

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

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GRAND SLAM



PHOTO BY BOB MARRA

WELCOMING COMMITTEE: Joyous teammates wait to mob Joel Valera (1) once he steps on home plate to complete his trip around the bases after his grand slam led to East Boston's 15-2 win over Nashoba Tech Friday, April 17 at Memorial Stadium. See pages 7 and 8 for more photos.

East Boston native receives award for first book

Story by Marianne Salza

Poet and social activist, Essmaa Litim, received an EXTRAordinary Women award from the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement in March. The life-long East Boston resident is a first generation Algerian American who is dedicated to raising awareness about immigration and autism.

Litim fulfilled her dream of documenting her mother, Safia's, tale of settling in a foreign country and starting a new life in the United States in the early 1990s. Litim's first book, "Speechless:

Mama's Story," was published in 2021, and describes a Muslim woman dedicated to loving and protecting her family as she navigates a new world.

"It's an educational book," explained 27-year-old Litim. "It ties to the intersectionality of adversity between immigration and autism -- the language barriers and not having proper resources."

"Speechless" is a memoir about Safia, who grew up in the Algiers and relocated to America with her husband, Brahmin, and their children. Her life transformed during their difficult journey. Safia

and Brahmin rebuilt their life together, learned the English language, and accustomed themselves to a new culture while being separated from their families.

"Her thriving through everything that came her way is what strength looks like," stressed Litim. "That strength is rooted in her upbringing. She powers through because of the influence of her family."

Litim spent three months in deep discussion with her mother. She hopes that readers will be inspired by Safia's perseverance through hardships, and feel reassured that that they can thrive; even when confronted with adversity and isolation.

"I highlighted the beauty in things that my mom went through. I want people to feel a sense of home," Litim maintained. "I have conversations with her all the time. As hard as it was, it was a blessing and gave us the opportunities that we have now."

Litim has included Safia's struggles in raising her non-verbal, autistic son, Mohamed, and her family's experiences in school systems and hos-

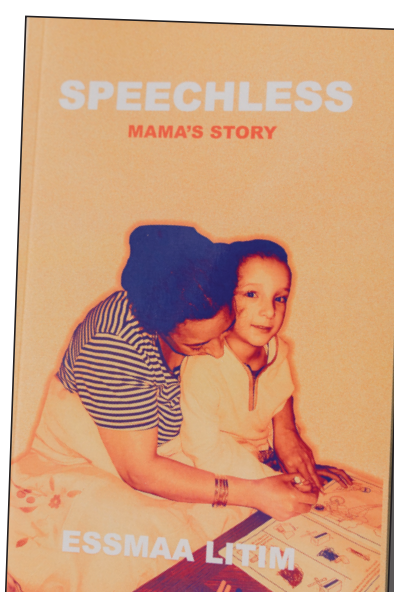
pitals.

"I talk about becoming more acclimated in American culture, and the difficulties of raising Mohamed. There are a lot of elements to the story," acknowledged Litim, who is Safia's first child to be born in Boston. "The story is written from my mom's perspective. Her life story is the equivalent of resilience."

Litim reveals how her mother's Muslim faith has provided her with stability.

"I feel like my parents became more religious because that was their way to stay connected with their roots," Litim surmised.

See BOOK Page 3



"Speechless: Mama's Story," written by Essmaa Litim, featuring an image of Safia hugging Mohamed.

Modernizing

Local legislators call for greater emphasis on decarbonization in MBTA capital plan

By Adam Swift

Local legislators want to see the MBTA place a greater emphasis on electrification of its rail, bus, and subway systems in its latest capital improvement plan.

On Thursday, April 13, the MBTA held the last of its three public input sessions on a proposed FY

2024 to 2028 five-year capital improvement plan (CIP).

The public comment period on the draft plan, which includes 600 capital projects across 30 MBTA departments totalling \$9.2 billion, is open through April 24. The MBTA board would then vote on a final

See MBTA Page 3

Civilian flaggers on the horizon?

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Louise Johnson and Paige Sparks from Jamaica Plain's Neighborhood and Public Service Committees joined the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association's (JPNA) monthly meeting on Monday, Apr. 10, to gauge interest in the civilian flaggers ballot initiative.

This initiative aims to

gather support to potentially allow civilians to work detail on construction sites instead of having the police do it.

Johnson indicated that several years ago, state legislation was passed which could help make the civilian flaggers idea a reality. She also said

See FLAGGERS Page 10

Jury has been selected for the Javier Garcia Martinez trial

Special to the Times-Free Press

A jury has been selected in the trial of Javier Garcia Martinez. Opening statements began on April 18.

Martinez, 42, is charged with armed assault on murder; assault & battery with a dangerous weapon, serious bodily injury. On August 29, 2021, MBTA police responded to a call for a male stabbed at the Maverick Station (Blue

Line) in East Boston. The victim was transported by paramedics to Tufts Medical Center where he was treated for life threatening injuries. Victim sustained two incised punctures: one to the left arm and one to his right lower leg. After speaking with the victim, detectives learned that the defendant stabbed him believing he was a member of the 18th Street

See TRIAL Page 3

DAFFODIL DASH



Isabella Walsh, 5, and Salome Londono, 4 with flower crowns that they made at the second annual Marathon Daffodil Dash on April 15, at Suffolk Downs. See Page 12 for more photos.

5th Annual Legacy Gala at Spinelli's East Boston, April 27th to honor:



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Central Catholic
School



Brother
Bob
Frazzetta



Kathy
(Carabine)
Summa



Father
Michael
Duffy

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Our 02128 Senior Page See Page 6

Book// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Litim’s family is celebrating the Islamic holiday of Ramadan, a holy month that concentrates on becoming closer to God through sacrifice, gratitude, and fasting sunrise to sunset.

“Ramadan is a spiritual time to cleanse your body, mind, and soul. The fasting aspect has health benefits, too, because it’s good for your body. It’s also a fasting of the mind. You’re trying to create healthy habits and pray more,” Litim expounded. “It’s a time of year to feel the way those less fortunate than you feel – people who don’t have the luxury of food or water. We can connect with them and understand their plight.”

Litim and her family share a nutritious meal at the end of each day of fasting. Her favorite, traditional foods that her mother regularly prepares are bourek, fried egg rolls stuffed with meat, potatoes, and cilantro, and shorba soup.



Essmaa Litim, author of “Speechless: Mama’s Story.”

Safia preserves her cultural identity through the meals she cooks, clothes she wears, and music her family listens to. One of the most important lessons that Litim has learned from her parents is to continue the customs of where they originated from.

“Aside from genetic makeup, your environment and culture make you who you are,” said Litim. “I feel like she

grounds herself through the traditional things we do as a family.”

Litim studied marketing at Bentley University, and works in advertising. In addition to being passionate about writing, Litim is the co-founder of Roya, a Boston-based non-profit organization that empowers individuals and communities. Purchase “Speechless: Mama’s Story” on Amazon and www.EssmaaLitim.com.

MBTA// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

draft of the CIP in May, according to T officials.

“Reliability and modernization investments account for the majority of the planned investments, representing \$8.7 billion,” said Jillian Linnell, the Senior Director for Capital Program Planning at the MBTA. “There are also 10 expansion projects totaling just over half a billion dollars.”

Linnell noted that over the past five to seven years, the MBTA has dramatically increased its overall capital spending and that it continues to sustain an unprecedented level of investment focused on the safety and reliability of the system, the modernization of assets, and the strategic expansion of the network.

“Many of these capital investments have been in the works for a number of years and continue to produce real and significant improvements to the condition of the MBTA’s many assets,” she said. “Many of these are well known and underway investments, including the SouthCoast Rail, (Green Line expansion), fare transformation, a number of notable vehicle procurements such as the Red Line and Orange Line vehicles and the Green Line Type 10 vehicles, hybrid buses, and the bilevel commuter rail coaches.”

