andrea Ruiz Manrique, Salutatorian Anirichna Sophorlrath and a keynote address from former EBHS teach-

er, current Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Anissa Essaibi George.

"Four years ago, all of you - the members of the Class of 2021 - began your journey as freshmen at East Boston High School," said Brangiforte. "In that time, I have watched you grow from excited and energetic adolescents to mature and responsible young adults ready to face life's adventures and make your mark on the world. Looking

to the future, you will be faced with many difficult decisions. So cherish what you have learned from high school; seek positive role models, and use good judgment, because the choices you make will shape your lives forever."

Brangiforte said these past 18 months have been an incredibly difficult time for all of the students and

"Many of you have not

See GRADUATION Page 6

Madaro's bill supports in-state tuition for undocumented students

Today, undocumented students who attend and graduate from East Boston High School and high schools across the state must pay out-of-state tuition to attend our public colleges and universities.

Rep. Adrian Madaro is of the opinion that these are our students, Massachusetts is their home, and it's past time to give them access to in-state tuition.

"This session, I filed a bill (H1352: An Act to Ensure Tuition Equity for

Massachusetts Residents) to make in-state tuition available to undocumented students with State Michael Representative Moran," said Madaro. "Not only would this bill remove a barrier to higher education for undocumented students, but it makes economic and fiscal sense."

Madaro recently provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Higher Education in support of this bill.

"I filed this legislation with Leader Michael Mo-

ran to ensure that every Massachusetts has the opportunity to pursue higher education at in-state tuition rates regardless of their immigration status," said Madaro. "This legislation would allow all students, except nonimmigrant individuals, to qualify for in-state tuition rates at our state public colleges and universities if they have attended a Massachusetts high school for at least three years and graduated or if they have obtained the equivalent through an

adult basic education pro-

The bill does not make state financial aid available to undocumented students, and undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial aid.

However, at a time when college enrollment is drastically down in the Commonwealth, Madaro argues this legislation would bring in additional revenue for the public higher education system through new student enrollment at virtually no

See TUITION Page 3

Looking Back

Immigrant students and educators reflect on the pandemic's impact on their education and their lives

By John Lynds

Liliana Avendaño, founding member and facilitator with the Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity in East Boston, recently took part in a virtual speaking "Suitcase Stories: Reflections from the School Year", to celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month and the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

The event, sponsored by City of Boston Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) and the International Institute of New England (IINE) gave immigrant students and educators the opportunity to share their experiences with remote learning and reflect on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on their educational journey.

Before the pandemic Avendaño's work for Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity in East Boston educated immigrant entrepreneurs and empowered them to create worker cooperatives in the Eastie community.

"During the pandemic everything changed," said Avendaño. "Before the

pandemic we were doing trainings in-person. We had contact with people and we could talk with them but during the pandemic we needed to start to do everything online."

At the time Avendaño was also taking early childhood education classes and needed to finish her own classes online while balancing her online training work for the Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity.

"This was painful for everybody," she said. "I was doing outreach with the community and receiving hundreds of calls every day with different problems."

Blanching her commitment to the Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity and her own education was not easy but in the end furthering her own education while aiding her community in a time of crisis turned out to be rewarding.

"I have memories of each story (of help) but I had one specific story about a woman named Elizabeth," she said.

Avendaño said Eliza-

See REFLECT Page 3

Boston Black Hospitality launches Kestaurant Month

By John Lynds

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted black and brown communities at a disproportionate rate. During this devastating public health crisis, black business owners were forced to grapple with an economic crisis that disrupted their livelihoods and significantly undermined the financial security of the most vulnerable community members.

A recent H&R Block survey of small businesses found that 53% of Black business owners saw their revenue drop by half, compared to 37% of White owners, since the pandemic started.

"Black-owned nesses play such an important role in improving local economies and uplifting communities everywhere," H&R Block Vice

ness Ian Hardman said in a statement. "Clearly there's a grave need to support small business owners, especially those hit hardest by the pandemic."

President of Small Busi-

It's no secret that the restaurant industry was one of the most heavily impacted industries during the pandemic with many owners forced to cut staff, reduce capacity and, in many cases, close indoor dining for long periods.

In order to start boosting a return to Black-owned small businesses the Boston Black Hospitality Coalition, founded by Nia Grace and Royal C. Smith, who owns District 7 Tavern in Roxbury, launched Boston Black Restaurant Month in honor of the Juneteenth Holiday.

The Juneteenth Holiday commemorates the ending

See COALITION Page 3



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Salesian Boys & Girls Club hold 'A Celebration of Resiliency'

Last Thursday the Salesian Boys & Girls Club held "A Celebration of Resiliency", a unique outdoor event under a tent inside the Club's parking lot on Byron Street.

Boys & Girls Club staff and supporters came together for a fun and safe evening with friends, great auction prizes, delicious food, and drinks while raising money for the Salesian After School Program and Scholarships for our Summer Camp Program.

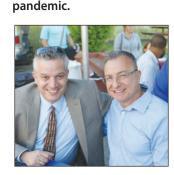
At the event awards were presented to the extraordinary frontline healthcare workers from the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center for their tremendous sacrifices and service to the Eastie community during the devastating pandemic.

Michael Merullo, a longtime club supporter with a passion for helping Boys & Girls Club members, was also honored at the event with the Don Bosco Award.



cepts the award on behalf of the frontline healthcare workers from the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center for their sacrifices and service to the Eastie community during the

EBNHC's Liz Southwick ac-



Massport's Anthony Guerriero and Sal LaMattina.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Michael Triant.



Sen. Joseph Boncore addresses the crowd.



Master of Ceremonies Joseph Ruggiero.



Michael Merullo was also honored at the event with the Don Bosco Award.



Larry Keegan, Thomas Mario and Ed Deveau.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Michael Triant presents EBNHC's Liz Southwick with the award.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Michael Triant with his dad.



Jim Kearney joins friends, including Hilton Garden Inn's Steve Haley (left) during last week's fundraiser.



Robert Casaletto and Frank Conte.



Joe Gaeta, Kathy Orlando and Joanna Cataldo.



Attendees included officials from Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea and East Boston.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Michael Triant and Jim Gerace present Brayan Herrera with the Youth of the Year award.



At-Large City Council Candidate Ruthzee Louijeune with City Councilor Lydia Edwards.



The staff of the First Priority Credit Union during the event.



Rep. Jeff Turco, Joseph Ruggiero, Pat Capogreco, City Councilor Michael Flagherty and Joe

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There's always a fear that when school ends for summer break in East Boston children that receive free or reduced breakfast and lunches during the school year might slip through the cracks and become food insecure during vacation.

Many children in Eastie depend on school breakfast and lunches as their main source of nutrition. For many of these young children it becomes more difficult to get the nutritious foods they need to grow healthy and strong during the summer

Thanks to a new partnership between Spinelli's, the Shah Family Foundation and the YMCA children 18 and younger will be guaranteed a hot meal this summer.

All students ages 18 and under can now go to Spinelli's in Day Square and receive a hot, freshly made, breakfast and lunch combo meal.

Students can grab meals at Spinelli's seven-days-aweek between 11:00 am -5:00 p.m. and is available for any students in and around the Boston area and no identification is required.

Through the new program all students have to do is go to the counter at Spinelli's and ask for the "Local Lunchbox Spe-

"Spinelli's is pleased to continue to partner with the Shah Family Foundation and the Greater Boston YMCA supporting our neighbors who may be dealing with food insecurity which has been exacerbated and become more visible during the pandemic," said Spinelli's owners The Roberto Family in a statement. "We are humbled and honored to serve our community."

The program is run in partnership with the YMCA and the Shah Family Foundation and paid for with federal funding through the USDA Summer Meals Program.

The Shah Family Foundation first piloted the Local Lunchbox program in Chelsea during the pandemic and last month celebrated the program's millionth meal.

The new partnership with Spinelli's is the firstof-its-kind in which these federally-funded meals will be provided at a retail location, and the foundation is currently working with other restaurants throughout Boston to develop similar programs.

"The extreme circumstances of the Covid-19 crisis served for all of us as the mother of invention," said Shah Family Foundation President Jill Shah. "Through Local Lunchbox, we leveraged increases in federal funding to create a new food distribution model - one that puts the money back into the local economy by locally-produced foods to cook culturally-relevant meals and create dozens of local jobs. We're excited to expand this program to East Boston in partnership with Spinelli's and make it easier than ever for students to access free, healthy

Spinelli's and the East Boston Y have already been partnering throughout the pandemic to provide home cooked nutritious meals to kids.

East Boston Y Executive Director Joe Gaeta was thrilled to be able to expand the program seven days a week throughout the summer.

"As we continue to combat food insecurity in East Boston we are thrilled to partner with Spinellis and the Shah Family Foundation to be able to offer this seven days a week program so that none of our youth go hungry this summer," said Gaeta. "This program is a game changer in East Boston, the community is rebounding and we at the East Boston Y are happy to be an integral piece."

For more information on the program visit LocalLunchbox.org.

Reflect // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

beth was pregnant and infected with COVID. When she had the baby they both tested positive for the virus and they took the baby away and put the newborn in isolation.

"The painful part of the story was that they were separated," she said. "This was painful because I had a similar situation in 2005. I had a terrible infection and I was separated from my daughter. So I could feel her (Elizabeth's) pain. The feeling I had at that moment was that her pain was my pain."

So Avendaño went to the hospital to comfort Elizabeth.

"I just had to help her and help her family," she

said. "Later, (after she was released and reunited with her baby and family) she called me to thank me and I felt like, "Wow, I'm doing something important in Elizabeth's life. The other important part was I was doing something for my community".

Avendaño reported that Elizabeth is now part of two cooperatives at the Center for Cooperative Development and Solidar-

"She's taking classes in college and, with her husband, is working with food cooperatives to help families," said Avendaño. "This is a beautiful story of how change and opportunity can come from crisis."



Liliana Avendaño, founding member and facilitator with the Center for Cooperative **Development and Solidarity** in East Boston during the recent "Suitcase Stories: Reflections from the School Year", to celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month and the end of the 2020-2021 school year

Coalition // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of slavery in the U. S. and is celebrated each year on June 19. The holiday gives the community at large a chance to learn about the positive contributions African Americans have made to society and the Coalition's event hopes to bring more people back to Black-oned restaurants throughout Boston.

Throughout the month of June, Bostonians can celebrate food, culture, and community with Boston's black-owned restau-

"Discover the traditional flavors that proudly showcase a rich and resourceful heritage," the Coalition said in a statement. "Experience the hospitality of over 70 eateries and cocktail bars

while enjoying a variety of specials, promotions, and events throughout the month of June. Treat your taste buds and share in our history by planning a visit today." The East Boston restau-

rant featured throughout the month of June is Tawakal Halal Cafe in Jeffries Point. Tawakal Halal Cafe, on

the corner of Maverick and Jeffries Streets, offers traditional Somalian cuisine and owner Yahya Noor has received nothing but accolades since open-

Bon Appetit named the small cafe that serves up home cooked Somalia cuisine on the corner of Maverick and Jeffries Streets in East Boston to its annual "Hot 10" list saying Noor's restaurant, "Should be your first stop off the plane" when coming to Boston.

The popular Somalie cafe was also featured in an ad campaign by UberEats that paired acclaimed gold medal gymnast, Simone Biles, and 'Queer Eye' star Jonathan Van Ness.

You can check out the full dining guide of Blackowned restaurants across Boston at BostonBlack-Restaurants.com. "Our businesses play a

critical role in community and economic development," said the Coalition. "Highlighting this we seek to ensure a prolonged future for our Black-owned institutions."

Tuition // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This legislation would also increase the number of educated residents in the Commonwealth and affirm our commitment towards the inclusivity of our immigrant neighbors, many of whom grew up in Massachusetts and do not have recollection of any other place to call home," said Madaro. "Further, at a time when the public health emergency has highlighted the myriad ways in which socioeconomic inequities exacerbate illness among marginalized populations, it is incumbent upon us to increase access to higher education for immigrant communities that have disproportionately burdened by the coronavirus pandemic."

Madaro said his legislation would create economic, fiscal and social benefits for the Commonwealth.

"This proposal would bolster revenue for our public higher education system with nearly no new

investment by increasing student enrollment," said Madaro. "Currently, highly-motivated and brilliant undocumented students who are already studying in our Massachusetts K-12 education system rarely, if ever, matriculate in our public colleges and universities due to the prohibitive cost of outof-state tuition which is significantly higher than in-state tuition. As such, decreasing the cost of tuition for undocumented students in Massachusetts would result in new enrollments."

Madaro then pointed to a 2011 report by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation estimated that 315 to 365 undocumented immigrants would enroll in public colleges and universities in the first year if Massachusetts were to adopt in-state tuition rates for graduating high school students. The report also concluded that the number of new students could easily be absorbed by the state's public higher education system.

"In Texas, where undocumented have had access to in-state tuition rates since 2001, a majority of undocumented students have enrolled in community colleges," he said. "Assuming this trend would hold in Massachusetts, increasing access to higher education for undocumented students through in-state tuition rates would help stabilize and augment enrollment at community colleges and other public higher education programs. This rise in enrollment would enrich the student body of our public colleges at virtually no additional cost to the Commonwealth and is needed now more than ever. No private scholarship is ever enough to cover the full cost of attending our colleges and universities. Yet they are eager to learn and dream of a better future for themselves, their families, our neighborhoods, and our Commonwealth. I believe it is time for Massachusetts to join the seventeen other states across the country offering instate tuition rates for undocumented students."

Massport asks drone operators to fly safely As more people are out

tration (FAA).

We urge people to know the rules before you fly."

and about in the warm Federal regulations reweather, the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), in collaboration with the Massachusetts State Police, is renewing efforts to educate the public about the safe use of drones and ensure drone operators follow the recently updated rules and regulations from the Federal Aviation Adminis-

"Safety and security is our number one priority. For the safety of all who use the airspace, we want the public to fully understand the rules on drones before they take them out of the box or put them into operation," said Massport Chief Security Officer Hank Shaw. "Failure to adhere to FAA regulations is no excuse. We recognize there are significant benefits to the use and safe integration of drones into the airspace, but they also pose

a significant risk if they're

not operated responsibly.

quire all drones over .55 lbs. to be registered with the FAA and must be marked with the registration number. Operators must also carry proof of registration. Other FAA regulations include the following: · Flying drones in con-

trolled airspace, around and above airports, is prohibited without prior FAA approval; Violators will be sub-

ject to penalties for breaking the law; Never fly drones near

any aircraft;

· Keep your drone in sight at all times and fly lower than 400 feet;

• Register your drone before your first flight; and

• Comply with Remote ID rules.

Additionally, the FAA has developed the free mobile application, B4UFLY, which shows an interactive map to help recreational drone operators know where they can and cannot fly. Using a mobile device's location, the app also features a status indicator that informs the operator whether it is safe to fly, and provides critical information, including controlled

and restricted airspace. Massport recently put out an ad campaign in various community newspapers and on social media to encourage drone operators to "Know the Rules before your Fly." The ads feature a QR code linked to the FAA's "Drone Zone" website. The campaign, which began in late April. targets the communities around Boston Logan International Airport, Laurence G. Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport, as well as communities along the flight paths to and from these airports.

For more information, visit FAADroneZone.FAA. gov.

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Thursday evening to celebrate being together and help raise money for our Summer Camp & After School programs. With your generous support, we are able to provide children in East Boston Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea and the surrounding communities with a safe, fun, & educational summe

Saleisan Boys & Girls Club annual event brought many wonderfully caring people to our Club

Thank you to Senator Joseph Boncore, Councilors Lydia Edwards, and Anthony Zambuto for joining us at this year's event

Congratulations to the award recipients: Community Award: The Frontline Healthcare Workers at the East Boston Neighborhood Health

Center. With gratitude for their outstanding dedication, sacrifice, bravery, and courage during an unprecedented pandemic. We are honored to celebrate our community heroes. Don Bosco Award: Mr. Michael Merullo, owner of EZ Disposal Service for his continued generosity and support of our Club members and the youth of East Boston. Youth of the Year: Brayan Herrera, his commitment to character, community service, and leadership makes him a deserving recipient of this award.

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Sincere thank you to Mr. Joseph Ruggiero, Master of Ceremonies & Auctioneer, for making the event extremely entertaining and Mr. Robert Tavaglini for his continued assistance. Their genuine love and support for the Club is very much appreciated.

Thank you to Damien Magardo of Soundz Unique for his perfect choice of music for the evening

A very special acknowledgement to our many friends and local business for their generous donations and support of our kids. Your contributions helped us reach our goal!! Please visit our website www.SalesianClub.com for a complete list of donors







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THE GUN CRISIS

The recent increase in mass shooting incidents across the country comes as no surprise to anyone with an ounce of common-sense. The ease of purchase, and relatively low-cost, of as-

sault-style weapons, particularly AR-15 semi-automatics with large-capacity magazines, makes it possible for anyone to become a mass murderer. And make no mistake about it, the purpose of high capacity magazines in assault weapons is to reduce the

time it takes to reload, thereby increasing the time in engaging the target, ensuring that a mass murderer can kill and maim large numbers of victims in a matter of It is not a coincidence that the vast majority of mass

shootings occur in states with lax gun laws. Texas, Georgia, and other Southern states impose virtually no restrictions on the purchase and sale of these weapons that are designed to kill and maim as many people as quickly as possible.

Up to now, Massachusetts and many other states with stronger gun laws fortunately have been fairly insulated from such incidents.

However, that soon may change. It has long been the goal of the National Rifle Association and the gun lobby to invalidate what those groups consider to be restrictive gun laws in violation of the Second Amendment in every state. They want every citizen in the country to be able to buy whatever gun they want, whenever they want, and to be able to carry loaded firearms in public all the time and everywhere.

The NRA basically has adopted Archie Bunker-reasoning. (Archie's solution to solving the airplane hijacking problem of the 1970s was to give every passenger a gun when they boarded so that they could "get the drop" on the would-be hijacker).

The NRA's long-cherished dream of an AR-15 in every household took a big step forward two weeks ago with a decision by a federal judge striking down California's ban on the sale of assault-style weapons that has been in effect since 1989.

The judge began his opinion with these words: "Like the Swiss Army Knife, the popular AR-15 rifle is a perfect combination of home defense weapon and homeland defense equipment. Firearms deemed as 'assault weapons' are fairly ordinary, popular, modern rifles."

Obviously, even comparing an AR-15 to a Swiss Army Knife is ridiculous on its face -- we've never heard of a mass murderer using a knife as a weapon -but what in our view was really chilling was the judge's words stating that an AR-15 is useful as a "homeland defense weapon."

That wording mimics what the gun crowd (the type of guys who like to dress up in camouflage) sees as the principal argument in favor of lax gun laws: That ordinary citizens will need these weapons in order to defend our country against the possibility of a foreign invading army.

That argument likewise is nonsense, but it's what animates the gun types who like to play soldier -- and obviously was among the reasons for the judge's decision striking down the California statute.

The state is appealing this judge's ruling. Ultimately, this question will reach the U.S. Supreme Court. However, given the present make-up of the court, we would bet even-money that the court will strike down the California statute -- and when that happens, it will be open season on innocent Americans all across the country for mass murderers.

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Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Strategize your money flow

Dr. Glenn Mollette

If your outgo is more than your income then your upkeep will be your downfall.

A sure way to disable yourself financially is to spend more than your income. If your income is \$2500

spend \$3500 a month and come out ahead. An old friend used to

a month then you can't

say, "You can't borrow yourself rich." We have "wants" and

"needs." Needs must always outweigh wants. We need food and shelter, transportation and basic utilities to survive.

A person with a small income has severe financial pressure and must live on a strict budget. The person who has a lot of income still must determine a budget. The principal is the same for the person who has more income. Your outgo must not exceed your income. If you are earning \$9,000 a month but spending \$10,0000 you are going to end up in financial trouble.