Also included in the CIP are the Quincy bus facility modernization project, the safety-critical Green Line train protection project, track and signal work, automatic train control implementation, and the North Street drawbridge replacement.

Linnell said the MBTA is also looking at additional funding of just under \$1 billion in the CIP that was programmed across the five-year CIP window.

That money will be used to help fund a total of 78 programs, 43 of which are new.

Lynn State Senator

Brendan Crighton, who chairs the Senate’s transportation committee, said he and several other local legislators in the MBTA’s environmental justice corridor will continue to push for the electrification and decarbonization of the MBTA fleets.

“Four years ago, I shared similar testimony before the fiscal management control board, which approved Phase 1 of the commuter rail electrification project, including the Fairmont Line,” said Crighton.

Crighton said electrification and decarbonization would especially affect the environmental justice corridor, which includes portions of the Newburyport-Rockport Line as well as the Providence Line.

“The benefits of decarbonizing our commuter rail network are many, we can take cars off the road, we can reduce emissions, improve public health outcomes, and create easier access to jobs by modernizing and electrifying our system,” said Crighton. “We can improve reliability, frequency, and affordability, which will help bring riders back to the commuter rail.”

While the CIP creates a section related to regional rail, Crighton said the modest funding shows no specifics around the funding for Phase 1 of the regional rail electrification project.

“We don’t know the specific investments that will be made in the next five years to move this important effort forward,” said Crighton. “This document only includes generic language for future rolling stock and rail transformation planning studies. A CIP should be a declaration of the MBTA’s short-term goals and long-term vision.”

Crighton said he would also like to see more progress on the decarbonization of the MBTA’s bus

able to track his route through various MBTA subway and bus lines using this surveillance footage. This also revealed that the defendant takes the same route daily. The Commonwealth is

represented by ADA Kaitlin Tolbert. The defendant is represented by Attorney William Keefe. This matter is being here in courtroom 808 before Hon. Daniel J. O’Shea.

Coletta holds budget town halls across the district

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta recently held five Budget Town Halls Tour in District One, where she outlined the City’s budget process, discussed initial priorities in advocacy, and solicited suggestions from constituents about their priorities in the upcoming fiscal year 2024 budget. Each town hall focused on specific issues related to Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End, as well as immigrant populations and our youth.

“Thank you to the neighbors and advocates that joined my budget town halls across the district. Boston’s budget is a fiscal document demonstrating our City values. It was a pleasure connecting about affordable housing, expanding our tree canopy, pest control, stormwater infrastructure,

parking enforcement, climate resilience, and much more,” said Councilor Gabriela Coletta “As budget season approaches, I look forward to continuing to discuss budget priorities and encourage you all to get involved in the upcoming hearings held in the Boston City Council.”

This cycle is the second time district and at-large councilors have the ability to reject, reduce, pass, or amend line items (i.e., accounts such as personnel, contracted services, equipment, etc.) in the City Budget. After being in office for over a month in 2022, Councilor Coletta secured funding for expanding our parks and tree canopy, trash pick-ups, reforms to the BOS:311 platform, and the Immigrants Lead Boston program.

During Councilor Co-

letta’s budget town halls, constituents were able to learn more about the city’s budget process, ask questions about the fiscal year operating and capital budget, and how allocations are decided to different city departments. The Budget Season will commence on April 12, 2023, with hearings where all are welcome to attend and offer their testimonies at the upcoming budget hearings to share their budget priorities. To learn more about the budget process and how to get involved, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/finance/fiscal-year-2024>.

For additional information please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Temnorod, Yulia	35 Leyden Street LLC	35 Leyden St #3	\$700,000
Hill Of Grace Rt	Snively, Carly	70 Bremen St #308	\$675,000
Malnati, James R	88 White Street LLC	88 White St #2	\$704,000
Bogdanovich, Luke	88 White Street LLC	88 White St #1	\$835,000
Feng, Peng	L&z Investments LLC	125 Wordsworth St	\$1,065,000
141 Ashley LLC	Ashley T	141 Ashley St	\$600,000
Martinez, Kiara V	Kurkowski, Matthew	156 Porter St #234	\$400,000
Visentin, Adam	Dp Realty Holdings LLC	168 Cottage St #202	\$368,000
Tempo Lj Corp	Callahan, Leo X	172 Cowper St	\$400,000
Topakov, Denis	Cmss Development LLC	187 London St #1	\$599,000
Tarapcsak, Szabolcs	Griffin, Savannah M	226 Saratoga St #2	\$540,000
Soule, Forrest	263 Everett LLC	263 Everett St	\$700,000
Fradin, Benjamin	Falcucci Properties LLC	270 Paris St #1	\$570,000
Shaughnessy, Paul P	Falcucci Properties LLC	270 Paris St #6	\$770,000
Troy, Patrick M	Falcucci Properties LLC	270 Paris St #5	\$580,000
Falcucci, Thomas	Falcucci Properties LLC	270 Paris St #8	\$1,250,000
Jakubowski, Calvin	277 Border LLC	277 Border St #301	\$510,000
Menkeeva, Dzhemma	277 Border LLC	277 Border St #405	\$595,000
308 Saratoga Street LLC	Palermينو David J Est	308 Saratoga St	\$650,000
Harrington, Ashley	Iolanda Houpes T	955 Saratoga St #G	\$271,000

37 MAVERICK SQUARE ■ EAST BOSTON ■ 617/561-4495

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity

250 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain/Roxbury, MA 02130

76 Income Restricted Units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
7*	1 Bedroom	577-636	Income Based (Not to exceed 30% of gross income)	30% AMI	1	-
7*	2 Bedroom	883-961	Income Based (Not to exceed 30% of gross income)	30% AMI	1	-
1*	3 Bedroom	1,236	Income Based (Not to exceed 30% of gross income)	30% AMI	-	-
23	1 Bedroom	577-636	\$1,485	60% AMI	3	-
15	2 Bedroom	884-1,051	\$1,776	60% AMI	2	1
3	3 Bedroom	1234-1236	\$2,045	60% AMI	1	1
3	Studio	407-450	\$2,210	100% AMI	-	-
15	1 Bedroom	577-652	\$2,367	100% AMI	1	1
2	2 Bedroom	946	\$2,840	100% AMI	-	-

**** (3) 1-bedroom, (7) 2-bedroom, and (1) 3-bedroom units** Homeless Set-aside units will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information please contact us at the email address or phone number below. For direct referrals, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsa>.

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))					Maximum Incomes (set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))			
# of bedrooms	30% AMI	60% AMI	100% AMI	Market	House hold size	SECTION8/M RVP/LIHTC/ HOME Up To 30% AMI	LIHTC Up To 60% AMI	MassHousing Program Up To 100% AMI
Studio	N/A	N/A	\$66,300	\$68,970	1	\$29,450	\$58,900	\$98,150
					2	\$33,650	\$67,300	\$112,200
1 Bedroom	N/A	\$44,550	\$71,010	\$83,550	3	\$37,850	\$75,700	\$126,200
2 Bedroom	N/A	\$53,280	\$85,200	\$117,300	4	\$42,050	\$84,100	\$140,200
3 Bedroom	N/A	\$61,350	N/A	N/A	5	\$45,450	\$90,850	\$151,450
					6	\$48,800	\$97,600	\$162,650

Minimum Incomes Apply. Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH) or for the units in this development that include a project-based voucher. No maximum income requirements for Market Rate units.

Applications are available during the application period for 60 days, from **Thursday, March 16, 2023 to Monday, May 15, 2023.**

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)

Date/Time	Location
Tuesday - Thursday, 2:00PM – 6:00PM; Friday 10:00AM – 1:00PM	Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 433 Centre Street, Boston MA 02130

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit www.250centre.com or call 617-972-7900 | TTY: 711"

We will be holding an informational meeting on the following date:
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM
at Amory Street Apartments, 125 Amory St. Boston, MA 02119

Join virtually, too, through the following link:
May 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/957234276>

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **May 15, 2023.**
Mailed to **225 Centre, Attn: Leasing Office, 225 Centre St. Boston, MA 02130**

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

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Times-Free Press

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Healey-Driscoll administration highlights 100 days of making Massachusetts more affordable, competitive and equitable

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Maura T. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll’s 100th day in office was on April 15, and they are highlighting their key accomplishments to make Massachusetts more affordable, competitive and equitable.

In addition to building out a strong team of cabinet members, the administration filed its first budget and tax package that propose historic investments in education, transportation and climate and deliver relief for seniors, renters and families. Governor Healey also swiftly followed through on key pledges, such as establishing a housing secretariat and proposing an expanded Child and Family Tax Credit, free community college for students over 25, full funding of the Student Opportunity Act, one percent of the budget for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and tripling the budget of the Clean Energy Center.

And when faced with a radical ruling from a federal court judge in Texas that threatened reproductive freedom in Massachusetts, Governor Healey took immediate action to protect access to medication abortion in the state.

“As we pass the 100-day mark of our administration, our entire team is just as energized and committed to delivering results as we were on Day One. I’m proud that we hit the ground running, building out a strong Cabinet of experienced, dedicated leaders who share our drive to meet this moment for Massachusetts,” said Governor Healey. “We’ve made important progress on housing, food security, transportation, climate and education, and we’ve brought new voices to

the table and gotten out into communities to meet people where they are. There’s much more work to be done to make Massachusetts more affordable, competitive and equitable, but we’ve set a solid foundation in these first 100 days that we will continue to build on in the years to come.”

“100 days goes by in the blink of an eye when you’re busy working for the people of Massachusetts all day every day. We knew when we took office that the challenges before us were daunting, but that there was enormous opportunity as well,” said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. “We’re proud to have made important strides in making Massachusetts a better place to live, work, go to school, raise a family and build a future. In the days, months and years ahead, we’re not going to let up steam. We’re going to continue to hustle every day to deliver results for Massachusetts.”

Healey-Driscoll Administration 100 Days Highlights

The Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$55.5 billion budget proposal and \$750 million tax relief package that builds a strong economy, livable communities, and a sustainable future by:

- Creating a Child and Family Tax Credit, increasing the rental deduction and senior circuit breaker, and reforming the estate and short-term capital gains tax to keep up with other states.
- Creating MassReconnect, which offers free community college to students over 25 years old and expanding Early College and Innovation Pathways programs.
- Dedicating 1% of the state’s overall budget to the Executive Office of Energy and Environment.
- Tripling investment in

the Clean Energy Center, which is leading the way in clean energy entrepreneurship, job creation, and home electrification.

- Creating the Environmental Justice Office, led by the Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity, and hiring 14 Environmental Justice Liaisons.

- Establishing a new Education and Transportation Fund to protect Fair Share revenue and maximize this new funding source.

- Fully funding the Student Opportunity Act for K-12 education, the largest dollar-amount increase in Massachusetts’ K-12 schools in state history.

- Notifying municipalities of local aid funding levels early to give them a head start on planning to deploy these funds for residents.

- Freezing the tuition at the University of Massachusetts for four years and freezing fees at other state universities for four years.

- Fully supporting the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) to help child care providers keep the doors open and invest in programming and staff.

- Investing in transportation across the state, including MBTA fares program, the Red-Blue connector, West-East Rail, and Regional Transit Authorities.

Governor Healey signed a \$389 supplemental budget for fiscal year 2023 that combines many of the priorities the administration outlined in three separate bills filed by the Governor, including:

- Investments in C3 grants, MassWorks, the Clean Water Trust, RAFT, broadband infrastructure, a reproductive health services awareness campaign, the NAACP Conference, and support for the public health workforce ahead of the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Matching grants to

compete for federal dollars through the CHIPS and Science Act.

- Funding for the state’s housing shelter system to support families and children.

- Universal school meals through the end of the 2023 school year to make sure kids can focus on learning in the classroom instead of worrying about hunger.

- A three month off ramp for the end of enhanced federal SNAP benefits, providing families with 40% of the previous federal benefit to help keep food on the table.

Governor Healey announced the appointment of a new, experienced transit leader as MBTA General Manager and took steps to improve transparency and address staffing shortages at the MBTA, including:

- Launched an online safety dashboard to provide transparency around the status of FTA special directives, as well as an online speed restrictions dashboard.

- Implemented \$7,500 sign-on bonuses for all eligible positions across the MBTA (Bus Operators, Rail Repairers, Track Laborers, Streetcar Operators, Subway Train Operators, Service Technicians and Fuelers) and proposed \$20 million for recruitment and retention efforts in a supplemental budget.

- Established a technical working group to identify process improvements at CRRC to expedite car delivery and improve safety.

By Executive Order, Governor Healey:

- Appointed the nation’s first cabinet-level Climate Chief to lead the new Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience and established a Climate Cabinet.

- Established a Housing Working Group to examine the structure of the administration’s new Housing Secretariat.

- Established Governor

See OP-ED Page 9

LOGAN AIRPORT WAS A BREEZE

We hadn’t flown for a while because of the pandemic and other reasons, so we approached our recent vacation with some trepidation, particularly as we contemplated our air travel.

However, we are happy to report that traversing to, through, and from Logan Airport actually was a pleasant experience. We took the boat to Logan, caught the shuttle bus to our terminal, and made it through security within 10 minutes. Our terminal (Terminal B) was crowded, but not overly so, and there were plenty of seats with outlets for our electronic devices.

Returning home, we found the signage to ground transportation was clear and straightforward as we made our way to the Silver Line -- which, by the way, was free of charge -- in order to get to South Station .

We recently wrote about our travails on the Red Line, in which we highlighted all of the problems facing the MBTA, almost all of which are directly related to a decades-long lack of funding for public transportation at the federal and state levels.

However, in comparison to the other airports we visited during our vacation (JFK and Miami), Logan overall offered a superb experience (including better restaurants!).

So we wish to tip our hat to Massport and the T (which operates the ferry boat and the Silver Line) for their smooth operations at Logan Airport.

Even Massport’s critics (as we have been for decades) have to concede that its various operations are a huge driver of our economy that contribute to our region’s prosperity in countless ways. A smooth-functioning Logan Airport is a key piece of that ecosystem and we are happy to report that our recent experience was a highly-positive one.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

LETTER to the Editor

WE NEED TO DO BETTER

To the Editor,

I share the discouragement felt by so many parents and families this week upon learning of Boston Public School’s error in calculating student GPAs to determine student eligibility for our three exam schools.

I am also disappointed to learn that BPS appears to not have the ability to implement its new and complex exam school admission policy in an efficient, transparent way. We learned this week that notices of admission will not be sent out to families until May, at the earliest. For decades, exam school placements were delivered every year in mid-March.

This delay in exam school notices also means that every BPS middle and high school assignment is also put on hold. To leave thousands of BPS families in the dark, not knowing where their students will be attending school in the Fall, is simply unacceptable.

able.

The confusion and distrust resulting from what seems like yet another serious blunder by BPS central office will be difficult to repair. Boston families, still reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on their students’ education, as well as inflation and a tightening economy, depend on our public school system and elected officials to provide accurate, reliable, fair, and understandable policies and programs.

We need to do better.

I will be speaking to BPS leaders and administrators about what went wrong and why. I will share with you all what I learn, and I will remind Superintendent Skipper, Mayor Wu, and the Boston School Committee how crucial it is that we all, as City leaders, re-dedicate ourselves to putting all our Boston children and families first.