With a very low income even the very basic needs become a luxury. Keeping the house warm or cool is a luxury. Buying good or healthy groceries are difficult. Buying gasoline to go to work is expensive. If you have access to a credit card, the pressure is great to put basic living needs on the card but the exorbitant fees and interest of credit card companies begin to quickly intensify your financial burden.

choices Your few when it comes to good household budgeting. Let's look at a lean budget. Let's say your income is \$2,000 a month.

You can afford the following: \$500 a month in rent, \$250 a month in utilities, \$250 a month for a used car payment and \$150 a month for gasoline. This gives you \$850 a month to buy food on and buy basic auto insurance. You will have to go through your state medical insurance program and apply for free state health insurance because you can't afford to buy health insurance. You also have to figure out how to make more money. You have to work hard where you are and do good so you can get a better paying job. Or, you must gain additional income through a second job. With surging inflation facing our country this makes these numbers an intense strain. Consider living as close to your job as possible to save on transportation costs.

If your income is \$5,000, \$10.000 a month or more. Your strategy is easier. Your main goal must be to not buy a house or a car that stretches your income to the max. You don't need the stress. Budget so you can afford to take a vacation or have a play day. Life is short! Enjoy it along the way. How you budget and spend your money can make you financially unstable or you can live with a feeling of financial security.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

our way of following the

Third Commandment of

the Decalogue: "Remem-

ber the sabbath day – keep

it holy. For six days the

LORD made the heavens

and the earth, the sea and

all that is in them; but on

the seventh day he rested.

That is why the LORD has

blessed the sabbath day

and made it holy." (Ex.

20:8,11)

LETTER to the Editor

KEY WIN FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD

To the Editor,

This is a good day and celebratory moment for my neighbors in East Boston. The Boston City Council created the East Boston Housing Stabilization trust last week. This trust is a key win for the neighborhood that I negotiated for during the Suffolk Downs approval process. This fund will help keep people in the neighborhood and create pathways to homeownership for existing residents.

The trust is the first specific neighborhood stabilization fund in the city and will start with an initial \$2.5 million investment from HYM with another \$2.5 million to come later.

HYM will not be the only developer to contribute to the fund. I'm already negotiating with other developers doing work in East Boston on contributions to the fund. As developers come into our neighborhood to make money, they will now be expected to help fight the displacement crisis we currently face. The money will be con-

trolled by a board of East Boston residents with a variety of perspectives. trust documents call for board members to come from organizations with expertise in things like homelessness, low-income housing, immigrant housing rights,

and environmental justice.

These Eastie residents will decide how the money could best be spent. Some of the money will be used to help keep renters in their homes while other portions of it will be used to help create affordable homeownership opportunities. Members of the East Boston community have fought for a mechanism to capture development dollars to protect, preserve and produce affordable housing stock and with this trust we are taking an important step towards achieving that

Many of our city's neighborhoods are dealing with a lot of development like we are in East Boston. East Boston is continuing to create a standard for other neighborhoods to follow. As large development happens throughout our city, I hope that developers will be able to contribute into similar funds that will keep city residents in the communities they love and call home. I'm incredibly proud of the advocacy that helped us achieve this historic goal and will continue to fight for development without displacement. **Boston City Councilor**

Lydia Edwards

REINSTATEMENT OF SUNDAY MASS **OBLIGATION**

day, we cannot live!" His

Holiness, Pope Benedict,

To the Editor, "Without the Lord's in his homily at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen in Vienna on September 9, 2007, quoted the Abitinian Martyrs, who during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian were arrested for celebrating Sunday Mass. The martyrs responded to the magistrate: "Sine dominico non possumus!" - without the Lord's day, we cannot live! The Pope went on to say: "For these Christians, the Sunday Eucharist was not a commandment, but an inner necessity. Without him who sustains our lives, life itself is empty. To do without or to betray this focus would deprive life of its very foundation, would take away its inner dignity and beauty."

Aware that the opportunity to participate in Sunday Mass is increasingly available and increasingly safe for our Catholic people, we are joining dioceses in the Boston Province (Boston, Fall River, Springfield, Manchester, and Portland) in lifting the dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation, effective the weekend of June 19 and 20, 2021.

We are mindful of the Lord's statement: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt 18:20). While we certainly can pray alone, there is both strength and blessedness in communal prayer.

We do also note that

attendance at Mass is

We call to mind the many times we see Jesus observing the sabbath by going to the synagogue and teaching there (Mt 13:54, Mk 1:21-28, Lk 4:16-30, Jn 6:22-59). It is a desire of every Christian to conform his or her life to the life of Jesus, and Jesus went to the synagogue on the sabbath. Most significantly, re-

ceiving the Eucharist is the center of every Catholic life. The Lord commands us to take and eat, and to do it in memory of Him. (Mt 26:26-30, Mk 14:22-26, Lk 22:14-20, 1 Cor 11:23-26, CCC 1324). The Eucharist is food for our difficult journey through life, filling us with joy and strengthening us to embrace our suffering. It transforms us from the inside out and creates a unity among us that is a strong witness to the whole world.

Therefore, it is with great confidence and trust in the Lord that we reinstate this Sunday Mass obligation. It has been a long, difficult year. People have experienced great pain

See LETTER Page 13

Weekly COVID positive test still below one percent

By John Lynds

East Boston's weekly COVID positive test has been one percent or below for three consecutive weeks now and dropped once again according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Eastie had the highest positive test rate in all of Boston throughout the height of the pandemic but vaccination efforts by the city, state and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center have caused infection rates that once ravaged the community to dwindle.

Last week, 1,067 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and only 0.5 percent were positive--a somewhat large increase from the 0.06 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago but still well below once per-

Of the 42,477 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 18.3 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was a decrease of 0.54 percent from the 18.4 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased slightly. According to the BPHC 13,234 residents were tested and 1.1 percent were COVID positive--this was a .10 percent increase from the one percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 1,650 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,651.7 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional eight Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 7,751 confirmed cases, up from the 7,743 reported two weeks ago.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number

COVID-19 rate Boston Rate = 10,430.2 reported cases per 100,000 residents (unadjusted for age) Lower than the rest of Boston Similar to the rest of Boston

On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.14 percent last week and

went from 70,810 cases to 70,906 confirmed cases in a week. Three additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,389 total deaths in the city from COVID.

Boston EMS Union endorses Essaibi George for Mayor of Boston

Tthe Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) union endorsed At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George in her candidacy for Mayor of Boston citing her ongoing commitment to their members, work, wellbeing and families since her first days on the Boston City Council.

"The EMTs, Paramedics, Lieutenants and Captains of Boston EMS are proud to stand with Annissa Essaibi George for Mayor of Boston," said Michael MacNeil, President of the EMS Division of the BPPA. "She consistently demonstrates her commitment to our members and the safety of this city. She always checks in—on good days and bad. We need a leader that up-

lifts and utilizes our talented and dedicated workers and Annissa does, and will continue to do, just that. Boston's first responders and their families would be lucky to have her as their mayor."

"No question, our city is home to a world-class EMS team," said Essaibi George. "They are always there when we need them-bravely providing care in the scariest and most vulnerable moments in our lives. This past year and a half has been especially hard for those on the frontlines fighting this pandemic. I want them to know that they are seen and heard and always will be throughout an Essaibi George Administration. I'm honored and grateful to have their support."

Live Pineapple Hame Advisors Nicholas Ivancic Century 21 Mario 617-582-3344 nicholasivancic.com LivePineappleHomeAdvisors@outlook.com

Massachusetts Nurses Association endorses Erin Murphy for Boston City Council At-Large

Erin Murphy, candidate for Boston City Council At-large, was thrilled to announce on Thursday that she has received the endorsement of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), the most powerful and effective voice on nursing and health care in the Commonwealth.

"I'm deeply honored that the Massachusetts Nurses Association has chosen me as their candidate for At-Large City Council," Murphy said. "Our front-line responders have borne the brunt of this pandemic, and no one should question their commitment, their devotion, and their work ethic. I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with nurses around Boston and across the Commonwealth as they provide continue to life-saving service."

The MNA told Erin that they are very excited to be working on her campaign to help her get elected



MNA announced it is endorsing Erin Murphy for Boston City Council At-large.

to the Council and be a strong voice for all nurses.

Murphy, a longtime teacher in the Boston Public Schools and single mother, is running for and state agencies. an At-Large City Council seat for the same reason she taught Boston's schoolkids for 22 years: devotion to this city, its children, and our shared future.

proud to have standing with me, I clocked in every day as a mom and as a public school teacher, and I'll bring the exact same work ethic to the Boston City Council," Murphy said.

Founded in 1903, the Massachusetts Nursing Association (MNA) is the largest union and professional association of registered nurses and health professionals in the state and the third-largest in the country. The MNA represents more than 23,000 members who work in 85 health care facilities, and a growing number of nurses and health professionals who work in schools, visiting nurse associations, public health departments.

The MNA endorsed Erin's campaign because its members believe in her vision for Boston: an inclusive, welcoming city for ALL families and in every neighborhood. Erin "Just like the nurses I'm has laid out a plan to make Boston an affordable place for all families to live and raise their children. Her message has resonated in every neighborhood, and she's been fortunate to meet supporters across the city.

Erin Murphy is running to be the go-to call at City Hall for everyone in Bos-



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East Boston High School Class of 2021



EBHS Class of 2021 graduates flash the peace sign Friday at East Boston Memorial Stadium before graduation exercises commenced.



The EBHS Class of 2021 applauded their friends and family in the stands for helping them through the past four years of high school.



The Class of 2021 enter the stands at East Boston Memorial Stadium as the commencement gets underway.



Some of the female members of the Class of 2021 begin to enter the stadium's bleachers.



Boston Public School Superintendent Brenda Cassellius and EBHS Headmaster Phil Bragiforte posed with Valedictorian Paola Andrea Ruiz Manrique after she received her diploma.

Graduation// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stepped foot in our school since the pandemic began," he said "Feeling

alone, not being able to socialize with your friend in person, constant zooms, long winter days and canceled events. I am truly sorry you were not able to enjoy your final year of high school the way classes before you have. But I want to express my sincere gratitude for all of your efforts during one of the most difficult times in our country's history. Setting that alarm every day, turning on your computers, writing those papers, and studying for your tests is a testament to your hard work, independence, and perseverance. You are all brave. You are all courageous. And you are all my

Valedictorian Ruiz
Manrique said she was
grateful for all the teachers she met in the past four
years and helped her succeed and grow.

"I want to specifically thank a few..Mr. Arinella, Coach Kane, Mr. Morse, Mr. Dalzon, Ms. Puopolo, and Mr. Lepak that helped me feel welcomed and cared for everyday," she said. "You became my hope. Lastly, I want to thank the people who were literally next to me every step of the way, my daily reminders of hope. As we walk through tough unforeseen seasons we consistently and constantly choose resilience in the face of adversity."

Salutatorian Sophorlrath said thanked all the administrators, teachers, lunch mothers, janitors, and staff for providing students with a safe and nurturing learning environment over the past four years.

"I also want to thank all my friends and family for supporting me throughout my high school career and making me the person I am today," said Sophorlrath. "I dedicate this speech to you—the graduating Class of 2021. On March 17th, 2020 it was announced that schools would close down and remote learning would begin. It was a day that changed the lives of everyone. We all had plans, ambitions, and experiences that we looked forward to doing that year, but it was all shattered by the Covid-19 virus, which caused this global pandemic that we are still fighting to this day. This virus took the lives of many people, and it has caused a great deal of pain

in our hearts."

Sophorlrath said students faced many hardships, obstacles and challenges that tested their limits

"Many of us fought through stress, anxiety, and depression, which inhibited us from doing our best," said Sophorlrath. "Many of us lost motivation and hope, and sank into despair, fear, and

loneliness. Sometimes, it was hard for us to wake up to continue on. I know on some days, I found it difficult to pay attention during some of my classes, and I am sure that many of you did as well. It's understandable, because this was an incredibly difficult experience. But even with the extraordinary obstacles we faced, we stayed strong, adapted to our new learning environment, and continued to persevere."

In her keynote address Essaibi George said all seniors had to overcome so many barriers to be able to walk across the stage Friday.

"Each and every one of you needs to revel in this moment and be proud of yourself," said Essaibi George. "I am proud of you. We are all so very proud of you. That is the Eastie way. You have worked hard to get here and although sometimes you have felt alone, felt you were carrying all of it alone, please know we have been here with you. We will continue to be here with you, and you must continue to be with each other. When we're together, when we work together, when we lift each other up, when we take pride in our community that is when the magic happens. I feel that here today -- that special magic -- that endless pride -- the Eastie way."

ELECT A FORMER EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE for MAYOR OF BOSTON

East Boston High School Graduation 2021



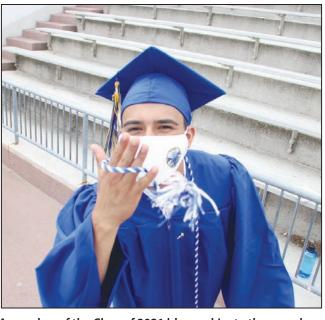
EBHS Headmaster Phil Bragiforte begins handing out diplomas to the graduates.



member of the Class of 2021.



Salutatorian Anirichna Sophorlrath receives his diploma from EBHS Headmaster Phil Bragiforte.



A member of the Class of 2021 blows a kiss to the crowd.



Two seniors posed for a photo in the stadium parking lot as the Class of 2021 arrived at the graduation ceremony.



Valedictorian Paola Andrea Ruiz Manrique joined other dignitaries on the stage.



addresses the Class of 2021.



EBHS Headmaster Phil Bragiforte and Boston Public School Superintendent Brenda Cassellius applaud the Class of 2021.



A proud EBHS graduate holds up his diploma while a friend smiles during Friday's commencement.



 $\label{thm:members} \textbf{Member's of the EBHS swim team pose with their school banner during graduation.}$



BHS Headmaster Phil Bragiforte and former EBHS teacher, current Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Anissa Essaibi George.





617-569-3200







State Representative ADRIAN MADARO

Paola Andrea Ruiz Manrique

Class Valedictorian

Every year at the beginning of the school, my teachers struggled to pronounce my name. Or they would wonder why it was so long, why I had so many last names.

I always felt proud to not only carry my father's last name, but also my mother's as well.

My mother is the only sister out of 8 siblings to graduate high school. She had hopes of going to college and studying economics, but instead she had to find a job to support herself. To me hope is an active thing. It's an action. It's doing something. But more than doing something, hope is about doing something even when we are heartbroken.

Every day, my mom and dad make sure I am taken care of - that I have food on the table, there is a roof over my head, and clothes on my back.

So when my teachers say, "Paola Andrea Ruiz Manrique," they are honoring my parents' work.

But it was not an easy

road here.

I originally started at a different high school, - one I didn't want to attend. I felt so alone and isolated. I started to have panic attacks and the anxiety ate at me. I wanted to be in East Boston. I wanted to be with my community. And so I transferred to East Boston High School.



Although I knew this is where I wanted to be, having to transition one more time was not easy. I still felt anxious. I felt hopeless.

When I came to Eastie, I knew a few people because they had attended my middle school, but I only really had one close friend. She helped me navigate my way around the school, included me in activities, and offered constant support. She showed me that school is a place to build relationships. She helped me feel less anxious.

She became my hope.

The spring of my freshman year, I joined the track team. I had never played a sport before. At first, it wasn't easy to make friends or become part of the community. I spent the first few weeks just running. And running became how I coped with my anxiety. Fortunately, by the end of the season, I started to build relationships. Through small gestures like someone greeting me, high-fiving me, cheering me on, or having a conversation, I started to feel like I was part of the community.

School no longer felt like just a building I had to go to, but a place where I belonged. Running became my hope. Track, my teammates, and my coaches became my hope.

Every interaction that I've had, every class, meet, practice, conversation, hug, or high-five gave me. You all gave me hope. Coming to East Boston High gave me hope.

A mi familia, ma, pa, y Andres, gracias por siempre creer en mí. Por siempre empujarme a ser mejor a esforzarme un poquito más. Y por ser mi primer ejemplo de esperanza.

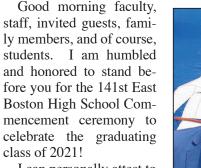
I am grateful for all the teachers I met in the past four years, but I want to specifically thank a few. Mr. Arinella, Coach Kane, Mr. Morse, Mr. Dalzon, Ms. Puopolo, and Mr. Lepak. By helping me feel welcomed and cared for everyday, you became my hope.

And lastly, I want to thank the people who were literally next to me every step of the way, my daily reminders of hope. Jenni, Keyly, and Daniel.

Thank you all for painting a picture of hope by choosing resiliency over and over again every single day. As we walk through tough unforeseen seasons we consistently and constantly choose resilience in the face of adversity.

Phillip R. Brangiforte

Headmaster



I can personally attest to the magnitude of this occasion because 35 years ago, I walked across the stage and received my diploma from this historic educational institution.

And as your Headmas-

ter for at least the next 60 minutes I have one final request.

Would each and every one of you please stand up?

Thank you.

Now search the audience and find your parents or guardians who have helped you reach this defining moment.

I want you to look them in the eyes, and in the words of my grandfather... "Never ever forget how much they have sacrificed to make you the person you are today."

Now give them the biggest and loudest round of applause you can!

Thank you.

Four years ago, all of you - the members of the Class of 2021 - began your journey as freshmen at East Boston High School. In that time, I have watched you grow from excited and energetic adolescents to mature and responsible young adults — ready to face life's adventures and make your mark on the world.

Like so many of you in attendance today, I am a product of immigrants who were searching for a better life. My grandparents were Sicilian and Spanish who came to America - and despite speaking no English - they worked hard, nurtured their children and grandchildren, and became symbolic of what makes East Boston a truly special place to live - a place where people from all over the world can begin their journeys toward the American Dream.

Our cultural backgrounds help define us as individuals, and I embrace those from all over the world who are as proud as I am to call East Boston their home. I believe we are united – not divided – by our shared history as pioneers to this great city.

East Boston High School alumni hail from all corners of the globe, and the Class of 2021 is no exception.

Students from the United States, Colombia, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Brazil, Somalia, Syria, and many other countries will walk the stage and become part of our school's history, and I could not be prouder to be part of your journey.

Looking to the future, you will be faced with

to work in industries that allowed us to put food on our table or helped provide medical care at the height of a pandemic.

You are all...brave.

You are all...courageous. ...and you are all...my heroes.

Nelson Mandela once said, "It seems impossible until it is done." Well, you did it! Wearing that cap and gown, as 140 graduating classes have done before you, shows that you have persevered through this pandemic.

One quote that has stayed with me during these trying times is, "Soon, when all is well, we are going to look back on this period of our lives and be so glad that we never gave up."

And that, Class of 2021, is what you have shown... that you will never give up.

Remember; the struggles that you have faced and overcome will give you the strength that you need to succeed tomorrow. The Class of 2021 will go down in history as the most resilient of any that have crossed the stage in our 141-year history. The resolve, the will, and the determination you have shown ensures that you will be ready to face any and all adversity that

comes your way...
...and you will make
the world a better place for
generations to come.

We can't change what has happened, but we can choose how we move forward ...together

As you join myself and thousands of distinguished individuals as alumni

of this great institution, as part of this wonderful extended family, it is my sincere hope that when asked, "Where did you graduate High School from?" you are as proud as I am, to say, "I graduated from East Boston High

And today, I hope

That you embrace your education and evolve into lifelong learners.

That you will always be proud to wear the Blue and Gold.

And that you will forever represent the Class, Pride, and Tradition of East Boston High School.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 and may God Bless You!



what career path to take;

where to settle down and

start a family. So cherish

what you have learned

from high school; seek

positive role models, and

use good judgment, because the choices you make will shape your lives forever. I am proud to be able to serve as your Headmaster. Over forty-five of my relatives have received diplomas from this great educational institution, but I consider everyone who walks across the stage part of my extended family. So, remember that you will always be a Jet, my door will always be open, East Boston High School will

forever be your home, and

that you will forever repre-

sent the Class, Pride, and

Tradition of East Boston

High School.