Sincerely,

Erin J. Murphy
At Large Boston City Councilor

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COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE SACRED HEART PARISH

Senator Lydia Edwards was proud to recently help host another community dinner at the Sacred Heart Parish. Thank you to all the volunteers! The next dinner will be May 10, from 5 -7 p.m.



Senator Lydia Edwards (left) with Fr. Paolo Cumin.



Volunteers did a wonderful job with the dinner.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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Another successful community dinner at The Sacred Heart Parish. The next one is May 10.

Attention MassHealth Members

You need to
renew your
coverage
this year.

If you have MassHealth, you need to take steps now to keep your health coverage this year. MassHealth wants to help you and your family stay covered.

To get help, call 800-841-2900, visit www.masshealthrenew.org or scan the code.

Take three steps to
renew your coverage:

- 1. Update your info
- 2. Check your mail
- 3. Respond to MassHealth

Act now. Stay covered.



Why early detection of Lung Cancer is so important

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. While early detection can vastly improve a patient’s chances to lead a full and healthy life, the majority of those who are high risk are not getting screened.

The American Lung Association, which is committed to defeating lung cancer and supporting those with the disease, is sharing vital information to help more people learn their risk and connect them to screenings and other life-saving resources:

Preventable Deaths

According to the 2022 “State of Lung Cancer” report, a mere 5.8% of Americans eligible for a low-dose computed tomography (CT) scan were screened. A low-dose CT scan is a special kind of X-ray that takes multiple pictures as the patient lies on a table that slides in and out of the machine. A computer then combines these images into a detailed picture of the lungs. Studies estimate that if even just half of the approximately 8 million Americans identified as high risk for lung cancer were screened with a low-dose CT scan, over 12,000 lung cancer deaths could be prevented. In fact, since low-dose CT scans started to be used for screening, it has reduced cancer deaths by 20% and it has reduced deaths from other causes by almost 7%.

Risk Eligibility

Many people who are at risk for lung cancer and are eligible for screening are not identified and are not referred for screening. Under the most recent lung cancer screening guidelines, those ages 50-80 who have a 20 pack-year smoking history or who have quit smoking in the past 15 years should get screened for lung cancer.

The American Lung Association offers a helpful tool for determining your eligibility for screening, found at www.SavedByTheScan.org.

Eliminating Racial Disparities

It is especially important for Black men and women to speak to their health care provider about their risk and get screened if necessary, as they are more likely to develop lung cancer and less likely to survive five years with the disease than people of any other racial or ethnic group.

Research suggests that Black Americans have a higher baseline risk for developing lung cancer -- Black American smokers get lung cancer at least 20% more often than other people who smoke. Furthermore, systemic racism and injustices and issues continue to persist in the healthcare system, and Black people and other communities of color are less likely to be diagnosed early, less likely to receive surgical treatment, and more likely to not receive any treatment at all.

Fighting Barriers

Despite the fact that lung cancer screening is extremely effective at improving life expectancy and has the potential to dramatically improve lung cancer survival rates, many patients are not getting screened, even when they have a referral from their doctor to do so. The reasons for low screening adherence range from practical concerns, such as financial and transportation barriers, to more elusive issues like distrust of the medical system and lack of awareness regarding the seriousness of the disease.

Emerging resources are helping eliminate these barriers and are making it easier for people to assess their screening eligibility, locate screening centers, schedule appointments, and receive financial assistance if they don’t have insurance or transportation. Free tobacco cessation resources and other lung health resources also exist to help people to reduce their risk. To learn more, visit www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases.org or speak directly to a nurse or respiratory therapist by calling the Lung HelpLine at



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) monkeybusinessimages / iStock via Getty Images Plus

1-800-LUNG-USA.

When lung cancer is detected and treated in its earliest stages, more positive outcomes can be expected. That’s why it’s so

important that everyone learns their risk and connects to resources to help them get screened. (StatePoint)

Our Senior Life

DURING THE MONTHS OF MARCH + APRIL THE EAST BOSTON TIMES WILL BE RUNNING A SERIES OF INFORMATIVE ARTICLES AND SERVICE SPOTLIGHTS OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR SENIORS, AS WELL MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY.

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AGING IS AN EXTRAORDINARY PROCESS WHERE YOU BECOME THE PERSON YOU ALWAYS SHOULD HAVE BEEN - DAVID BOWIE

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Growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional!
— Walt Disney

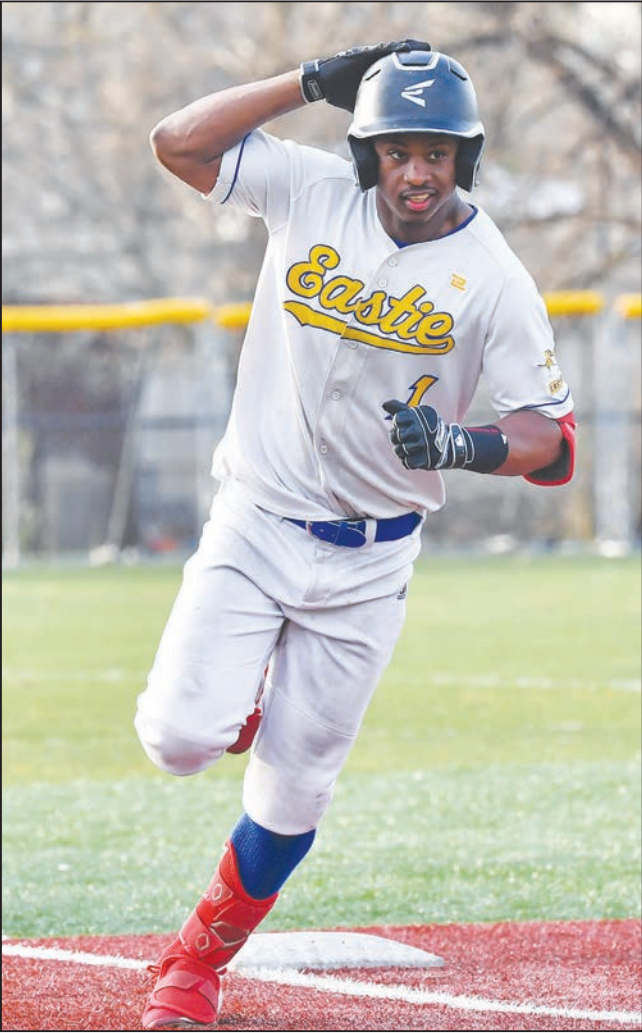
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Sports

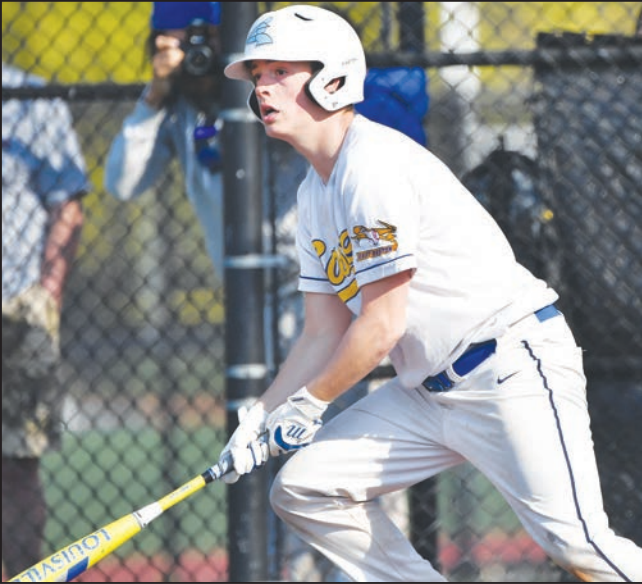
EAST BOSTON BOYS IN BASEBALL ACTION AGAINST NASHOBA TECH

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

Joel Valera’s grand slam home run over the left field fence in the fifth inning gave the Jets a 13-2 lead and invoked the ‘mercy rule’ to bring a quick end to Friday’s game with Nashoba Tech at East Boston Memorial Stadium. Righthander Jason DaSilva gave up a pair of runs in the first inning but settled down and threw shutout ball the rest of the way to pick up the win.