These past 18 months have been an incredibly difficult time for all of us. Many of you have not stepped foot in our school since the pandemic began. Feeling Alone, Not being able to socialize with your friend in person, Constant zooms; long winter days; canceled events. I know you may feel like you have been cheated out of your senior year. Although, you were able to have an adapted prom and graduation, but not the one you so rightly deserve, and I am truly sorry you were not able to enjoy your final year of high school the way classes before you have.

But let's put all of the negative aside for just a moment.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for all of your efforts during one of the most difficult times in our country's history. Setting that alarm every day, turning on your computers, writing those papers, and studying for your tests is a testament to your hard work, independence, and perseverance. On top of your academic obligations, many of you still had to go

CLASS, PRIDE, TRADITION —
THE EASTIE WAY!

ANNISSA ****
ESSAIBI GEORGE
MAYOR OF BOSTON

CONGRATS TO THE

EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2021!

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Annissa Essaibi George.

Anirichna Sophorlrath

Class Salutatorian

Good morning everyone. I would like to thank you all for being here to witness such an important and special day for East Boston High School's graduating senior class of 2021!

I want to thank all of the administrators, lunch mothers, janitors, and staff, for providing us students a safe and nurturing learning environment over the past four years. I also want to thank all my friends and family for supporting me throughout my high school career and making me the person I am today. I am honored to have been bestowed with the title of 'salutatorian,' and as the salutatorian, I don't want this speech to be about me. I dedicate this speech to you-the graduating class of 2021.

March 17th, 2020. On this day, it was announced that schools would close down and remote learning would begin. It was a day that changed the lives of everyone. We all had plans, ambitions, and experiences that we looked forward to doing that year, but it was all shattered by the Covid-19 virus, which caused this global pandemic that we are still fighting to this day. This virus took the lives of many people, and it has caused

you fro



a great deal of pain in our

We faced many hardships, obstacles and challenges that tested our limits. Many of us fought through stress, anxiety, and depression, which inhibited us from doing our best. Many of us lost motivation and hope, and sunk into despair, fear, and loneliness. Sometimes, it was hard for us to wake up to continue on. I know on some days, I found it difficult to pay attention during some of my classes, and I am sure that many of you did as well. It's understandable, because this was an incredibly difficult experience. But even with the extraordinary obstacles we faced, we stayed strong, adapted to our new learning

to persevere.

The fact that you got out of bed, shows me that you are ready to continue on with your lives.

environment, and continued

The fact that you are moving, tells me that you are not letting these challenges stop

you from succeeding.

The fact that you are here right now, shows me that you are ready to start a new chapter in your lives, and it is up to you to continue on living—to fill up those empty pages that have yet to tell a story.

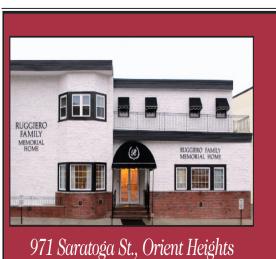
Everyone here has a unique story to tell, and that's what makes you special. There was a quote from a hiking adventure I went on that said; "The best view comes after the hardest climb."

Well, you're here, and you've reached the top of the mountain. Doesn't it feel so amazing? To be here today?

But if you think that your journey has ended here; you thought wrong. Look beyond the horizon—you have one heck-of-a journey called "life," to continue onward.

And as you walk off this stage with your diploma, don't you ever forget how much pain, effort, and sacrifice you faced during the past 4 years. Don't ever forget the person you are, because you all radiate with importance, and you all have the potential to do great in life. Don't ever forget to take care of yourselves, and let's not forget to take care of each other.

Thank you.



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East Boston High School Graduation 2021

East Boston Class of 2021

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Kaelyn Gilbert

Jason Gonzales

Alan Gonzalez

Shyann Gore

Jose Guillen

Jerardo Gutierrez

Jessica Gutierrez

Jonnathan Guzman

Joseph Guzman Anglada

Randy Guzman Mauricio

Cristian Guzman Zapata

Juan Guzman Zapata

Carlos Hernandez

Hannah Hernandez

Kevin Hernandez

Aymane Hmani

Ashley Holland

Aamir Johnson

Mustafa Koder

Harlen Lara Perez

Celia Leiva Garcia

Yenifer Lemus Cardoza

Madelin Linares Guevara

Katherine Magana Peraza

Marina Majano Arbaiza

Evelyn Mancia Lopez

Rafael Marquez Alvarado

Wendy Marquez Alvarado

Briana Maldonado

Velasquez

George Manta

Jesley Marroquin

Angel Martinez

Juliza Martinez

Sebastian Martinez

Cesar Martinez Garcia

Christopher Martinez

Luciana McKenzie

Brayan Mejia Figueroa

Yohamy Mejia Umana

Reyna Melendez Sorto

Fernando Mendez Pena

Oscar Mendoza Alfaro Erick Merlos Merlos

Michael Molano Diaz

Karla Medina

Luis Melgar

Kayla Milano

Adonis Nunez

Munir Mohamed

Louis Martinez Robinson Jonathan Mateo Bernal

Samuel Martinez

Castaneda

Reina

Jennifer Lima Guerra

Helmont Lopez Mateo

Willie Jones

Calderon

Ramy Laribi

Danny Lazo

Irbin Lemus

Jonathan Lemus

Nelson Lozano

Agretita Ichich Xol

Jose Iraheta Carrillo

Esmeralda Landaverde

Ruby Landaverde Romero

Flores

Jacqueline Hernandez

Jeffrey Hernandez Orellana

Alejandro Herrera Sanchez

Anahi Guzman

Anglada

Victoria Gonzalez

Manuela Giraldo Yepes

Jessica Gomez Rodriguez

Steven Gonzalez Villatoro

Yessica Granadeno Salinas

Jiober Granados Castro

Deiner Granda Espinosa

Jonathan Guevara Lopez

Hassan Abdullahi Reanna Abel Juan Agudelo Johnathan Aguiar Eduardo Aguilar Sola Jean Almonte Juan Alvarez Agatha Alves Andre Samantha Amaral Yancis Amaya Garay Julio Anaya Henry Antunez Solaima Antunez Danish Asif Paula Barbosa Acosta Stephanie Benavides Abigail Benitez Jose Benitez Maldonado Kevin Berrio Torres Ty Birkner Keyly Bojorquez Cristian Bonilla Prudencio Sophia Buonopane Jose Caal Xiloj Andre Campos De Abreu **Xavier Canales** Wilman Cardona Avila Marcelo Carpinito Charles Cassaro Daniel Castaneda Gomez Michael Catrone Angel Cerna Elmer Cha Gabriela Chavez

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Layla De Leon Jonatan De Los Santos Vitoria De Oliveira Porto Judith Deblas Jan Delgado Alfred Delmuto Jin Deng

Alicia Cruz Ventura

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Tyrese Dailey

Katia Deras Alisa Diaz Randy Diaz Reiver Diaz Ortiz Fabianna Dicenso Aliyah Dioriodarden Darwin Dominguez

Celine Douyotas Daniel Duarte Kenia Duarte Adela Elias Pereira Maria Escalante

Castellon

Samuel Escamilla Serrano Julio Escobar Maria Escobar Melgar

Rodrigo Espejo Bravo Vanessa Falzone Devin Farley John Festa Nicholas Festa Christian Feudo

Brian Figueroa Jonatan Figueroa Cisneros Darlin Flores Elver Flores

Silvia Flores Emerson Flores Reyes Mitzy Florian Michael Forbes Julie Franco Montiel Sabrina Gaglione

Jonathan Garcia Kevin Garcia

Stecey Garcia Lisbeth Garcia Aguilar

Lourdes Garcia Castillo Erick Garcia Landaverde

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Maria Moncaleano Sarmiento Kelly Monge Cortez David Montano Diego Monterroza Guadron **Emely Morales** Daniel Morales Cardona Juan Morales Leiva Paul Morgan Alisson Mundo Rodriguez Nicolas Nolasco

Georgina Orellana Torres Jasson Ortez Steven Ortiz Cisneros Brenda Ortiz Guevara

Casey Osorio Xiomara Osorio Londono Marcos Palma Sadie Parziale

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Lizelle Sthill Johan Suarez Arias Jason Suazo

Yeyson Talavera Gonzalez Luciana Tapias Restrepo Natalie Teixeira

Madison Theriault Robert Tobar Jonathan Torres

Delmy Torres Escobar Deja Townsend Jacky Tran Yicel Vanegas Ortiz

Yilbran Vanegas Ortiz Aslin Vasquez

Brian Vasquez Yefrin Vasquez Cuculista Irma Vasquez Hernandez

Jeffersson Vasquez Hernandez Yaquelin Vasquez Pacheco Valeria Vergara Mora

Jhonathan Villa Garcia Jimmy Villanueva Jennifer Vilorio James Williams

Jozale Wong Chailin Zamora Portillo Michael Zelaya Yaritza Zelaya Leiva

Coraly Zephir Alexander Zuniga Velasquez

Scholarship recipients

Clipper Battalion Scholarship - Agudelo, Juan David

John V. Vozella Memorial Scholarship - Alvarez, Juan

Gates Entrepreneurship Scholarship -Buonopane, Sophia

Phillip Brangiforte and Richard F. Diaz Memorial Scholarship - Chavez, Gabriela

John V. Vozella Memorial Scholarship - Checo, Imalay

Thomas Menino BU Scholarship -Checo, Imalay

Deb Jackson Memorial Scholarship -Cruz Ventura, Alicia Leslie H. Kimbrough Scholarship -

Duarte, Kenia Michael Jones Memorial Scholarshi -

Duarte, Kenia 1st Sargeant Roy William - Forbes,

Michael East Boston Savings Bank Scholarship

- Garcia Castillo, Lourdes Dr. H. Elaine Halkopoulos Memorial Scholarshi - Garcia, Kevin

Roscoe and Elizabeth Coolidge Memorial Scholar Athlete Award - Gilbert, Kaelyn

Michael Rubin "Class, Pride & Tradition" Award - Gore, Shyann

East Boston Savings Bank Scholarship - Guevara Lopez, Jonathan

Awar - Holland, Ashley

Gates Entrepreneurship Scholarship -Guzman Anglada, Jonnathan EBHS Julius "Joe" Vennochi Memo-

rial Scholarship - Guzman Anglada, Jo-Massport Anthony Pascucci Memorial

Scholarship - Hernandez, Hannah James J. Celona, Jr. Perseverance

North Suffolk Association's Armando Alfano Fund - Koder, Mustafa

Carrie Ann Brangiforte Strike Out Colon Cancer Scholarship - Laribi, Ramy

Massport Robert Larsen Memorial Scholarship - Lemus Cardoza, Yenifer

EBNHC James O. Taylor, M.D. & John P. Cradock Scholarship - Manta Jr., George

Cedric T. Phillips Memorial Scholarshi - Manta Jr., George

JROTC Leadership Award - Mejia Umana Yohamv

Boston Teachers' Union Scholarship -Mejia Umana, Yohamy

Andrea Harvey Memorial Scholarship

- Milano, Kayla

East Boston Savings Bank Scholarshi

- Milano, Kayla

East Boston Savings Bank Scholarship

- Morales, Emely East Boston Savings Bank Scholarship

- Nunes, Adonis

East Boston Savings Bank Scholarship

- Osorio, Casey

Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Public Service Scholarship - Palma, Marcos Salvatore Lombardo Memorial Schol-

arship Award - Patino, Juan Salvatore Lombardo Memorial Schol-

arship Award - Patino, Luis Vincent A. Scaduto Memorial Schol-

arship - Pena, Emmanuel Massachusetts Port Authority Scholar-

ship - Pierce, Kevin James J. Celona, Jr. Perseverance Award - Portillo, Fatima

Vanessa Bigby Memorial Scholarship - Roebuck, Kennetta

Franklin Medal Award - Ruiz Manrique, Paola North Suffolk Association's Armando

Alfano Fund - Ruiz Manrique, Paola James J. Celona, Jr. Perseverance

Award - Shire, Dante Franklin Medal Award - Sophorlrath,

Anirichna Thomas Menino BU Scholarship - So-

phorlrath, Anirichna Anthony Albano Memorial Scholarship - Sophorlrath, Anirichna

JROTC Leadership Award - Sophorl-

rath, Anirichna East Boston High School "Blue and

Gold" Awar - Theriault, Madison John A. Poto Legacy Scholarshi - Tran,

Boston Teachers' Union Scholarship -Vasquez Cuculista, Yefrin

Massachusetts Port Authority Scholarship - Williams, James

Judith Blanco and Andrew Faiz Scholarship - Yenifer Lemus

East Boston High School "Blue and Gold" Award - Zelaya, Michael

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Councilor Annissa Essaibi George

Hello, good morning, and a BIG congratulations to the class of 2021!

I'm excited and humbled to be here with all of you today. My name is Annissa Essaibi George. I am known by some as a mom, by many a small business owner, by a whole City as Councilor and and most recently a few more as a candidate for Mayor. I am proud to hold those many titles and roles. But one title I hold is one that means more to me than you can imagine. I am a teacher and not just any teacher, I am an East Boston High School Teacher. The years I spent in the classroom of that building at 86 White Street atop Eagle Hill beautiful both in structure and in people, has touched my life in endless ways. Each time I return, I feel like I have come home.

And that is true today.

The East Boston community continues to welcome me home—that is the Eastie way.

I spent 13 amazing years at East Boston High School as a teacher and coach. We were a family—administrators, educators, students and their families alike. We will always be family, and that's why it's so special for me to be here right now.

That Eastie way is built on a certain motto we all hold dear - Class - Pride and Tradition.

All of you had to overcome so many barriers to be able to walk across this stage—know that I am thinking especially of you today. You know who you are. Each and every one of you need to revel in this moment and be proud of yourself. I am proud of you.

We are all so very proud of you. That is the Eastie way.

You have worked hard to get here - and although sometimes you have felt alone, felt you were carrying all of it alone, please know we have been here with you. We will continue to be here with you, and you must continue to be with each other. When we're together, when we work together, when we lift each other up, when we take pride in our community, that is when the magic happens.

I feel that here today -that special magic -- that
endless pride -- the Eastie
way.

And for every one of you here - the graduate, the mom, the teacher, the friend, the coach, those that work in our community - the grocery store worker, the small shop owner, the senior citizen. The young people. The immigrant. Those that have been here for generations. You all have their own individual roles to play, yet put them all together and you have East Boston.

A tradition of community that is as strong as any one of us.

I think if there's anything we've learned over the past year and half it's that we must be in this together. That real progress is made when we embrace each other. When we work together, when we have each others' backs - that is the Eastie Way.

The Eastie way is also





about speaking up, and thinking outside the box and dreaming big are all important leadership skills, I'm going to tell you what that I think too often gets overlooked and left off the list - after all this is supposed to be an address that inspires, teaches and lasts a long time...

What often gets left off the list - Teamwork, relationship building, or better yet, COLLABORATION. Something I know you know about, you're an EBHS graduate.

I truly believe that we can accomplish anything if we put our minds to it and do it together. Especially our city kids. While all too often seen as the underdog, you bring the heart, the dedication, the boldness, fearlessness, and resilience that other young people don't.

You have a seat to take at the table. And you have a responsibility to make room for others. That is the Eastie Way.

Because collaboration is relationship building.

Success—personally, academically, professionally—very much hinges on one's ability to build bridges - build relationships, build teams and collaborate - That is the Eastie Way.

Relationships are at the core of everything we do. Building them, maintaining them and growing them is hard work.

But do it. Again, in your personal life, academic life, and professional life.

And know that it pays off--months, years or even decades down the road. Trust me, I would know.

When I left Eastie High, I didn't know if I'd be back. And I never imagined I'd be back in this capacity.

This. Right here. Is an example of how important your relationships are.

Collaboration provides everyone a voice while also giving them the opportunity to listen and

learn from others.

Okay, this may be a little controversial, especially coming from an elected official and candidate, but sometimes, instead of talking, standing on a soapbox, pointing fingers or being the loudest person in the room, it's better if we just...listen.

Knowing when it's time to listen and when it's time to use your voice is a vastly underrated skill.

Don't get me wrong, your individual opinions are important, but it's equally important for them to be informed. And that comes from listening to what others have to say.

to what others have to say.

Listening does not mean agreeing with what someone else has to say.

It means giving others

That space that you give others is important. Rightfully claim your space, but

be sure to give space to others.

And that brings me to: Collaboration leads to the consideration of others' experiences, knowledge, perspective and strengths.

Now, more than any other time in my life, I'm asked about my experiences and perspectives.

I'm a proud mother of 4 teenage boys. I'm a first generation American and daughter of a Polish mother who was born in a war camp in Germany and an Arab Muslim father from Tunisia. I'm a small business owner. And as I've said, I'm a former teacher and current Boston City Councilor At-large representing the entire city.

When I come to the ta-

ble, when I engage in conversations, when I make decisions and when I take a stand, these personal experiences inform my work.

But far too often, we

lack the outreach and willingness to understand the perspectives of others and the lived experiences that shaped them.

A teacher, a mom, a

A teacher, a mom, a small business owner, an elected official — NONE of that work is done alone.

Through opening up with one another and demonstrating mutual respect, teams are built. You complement each other, you utilize each others' strengths and skills, while understanding and accepting weaknesses and filling in the blanks accordingly. You accomplish something together. Something BIGGER than yourself.

Because time and time again, we see that collaboration leads to both a better journey and a better end result.

We, together, can build a better neighborhood, city, Commonwealth, country and world. That is the Eastie Way.

We, together, got this.

So, as you go off into this world and make the next step — whatever and wherever that might be —

Be the leader who not only builds relationships, but maintains them, grows them, and VALUES them.

Start with the relationships you've made right here over the past four years - or for a few of you five. Your friends, your teachers, your Eastie family.

Make the effort to keep in touch, stay connected, and continue to have each other's back. That is the Eastie Way.

Eastie Way.

Be the one who listens and who embraces differ-

ent perspectives.

And be the one who lifts up others — because that is really what Class - Pride - Tradition - is all about.

When you do this, when you work together, when you collaborate—you position yourself to seize life's opportunities.

And you, the 2021 graduating class of East Boston High School, have positioned yourselves to succeed.

You have led with the East Boston class motto in mind: class pride and tradition.

After all, that is the

Eastie Way.

We are all so very proud of you. Congratulations!



EBHS Headmaster Phil Bragiforte (center) with his wife, Carrie, and former EBHS teacher, current Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Anissa Essaibi George, who delivered the keynote address.



The National Anthem was sung by the BPS School Officer.



EBHS Coach Dave Ariella served as the Master of Ceremonies.



Tommy Welch, BPS's Elementary School Superintendent.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

CURRY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2021 DEAN'S LIST STUDENTS

Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List.

Christopher Manta of East Boston

Kayla Elliott of East Boston

Natalie Nelson of Boston

Brenda Mata of Boston About Curry College

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its

educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 22 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 15 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu.

LASELL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS NAMED TO SPRING 2021 DEAN'S LIST

Lasell University students named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List were recognized for their academic performance last semester. Students included were:

Katherine Henriquez
Perlera of East Boston

Kaylene Sheran of East Boston

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.







Students from the Patrick J. Kennedy School wrote about a memorable moment with their father or created an acrostic.

Fancy person
Amazing person and kind person
Treating people nice
Helper person
Energy person
Rise person
Special person to my family and me
Designer person
Always in my heart
Youthful person

Cecilia Medeiros

The special moment with my dad was when I was in an afterschool program called the Salesian Boys and Girls Club program. I was playing soccer with my big brother. My dad came to pick me up from the afterschool program. A coach came up to my dad and asked him if he wanted to sign his kid up for a baseball team because they did not have enough players. My dad asked me if I wanted to be on the baseball team. I said "yes". My dad signed a paper. I felt excited. A few weeks went by, and the practice started. On Monday, we practiced with the team. On Thursday, we had a game. We won the game. We won each game except for the time we played with the Royals. My dad came to every game to cheer me on. He bought me Gatorade and snacks. I love my dad. That was a special moment with my dad.