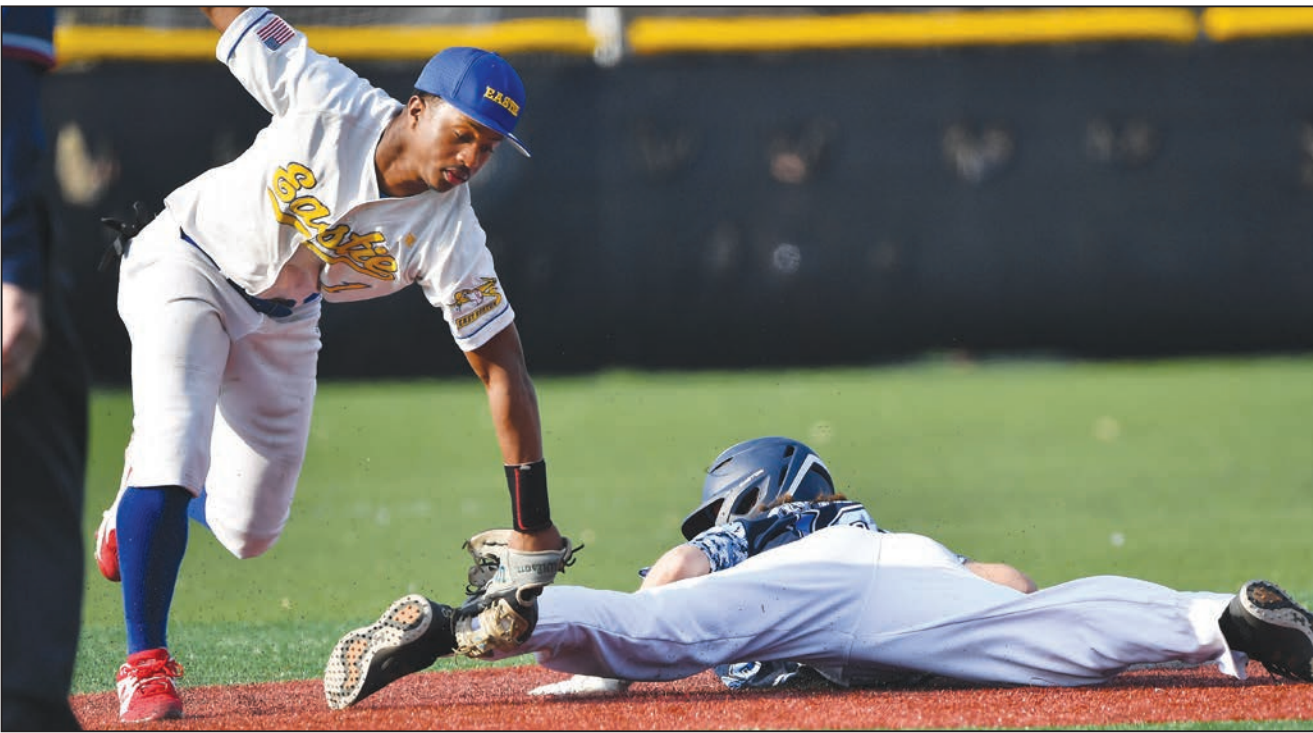
ROUND TRIP: Shortstop Joel Valera rounds third base to head home after belting a base-loaded home run to left field that boosted East Boston’s lead to 15-2 and ended the game.



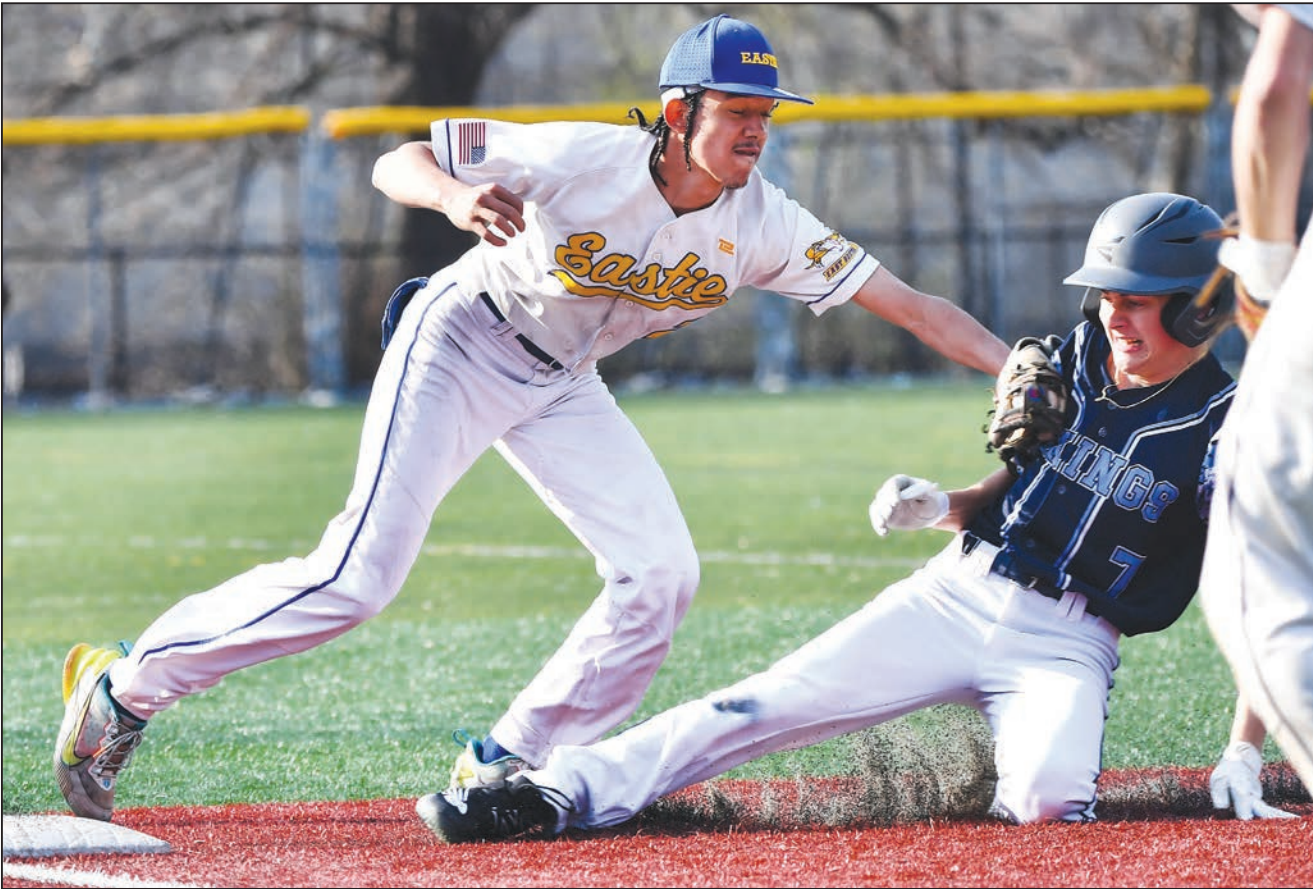
SELF HELP: Starting pitcher Jason DaSilva (7) watches his first inning single land safely in the outfield, knocking in a pair of runs as the Jets that tied the game 2-2 in the first inning on their way to a 13-2 win over Nashoba Tech on Friday, April 14.



ON THE RUN: Second baseman Brian Munoz puts some hop into his throw to first after fielding a ground ball.