David Basulto

The special moment with my stepdad was when we both had a coffee day. First, we both talked about how school was going and how work was going too. After the coffee, my stepdad gave me a chocolate chip cookie. Next, he put a movie on his phone. I blew on my coffee to cool it down as we watched the movie together. Then after the movie was over, I had some coffee left, and I drank it. Finally, I went back and watched TV. I will never forget that day.

Diego Argueta

My favorite moment with my Dad was when I went with him to buy a drink and candy together at the corner store. After we went to the store, we went to the park to play on the slide. My Dad was playing with me because I did not have any friends with me, and nobody wanted to be my friend. My Dad was my first friend and my best friend. That was a very special moment with my dad.

Gabriela Acevedo

One day my grandpa and I went to Hook&Reel. It is a perfect place to eat. They have delicious seafood. I ordered spicy shrimp with corn. My grandpa got clams and lobster in a bag. Also, we didn't eat at the place because we were picking the food up. When we were driving back home, I asked my grandpa if we could listen to the radio. It was rap music playing on the station. When we got back to the house, we were telling jokes and talking. Wow, a special moment with my grandpa!

Gabriella Porix

Dad
Funny, sweet
Helping, playing, cooking
Dad always hug me
Padre

Elianny Regalado

Favorite person in my life.
Always reminding me.
Teaching me new things.
He helps me.
Extra proud of me.
Ready for tests I give him.
Slow to explain to me so I can listen.
Dedicated to me.
A hard-working person in our family.
You make me happy when I'm sad.

Jerry Wu

My dad and I went to the park to play with my ball. Then we took a long walk and went to another park called Blue Park. We played tag, and dad was the tagger. He tried to catch me, but I was too fast for him. We played for about

20 minutes. He didn't catch me. After the tag game, we were tired and returned home. I told my dad I wanted to play bingo. We drank water and played bingo. My mom played with us as well. We played until 10 PM. Then my mom, my dad, and I were tired. We told short stories to each other and fell asleep in the bed. A special moment with my dad.

Gino Reyes

My memorable moment with my dad was when he and I made a hot dog sandwich in the family kitchen. First, we took out the bread, turned on the stove, and placed the bread in the pan until it was crispy brown on both sides of the bread. We sliced the bread in half. Then we took out the meat for the hot dog and we put it in hot water and waited for it to unfreeze. Also then we cooked the meat in the pan and made it, so it was hot and yummy. Then we connected the meat and the bread.

ries of cooking with my father. **Jasmin Castillo**

We said "Cheers" to our yummy hot dog sand-

wich. This was one of many beautiful memo-

Fun
Athletic
Thoughtful
Heartful
Exercising
Running to get on time
Skilled
Does diets when he knows he's getting a
little fat
Always my friend
Yawning when tired

Happy Father's Day **Jeremias Tejeda**

Freddy and I played lots of games together, like soccer. I lose most of the time and win sometimes. There's this game that we never try to play called Chess. I lose because you have to be smart, and Freddy is smarter than me. We played Chutes and Ladders. It is a game where you roll a dice and what it says you move up. The goal is to get to the top of the ladder and it also goes down where you go back, and I won.

Justin Garay

One day my dad and I woke up at the same time in the morning in the summer. We packed sunscreen, a towel, toys, and a swimming suit. The sun was hot, and the water was just fine. We were going to the beach together. We enjoyed each other's company at the beach. One beautiful special moment together.

Sindy Lopez

My dad and I read the Bible almost every day. We have fun reading together in the living room. Sometimes we memorize some parts of the Bible. If we still can't remember some parts of the Bible, we try and never give up. Sometimes we look on Youtube and see some stories of what happened a long time ago with Jesus. My mom sometimes watches with my dad and me. That was the special moment with my dad reading and watching the Bible together.

Sofia Castano

My dad and I went to the park with some friends. We ran, chasing each other. More of our friends came, and we played soccer together. My dad helped us win. My dad threw a boomerang and it came back, and it looked fantastic. We played hide and seek, and I won every game as the seeker or hider. My dad brought ice cream and water balloons. We knew that fun was approaching us. BOOM, water balloons exploded everywhere. One hit me and splashed all over me. We went home after and I can't wait for next summer. This was one of my favorite moments with my dad.

Steven Sanchez

Funny father
Always next to me
Tender smooth kisses
Happy
Every day dad is helping me
Responsible
Singing in the shower
Doing stuff that I know
Attractive
Young father

Thomas Mazzoni

Favorite man in my family
Awesome at math
Teaching me math
Hard-working
Every day he works hard
Ready to challenge me
Strong
Dad
Amazing
Yearn for the best in me

Happy Father's Day Vincent Phan

Fun days with my dad
A funny dad
Thankful for my dad
Happy to see me
Every day I see him smile
Run with my dad
Sometimes dad takes me to the park
Dad loves me so much
Always happy to have a number 1 dad! Yes,
my dad!
Yo, Yo My dad is the best

Lesly Martinez

Fighting for a worthy purpose
Attractive and patient
Teaching and modeling
Helping his family with guidance
Energize with his gentle spirit
Ready for the challenge
Showing and teaching by examples
Dedicated to his twin daughters
Always driving in his cab around the city
Yearning for excellence

Cynthia Ellen Grant-Carter



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

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Diane Totten

Management contractor/consultant who will affectionately be remembered for her caring, generous and thoughtful ways.

Diane CL (Longfield) Totten passed away Friday, June 11 after living with metastasized recurrent breast cancer.

Diane was the loving wife of Vietnam Navy veteran, masonry instructor and business owner, John R. Totten of Cape Cod and

She was born and raised in East Boston, attended Boston Public Schools and graduated from Pope John XXIII High School in Everett. She was an excellent student and was actively involved in many extracurricular activities, including Junior Achievement.

Diane was a hard worker. She often worked two jobs, beginning employment at Liberty Market, East Boston, where she was promoted several times before graduating high school.

Diane earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology, summa cum laude, from Framingham State College. Following a vocation in the travel industry, she transitioned into a career in Consumer Relations and Human Resources and further pursued her studies in business and law. In later years, as a Management contractor/consultant, Diane partnered with senior decision-makers of major corporations and start-up companies. She also assumed operations of her husband's seasonal contracting business.

Diane was well-liked and had many interests. She was a former member of the Boston Ski and Sports Association and Ski Wheelers. She had a passion for musical theater and dance, both as a patron and performer. In her quiet moments, she enjoyed

writing. Diane relocated sever-



al times before residing on Cape Cod, in the Boston area and on the South Shore with her husband, John, sharing with him her fondness for travel, big band music and ballroom dance.

Diane will affectionately be remembered for her caring, generous and thoughtful ways.

Diane's parents were the late Wilbert "Bill" Longfield and Anne J. (Rigano) Longfield of Cambridge, formerly of East Boston. Her sister was the late Julie Longfield of Revere and East Boston. She is survived by her brother, "Chuck" Longfield and his wife, Susie Mees-Longfield of Cambridge, niece, Kate and nephews, Tim and Matt Longfield, plus many loving cousins.

Family and friends will honor Diane's life by gathering in the Short, Williamson & Diamond Funeral Home, 52 Trapelo Road, Belmont on Thursday, June 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. and again at 9 a.m. Friday before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, 770 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown for a Funeral Mass to be celebrated in her honor at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at the Mt. Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge. Services are smoke and fragrance free.

Joan Beraldi

OBITUARIES

Retired electronics technician, school bus driver

Joan A. Beraldi, a longtime resident of Revere, passed away on June 12, just weeks before her 86th birthday.

Joan was born in Cambridge on July 4, 1935 to the late Walter and Josephine Trokiel. The family moved from Cambridge to Revere in 1950. Joan worked as an elec-

tronics technician in the Greater Boston area. After retirement, she worked as a school bus driver taking special needs children to school. She enjoyed the relationships that she developed with many of the children and their parents and looked forward to greeting the kids each day.

Joan enjoyed many activities and hobbies. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed preparing delicious meals with portions that were large enough to feed twice as many people than were seated at the table. Every holiday was like Thanksgiving. She also enjoyed taking an occasional break from cooking to eat at restaurants with family and friends, which was often an adventure for those at the table because of her high expectations of the quality of the cooking. She was passionate about animals and had many toy poodles as pets, including her favorite, Toby.

She always kept a full bucket of peanuts on hand to feed the squirrels and birds. She traveled to various parts of the world, such as a trip with her daughter to Spain and another trip to Dubai to visit her grandson and his family. She enjoyed close-by trips with friends to local casinos. Finally, she enjoyed spending time outdoors planting flowers and



various types of trees

She was predeceased by her late husband Joseph L. Beraldi. Joan is survived by her son, Robert J. Palermo of Revere, and her daughter, Deborah A. Belfiore and her husband, Joseph Belfiore of Hampton, NH; her grandsons: Robert J. Palermo Jr. and his wife, Renee M. Palermo of Caledonia, Michigan, and Matthew P. Palermo and his wife, Yulia Palermo of Dubai, UAE. She also leaves behind four great-grandchildren: Jadyn, Briella, Aleksandra and Ander Palermo, who she enjoyed spending time with on Facetime.

A Funeral Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. today, Wednesday, June 16 at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere. Following the services at Saint Anthony's Church, she will be interred at the Puritan Lawn Cemetery in Peabody. The burial service will be private for immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, given her affection for animals, buonfiglio.com

Roger Purrington

Retired US Army Chief Warrant Officer 3

Roger Purrington of Gloucester, VA, formerly of Wayland, MA, passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer on June 13 at the age of 61.