PICK PLAY: Shortstop Joel Valera puts a tag on a Nashoba baserunner Cole Currier to complete a pickoff play at second base. See Page 8 for more photos.



YOU’RE OUT: Third baseman Luis Ortiz puts the tag on Nashoba’s Rich Collins, who tried to advance on a hit but was thrown out by East Boston centerfielder Jared Pacita.

Celebrate Earth Day

Belle Isle Cleanup

Saturday, April 22 9AM to noon
Behind CVS on Saratoga Street, East Boston

Sponsored by DCR
and the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh

Thanks to all our volunteers.
New volunteers welcome
and appreciated!

EARTH DAY

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

Your Independent Grocer, Where Old Friends Meet And New Ones Are Made
SALE DAYS THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH THROUGH SATURDAY APRIL 26TH, 2023

Grocery

Great grocery specials

Celeste Pizza	10/¢10.00
Dannon Oikos Greek Yogurt	10/¢10.00
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Near East Rice Pilaf.....	2/¢3.00
Best Yet Canned Vegetables	4/¢3.00
Hunts Ketchup	4/¢5.00
Betty Crocker Helpers	2/¢3.00
Best Yet Macaroni & Cheese	10/¢5.00
B&M Baked Beans 28 oz.....	2/¢5.00
P.F. Chang Meals	¢6.99
Swanson's Pot Pies.....	4/¢5.00
Best Yet Shredded Cheese.....	2/¢4.00
Best Yet Almond Milk 64 oz	2/¢4.00

Bakery

5" Fudge Brownie Cake	¢7.99
Olive Oil & Herb Focaccia Bread	¢3.99

Deli

Margherita Genoa Salami.....	¢7.99/lb
Sahlens Buffalo Chicken Breast.....	¢8.99/lb
Great Lakes Munster Cheese.....	¢4.99/lb
Russer Canadian Maple Ham	¢6.99/lb

Produce

Fresh & Tasty Cluster on the Vine Tomatoes ..	¢1.99/lb
Tender Green Asparagus	¢2.59/lb
Fresh & Sweet Red Onions.....	99¢/lb
California Sweet & Seedless Navel Oranges..	¢1.49/lb
Fresh & Delicious Mangoes	¢1.39

Meat

"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"

Family Pack Specials

Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops	¢1.99/lb
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Bar S Franks	2/¢5.00

Weekend Specials

Friday, April 21st through Saturday, April 23rd

"while supplies last"

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Our own Chocolate Chip Cookies 10pk.....	¢2.99
8" Pecan Pie.....	¢8.99

DELI

Resers Salads:

Potato - Cole Slaw - Macaroni

PRODUCE

Fresh & Sweet Blueberries	2/¢7.00
Hot House Hydro Cucumbers	2/¢3.00

MEAT

Family Pack Boneless Sirloin	
Strip Steaks.....	¢9.99/lb
Best Yet Cooked Shrimp 21-25ct.....	¢9.99

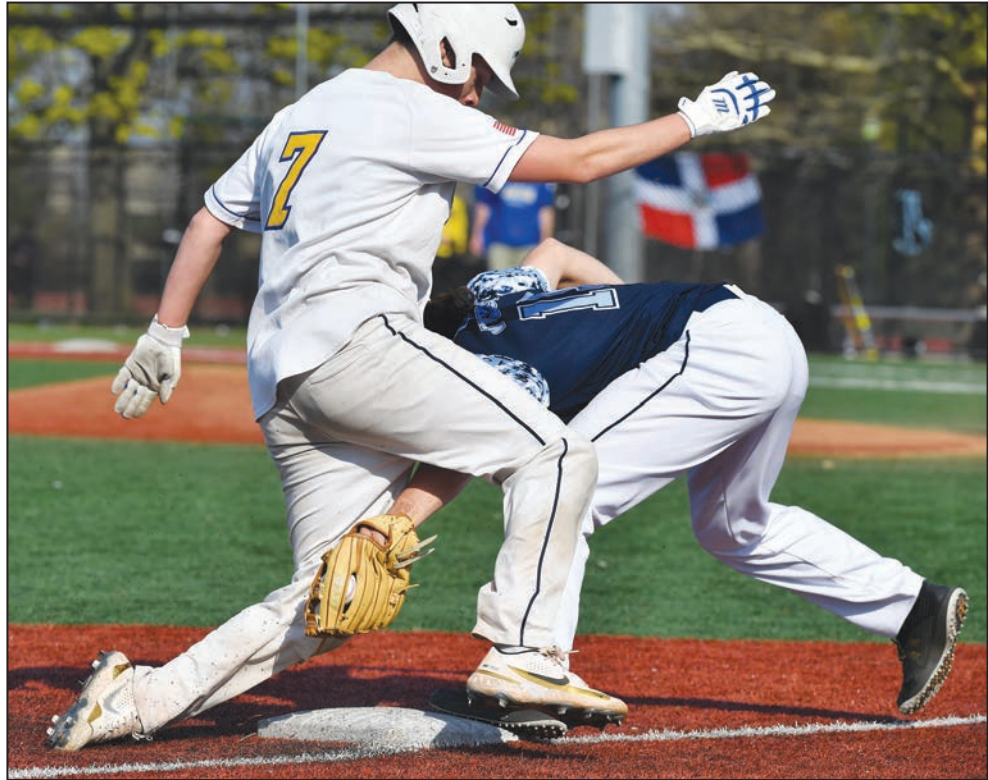
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EAST BOSTON BOYS IN BASEBALL ACTION AGAINST NASHOBA TECH

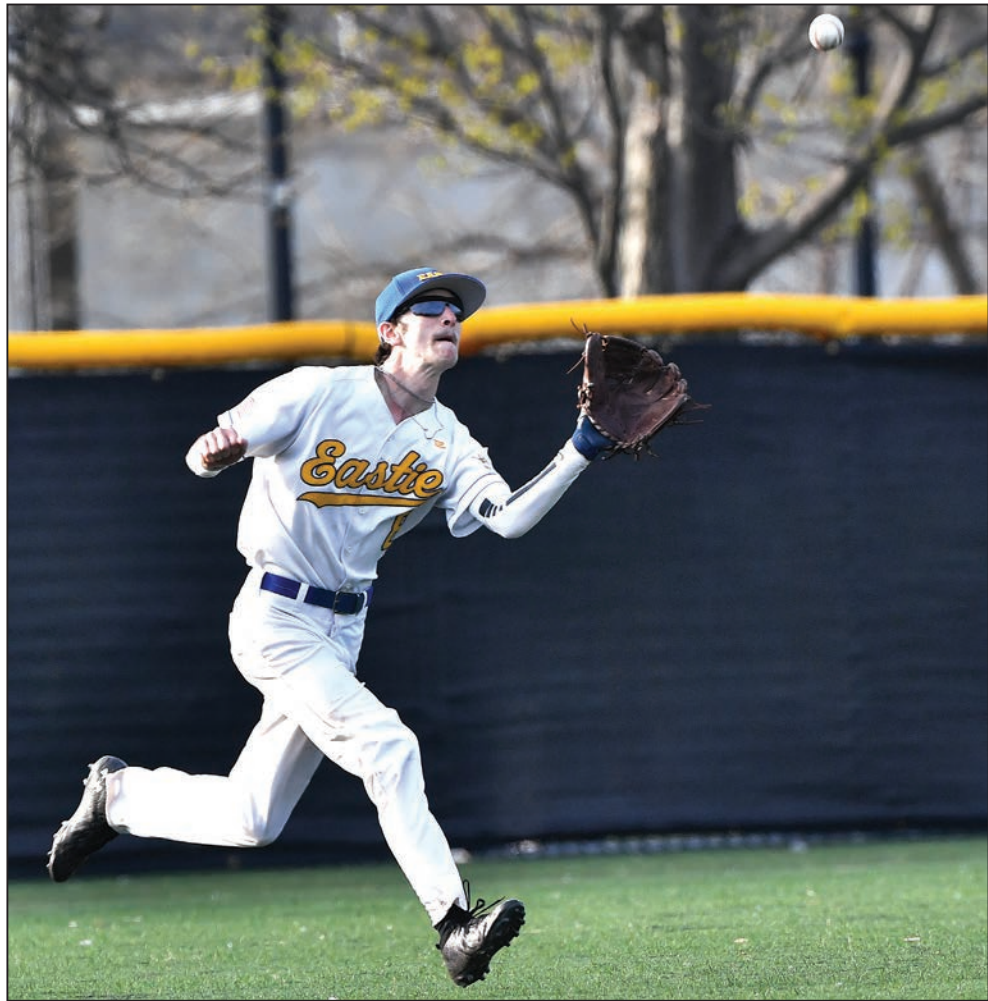
PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA



GOTCHA: Jason DaSilva (7) beat the throw on a attempted steal at third base but was tagged out when his foot lost contact with the bag as he hopped up from his slide.



FIELDER'S BOUNCE: Third baseman Luis Ortiz gloves a clean bounce that turned into a Nashoba out in the fifth inning.



IN THE CHASE: Left fielder Chase Whiteknact runs down a fly ball for an out.



IN CONTROL: Righthander Jason DaSilva kept Nashoba's bats quiet all day.

POSING WITH THE EASTER BUNNY



Margaret Farmer, (left) with State Rep Adrian Madaro, State Senator Lydia Edwards (right) and bunny person John Tallutto during The East Boston Foundation and Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association's Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 at Piers Park.

RIBBON CUTTING



The East Boston Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for the recent opening of East Boston Cannibis Company, welcoming them to the East Boston business community. The store is located at 1006 Bennington Street in East Boston. In attendance pictured: Veronica Robles, Salvatore LaMattina, Jimmy Bellino, Carlo Basile, Linda Schena, David Modica, Ernesto (Tito) Saliva, Tracy Glissman, Michael Ross, and Shirley Fabbo. The event was well attended with no shortage of stories shared regarding this business coming to fruition.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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LEGAL NOTICE

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3989
FILED ON: 1/20/2023
HOUSE . . . No.
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
PRESENTED BY:
Adrian C. Madaro
To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:
The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:
An Act modernizing the governance of Port Authority parks in East Boston.
PETITION OF:
Name:
Adrian C. Madaro
District Address:
1st Suffolk
Date Added:
1/20/2023
HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3989
FILED ON:
1/20/2023
HOUSE . . . No.
By Representative Madaro of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 9) of Adrian C. Madaro relative to modernizing the governance of port authority parks in the East Boston section of the city of Boston. Environment and Natural Resources.
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court (2023-2024)
An Act modernizing the governance of Port Authority parks in East Boston.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:
SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 349 of the Acts of 1986 is hereby amended as follows:
Clause (6) of said Section 1 of said chapter 349 is hereby amended by striking the first sentence in its entirety, and further amended by striking out the words “lobster facility and waterfront park” and replacing them with the word “parks.”
Clause (7) of said Section 1 of said chapter 349 is hereby amended by striking said clause in its entirety.
Clause (8) of of said Section 1 of said chapter 349 is hereby amended by striking the second sentence of said clause in its entirety, and inserting in place thereof, the following: “Phase I includes the area of the piers referred to as pier 4 and associated upland areas and consists of a park.”

SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 349 of the Acts of 1986 is hereby stricken in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
The following words as used in this act shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-
“Authority”, the Massachusetts Port Authority.
“Commissioner”, the commissioner of the department.
“Department”, the department of conservation and recreation.
“Division”, the division of capital asset management and maintenance.
“East Boston”, the East Boston section of the city of Boston.
“PAC”, the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated, consisting of twenty-one members to be appointed pursuant to section 6.
“Parks”, all public open space operated and maintained by the Massachusetts Port Authority in the East Boston section of the city of Boston outside the boundaries of Logan International Airport, namely, Piers Park (Phase I, Phase II and Phase III) located at the piers, Bremen Street Park located adjacent to Bremen Street, the Al Festa Little League field located on Horace Street, and the Narrow Gouge Extension located near the Wood Island Marsh.
“Piers”, Piers 1 through 4 located in the East Boston section of the city of Boston which constitute a part of the port properties as defined in chapter 465 of the acts of 1956 as amended.
“Plan”, for the park(s) to be located on the Piers will consist of three phases. Phase I is the existing waterfront park being commonly known as “Piers Park” and is located on pier 4 and associated uplands areas as of the passage of this act. Phase II will be a waterfront park on associated upland areas north of pier 3, as more fully described below. Phase III will be a waterfront park on pier 3, as more fully described below. The authority has divided the development of the Piers into three phases, Phase I, Phase II and Phase III, for planning purposes and for review in accordance with sections sixty-one and sixty-two H, inclusive, of chapter thirty of the General Laws with the approval of the secretary of energy and environmental affairs.
The area of the Phase II and Phase III parks shall include at least the following as shown on

Sheet Nos. 26N-14E and 26N-15E of the “City of Boston Topographic and Planimetric Survey”, dated 1962 and on file with the Boston Redevelopment Authority (the BRA Plan); beginning at the eastern-most edge of Pier No. 1 and a line from that edge to Marginal Road; thence returning along said line to the water’s edge at Pier 1; thence running in an easterly direction along said water’s edge to the midpoint between Pier 1 and the existing Pier 3; thence running parallel to said eastern-most edge of Pier 1 to the “Pierhead and Bulkhead Line” as shown on the BRA Plan; thence running along said Pierhead and Bulkhead Line (but including the full outline of any existing piers) in a southeasterly direction to a point intersecting the line of the southwestern edge of the Phase I Park extended out to the “Pierhead and Bulkhead Line”; then running in a northwesterly direction along the edge of said Phase I Park to a point intersecting the southerly edge of Marginal Street; and then running in a northwesterly direction along the southerly edge of Marginal Street to the point of beginning. The foregoing description is meant and intended to result in a continuous of upland and pier from the edge of Pier 1, to the existing Phase I park (i.e., Piers Park), as described in the FEIR. The Phase III park shall include all pilings, supports, the bulkheads, conveyors and structures thereon or thereunder, the land underneath said Pier 3, and the Phase II park shall include all Pier 3 upland areas located southwest of Marginal Street.
SECTION 3. Section 3 of said chapter 349 is hereby stricken in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
The division, on behalf of the commonwealth and in consultation with the department, is hereby authorized and empowered to do any and all things necessary or convenient to carry out its purposes and exercise the powers conferred by this act, if any.
SECTION 4. Section 4 of said chapter 349 is hereby stricken in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
In addition to all powers otherwise granted to the authority in act or by law, the authority is hereby authorized and empowered:
(a) to enter into an

agreement or agreements with the PAC concerning the planning, design, construction, use, operation, security, and maintenance of the parks and setting out the financial responsibilities of both the PAC and the authority relative to these facilities and consistent with the purposes and provisions of this act;
(b) to design in consultation with and subject to review by the PAC, and to construct, improve, maintain, and secure the parks, including associated buildings, facilities and improvements thereon as public parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public;
(c) to apply for and receive funds from any source, public or private, by gift, grant, bequest, or otherwise, and to expend the same on behalf of the authority to provide for the design, construction and operation of the parks;
(d) subject to the approval of the PAC, to convey or lease to an individual or entity other than The Trustees of the Reservations, a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation, the Phase III park or any part thereof, including all associated buildings and facilities and improvements thereon, for design, construction, maintenance, operation and use as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public; and
(e) to do any and all things necessary or convenient to carry out its purposes and exercise the powers conferred by this act.
SECTION 5. Section 5 of said chapter 349 as most recently amended by Section 107 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022, is hereby stricken in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
(a) Any design, construction, demolition, repair or replacement of a park undertaken pursuant to this act shall be deemed a public works pursuant to section 39M of chapter 30 of the General Laws or a building project or construction of a building by a public agency for purposes of sections 44 through 58, inclusive, of chapter 7C and sections 44A through 44H, inclusive, of chapter 149 of the General Laws and chapter 149A of the General Laws, as the same may be applicable, and the prevailing wage law pursuant to sections 26 to 27H, inclusive, of chapter 149 of the General Laws shall apply.
(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this act or