Roger proudly served

his country in the United States Army and retired after 20 years as a Chief Warrant Officer

3. He enjoyed projects around the house and gardening. Roger was a big football fan and his favorite team was the Denver Broncos. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Born in Wayland on March 7, 1960 to the late Fredrick and Mary (Haley), he is survived by his loving mother, Dorothy Sulik and her husband, Jack of Stoneham, dear son in law of Paul and Mary Buonfiglio of Revere; beloved husband of Jennifer (Buonfiglio) Purrington, loving father of Ryan and Jay Purrington of Virginia and Ashley Grace of South Carollina; adored grandfather of Charles, Warren and Korra; caring brother of Martha Langan and her husband, Paul of South Carolina, Christopher Purrington of Colorado and the late Jay and Sarah

Novena to the Sacred Heart

Dear Heart of Jesus, In

the past I have asked

for many favours. This

time I ask for this



Purrington. He also leaves behind his dearest friends, Stacey Foley and Jana Hagood. He was the loving nephew of the late Eleanor "Ellie" Adgate and is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

His Funeral will be held from the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Friday, June 18 at 10 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Anthony's Church at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. A visitation will be held on Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the funeral home. Private Interment. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Roger's name to Gloucester, VA Fire Department, P.O. Box 1417, Gloucester, VA 23061 or at gvfrs. org. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com

To place a memoriam in the Times Free Press, please call 781-485-0588

special one. (mention donations may be made to it) Take it, Dear Heart the Animal Rescue League Of Jesus, and place it of Boston or a charity of within Your own broken your choice. For guest heart where Your book please visit www. Father will see it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen

Long time City of Boston Crossing Guard

Happy Birthday in Heaven Rich Ford

June 19, 1980 - June 19, 2021



Losing you Was the hardest thing We had to go through. But, we take comfort knowing you're in heaven and at peace.

We Love and Miss You So Much Dad, Mom and Jennifer



In Loving Memory of

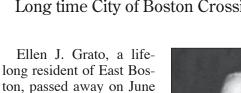
Anna (Pepe) Blair

1st Anniversary June 19, 2021

A light from Our Household Gone, A Voice We Loved is Stilled. A Place is Vacant in Our Home, which can Never be Filled. God gave us a Beautiful MOTHER, who was Patient, Kind and True. You were Always there with a Helping Hand. Help Us Now to Accept God's Plan. We Miss You Now, Our Hearts are Sore, as Time goes by We Miss You More. Your Loving Smile, Your Gentle Face, No One can take Our "MOTHER'S" Place.

Not a Day goes by that Your not Thought of with Love in Our Hearts. You are Missed and Loved Daily by Your Family, Children, Grand Children, Friends and All who knew You.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 10:00 am Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St. East Boston



10 at the age of 60. Ellen was a crossing guard for many years on Lexington and Meridian Street for the City of Boston.

The loving daughter of the late Simone "Sonny" and Gladys "Tootsie" (Armstrong) Grato, she was the beloved sister of Barbara Grato, Patricia Grato, Simone Grato and her loving companion, Robert Mellone, Anthony Grato and his wife, Karol, Charles Grato and his wife, Sherri and Danielle Schell and her husband, Richard. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Ellen's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street (Orient Heights) East Bostoday, Wednesday, June 16 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. followed by a prayer service in our serenity chapel at 11 a.m. Ser-

Magrath

336 Chelsea St., East Boston

617-567-0910 | www.magrathfuneralhome.com



vices will conclude with Ellen being laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. In lieu of of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Foundation, https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate. html#, or Foundation for Women's Cancer https:// www.foundationforwomenscancer.org/support-us/ donate/. Ellen was a crossing guard for many years on Lexington and Meridian Street for the City of Boston. For more information or to leave an online condolence please www.ruggieromh. visit com.





Marion P.



Second Year Anniversary Jan. 22, 1967 — June 18, 2019 Michael



You gave no one a last farewell, Nor ever said goodbye. You were gone before we knew it, and only God knows why. A million times we miss you. A million times we cry. If love alone could havve saved you, You nebver would have died. In life we loved you dearly, In death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place, no one else can fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone, for part of us went with you, the day God took you home. We will meet again someday I know in a better place. I thank God He made you our brother while you were here on Earth. Love Always & Forever, Michelle, Jerry and Netta

OBITUARIES

Effective Jan. 1, 2021 All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.

Includes photo. No word Limit. Please send to

obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No.

SU21P1245GD In the matter of: Michael Romero RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person Of: East Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Michael Romero is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Luz Romero of Boston (or some other person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety 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 07/22/2021. 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. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 10, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo,

Register of Probate 6/16/21

RUSH!

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND **FAMILY COURT** CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED

PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P1139GD In the matter of: Thomas Tran RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated

Person Of: East Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Anna Tran of East Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Thomas Tran is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Anna Tran of East Bos-

ton (or some other person)

be appointed as Guardian

to serve Without Surety on

the bond.

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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 07/13/2021. 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.

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Felix D. Arroyo,

Register of Probate 6/16/21

Letters // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and suffering throughout this pandemic. Loss of life has been immense. People continue to recover from the long-term effects of the coronavirus.

The heroes among us

our nurses, doctors, first responders and all medical professionals were a source of enormous comfort. Priests brought the Sacrament of the Sick to COVID patients. Now we are able to join together, remembering the lives changed and the sacrifices made. Let us gather together again in joy, as one people united around the

Eucharist.

In this year of Saint Joseph, who was always a faithful observer of the sabbath, we chose Father's Day as an appropriate day to encourage all of our people, and especially our families, to return to the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

This obligation does not apply to those who are ill; those who have been recently exposed to COVID or any other communicable illness; those who are confined to their homes or to hospitals or other facilities due to ill-

ness, infirmity, frailty, or age; and those who are not yet able to be vaccinated, due to age or any health consideration. Parishioners should consult their local pastor if they have questions about the obligation.

To all of those who have not been able to be with us during this last year, we look forward to welcoming you back to the celebration of the Mass.

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, **OFM Cap** Archbishop of Boston





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Eastie's LGBTQ community raises the Pride Flag at Piers Park

By John Lynds

Last Friday, dozens of community members took part in the 8th Annual LGBTQ Pride Flag Raising Ceremony at East Boston's Piers Park

The event's organizers Celeste Hewitt and Josue Espinoza joined Massport's Director of Diversity Inclusion and Compliance Tiffany Brown-Grier, and City Councillor Lydia Edwards to pay homage to the neighborhood's LGBTQ community and offer words of inspiration as the neighborhood, state and country celebrate Pride Month throughout

"It's been a heck of a year, and honestly, up until about two and a half weeks ago we didn't really know what this event was going to look like," said Hewitt. "So we're grateful restrictions were lifted in time. So after eight years it's really just so phenomenal to see what we already knew that Eastie is a welcoming, loving place but sometimes you just have to shout it out and let people know how we really feel. We love the LGBTQ community here in East Boston and we are so glad to see so many beautiful people here today."

Massport's Brown-Grier thanked elected officials, members of the local LGBTQ community, family, friends and allies for having her there to speak.

"As we gather here today to support and honor the 1969 Stonewall uprising in New York City and to celebrate equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and the queer community we observe and acknowledge the contributions the LGBTQ community have made to strengthened our country," said Brown-Gri-"Massport proudly continues to join the East Boston community in raising the pride flag to serve as a symbol of Massport's commitment to inclusion neighboring communities, employees, airport airline maritime partners, visitors and greeters and guests. Take the time to utilize this month and throughout the year to show support, to observe, listen and be educated about the LGBTQ community."

Councilor Edwards said Pride Month is a celebration of resilience.

"This is a celebration of all of us, especially those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer community because it's how we bounce back that matters more than anything--that we bounce back together and we see every single person for who they are, the talents that they have, and making sure that they feel completely included in this community. East Boston's diversity is our secret power, honestly, it's our superpower. It's what makes us the best we can be. A person's sexuality and how they love has been, for many decades, demonized and to be here and celebrate is a guiding light for so many of us.I know love will keep coming and I just want to say you have a fighter in me. If anytime you find that there's hate coming towards you, you know I'm going to fight the fight for you and with you."

This year's keynote speaker was Espinoza who told of his struggles growing up in a conservative family in California but was able to break free and find his true identity.

"From the beginning of my memories, I didn't belong anywhere," he said. "I tried to fit in. I tried to fit in with the Mexicans but that didn't work, they didn't accept me. I tried to fit in with some white folks that didn't work either because I had an accent. But I had to figure out where I belonged. A few years ago, I realized I don't belong anywhere, then I found East Boston

and equity for all of our and I met a couple people here. The first people I met here or some gay guys that started the "Eastie Gays" Facebook group."

Espinoza said it was here he found, what some in the gay community, his "chosen family".

"At the end of the day, I can tell you that I'm doing what I want to do, how I want to live my life now," he said. "If I had stayed in the closet, had I followed what my parents said to be true I would be a completely different person and I'd probably actually be dead from suicide. So I want to take a minute today, to remember the people who have committed suicide, who have attempted suicide, who have thought about their existence no longer being because of somebody else's disapproval. That's a special moment we need to have. Remember that each of you has a charge to be yourself and nobody else."



Massport's Director of **Diversity Inclusion and Compliance Tiffany** Brown-Grier.



Event organizer Celeste Hewitt who founded the event eight years ago with Eastie's LGBTQ community.



Josue Espinoza addresses the crowd.



City Councillor Lydia Edwards.



Each year the annual event brings people from all over the neighborhood and of all ages to celebrate Pride Month.



Event organizer Josue Espinoza joins Massport workers in raising the Pride Flag.



Veronica Robles, Jesus Garcia Mota, Janet Lopez and Steve Gingras.



Paola Villatoro, Margaret Randall, and Gabriela Coletta.



City Councillor Lydia Edwards and Matthew Krystal.



Jesse Purvis and his daughter.



The crowd listens to the speeches.

Compliance Tiffany Brown-Grier.



City Councillor Lydia Edwards, Josue Espinoza, Celeste Hewitt and Massport's Director of Diversity Inclusion and

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Cutlines,

Massport's Director of Diversity Inclusion and Compliance Tiffany Brown-Grier.

The Gay Pride Flag flies high over Piers Park after being raised Friday in honor of Pride Mo

Event organizer Josue Espinoza joins Massport workers in raising the Pride Flag.

Josue Espinoza addresses the crowd.

City Councillor Lydia Edwards.

Event organizer Celeste Hewitt who founded the event eight years ago with Eastie's LGBT

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City Councillor Lydia Edwards and Matthew Krystal.

Jesse Purvis and his daughter.

Paola Villatoro, Margaret Randall, and Gabriela Coletta.

City Councillor Lydia Edwards, Josue Espinoza, Celeste Hewitt and Massport's Director of Tiffany Brown-Grier.

Members of the East Boston LGBTQ community and community at large all celebrate the