any other general or special law to the contrary, any portion of the Phase III Park to be constructed pursuant to this act that is leased by the authority for a period of not less than 99 years to an entity wholly owned by a nonprofit corporation organized for conservation purposes or for the preservation of open space, the construction of such park and the improvements to be located thereon by such nonprofit corporation pursuant to such lease shall not constitute a public works pursuant to section 39M of chapter 30 of the General Laws or a building project or construction of a building by a public agency for purposes of sections 44 through 58, inclusive, of chapter 7C and sections 44A through 44H, inclusive, of chapter 149 of the General Laws and chapter 149A of the General Laws; provided, that the prevailing wage law pursuant to sections 26 to 27H, inclusive, of chapter 149 of the General Laws shall apply.
SECTION 6. Section 6 of said chapter 349 is hereby by stricken in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
Phase I of the parks is comprised of the existing park space located on pier 4 and associated upland areas being commonly known as Piers Park. Construction of Phase II park shall be commenced immediately by the authority, in consultation with the PAC. The authority is hereby directed to move as expeditiously as possible to construct Phase II park. The authority also may proceed with the proposed development of the Phase III park pursuant to the terms of a long-term ground lease with a third party entity in consultation with the PAC regarding design and the PAC’s approval of construction commencement. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the authority shall have no obligation to commence construction of Phase III of Piers Park until bonds in an amount adequate to meet the expenditure necessary to construct said Phase III of Piers Park have been issued and sold by the state treasurer, as provided for in this section.
(a) PAC Membership. The PAC shall consist of twenty-one (21) members, seven (7) of whom shall be appointed by the district’s house of representatives member, seven (7) of whom shall be appointed by the

district’s senate member, and seven (7) of whom shall be appointed by the district city councilor. Except as otherwise provided herein, members of the PAC shall serve for terms of three (3) years.
(b) For the purposes of this act, the term of initial appointments made to the PAC in the first year shall begin on March 31, 2023; provided, however, that all terms shall expire on the last day of the calendar year.
(1) Members shall be divided equally into Class One, Class Two and Class Three.
(i) Class One shall consist of seven (7) members, three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the district’s house of representatives member, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the district city councilor; provided, however, that the term of the initial appointment of Class One members shall be through December 31, 2023; provided further, that subsequent Class One members shall serve for terms of three (3) years.
(ii) Class Two shall consist of seven (7) members, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the district’s house of representatives member, three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the district’s senate member, and two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the district city councilor; provided, however, that the term of the initial appointment of Class Two members shall be through December 31, 2024; provided further, that subsequent Class Two members shall serve for terms of three (3) years.
(iii) Class Three shall consist of seven (7) members, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the district’s house of representatives member, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the district’s senate member, and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the district city councilor; provided, however, that the term of the initial appointment of Class Three members shall be through December 31, 2025; provided further, that subsequent Class Three members shall serve for terms of three (3) years.
(2) Unless otherwise specified herein, members of the PAC shall serve without compensation for terms of three (3) years.
(3) Members of the PAC

must be residents of the East Boston section of the City of Boston at the time of their appointment and for the duration thereof and shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of their appointment.
(4) Appointments to the PAC shall ensure representation of the demographic, linguistic and geographic diversity of the East Boston section of the City of Boston and shall include, but not be limited to, persons identifying as immigrants, persons of color, seniors, parents or members of groups working with youth, members of groups advocating for the environment or environmental justice communities, persons with disabilities and other demographics with a vested interest in the quality and accessibility of these parks.
(5) In the event a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a member’s term, hereinafter, “the unexpired term”, the holder of the office who appointed said member shall appoint a new member to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
(6) Notice of all appointments shall be made public by the PAC.
(c) The PAC shall meet from time to time to review the operation, security and maintenance of the parks and shall advise the authority on its compliance with the requirements of this act. The PAC shall create its own bylaws and procedures.
(d) The PAC is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with the authority, which will specify in detail the operational, security and maintenance requirements of the authority with respect to the parks. The PAC and authority shall review the contract from time to time and make amendments to any such contract that are reasonable and necessary in order to maintain continued uninterrupted operation, security and maintenance of the parks. In the event that the term of any such contract between the PAC and the authority concerning the operation, security and maintenance of the parks expires before the PAC and the authority renew such contract or in the event that the authority fails to renew any such contract with the PAC, the operation, security and maintenance obligations of the authority as provided in the most recently executed contract

between the PAC and the authority shall continue until such time as a new or amended contract has been executed. The PAC shall also advise the authority as to the other issues in East Boston concerning the authority. The authority shall pay for the reasonable operating expenses of the PAC.
(e) The PAC shall approve all preliminary and final designs for new parks, and no construction for such parks may commence without approval of the PAC.
SECTION 7. Section 7 of said chapter 349 is hereby amended by striking all instances of the words “and lobster facility” as such words may appear throughout Section 7.
SECTION 8. Section 8 of said chapter 349 is hereby replaced with the following language:
The authority shall fund the final design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Phase I park, and the final designs of the Phase II and Phase III parks. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the authority shall have no obligation to fund construction of the Phase III park unless and until bonds are issued by the commonwealth to meet the expenditure necessary to construct the Phase III park. The authority shall have responsibility for the operation, security and maintenance of the parks. The authority shall enter into a contract with the PAC setting forth the standards by which said authority shall operate, secure and maintain the parks, such contracted standards shall be at least comparable to operation, security and maintenance standards employed by similar waterfront parks in the region. It shall be the responsibility of the authority, at all times, to provide adequate staffing levels necessary to operate, secure and maintain the parks in conformance with the contracted standards. Said contract shall provide that a penalty shall be assessed against said authority for any failure to comply with said contracted standards. Any and all such penalties shall be paid by said authority to the PAC to be placed in a separate account for the maintenance of the Parks. The PAC and authority shall review the contract from time to time and make amendments to any such contract that are reasonable and necessary in order to maintain continued uninterrupted

operation, security and maintenance of the parks in conformance with the contracted standards. In the event that the term of any such contract between the PAC and the authority concerning the operation, security and maintenance of the parks expires before the PAC and the authority renew such contract or in the event that the authority fails to renew any such contract with the PAC, the operation, security and maintenance obligations of the authority as provided in the most recently executed contract between the PAC and the authority shall continue until such time as a new or amended contract has been executed.
SECTION 9. Section 9 of said chapter 349 is hereby amended by striking the first sentence and replacing it with the following:
Except as otherwise set forth in this act, the authority shall fund from its general revenues the final design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Phase I and Phase II. Further, except as otherwise set forth in this act, the authority shall also fund from its general revenues the final design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Phase III park, unless it is conveyed, transferred, assigned, or long-term leased to another entity in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this act.
SECTION 10. Section 10 of said chapter 349 is hereby stricken in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
“Intentionally deleted.”
SECTION 11. Section 11 of said Chapter 349 is hereby stricken in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
Any and all revenues received by the authority from the parks from rentals, fees, or any other charge or source, other than grants made for specific purposes relating to the parks, shall be deposited with the authority and applied to the operation and maintenance of the parks.
SECTION 12. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all existing membership and bylaws of the PAC are hereby dissolved as of March 31, 2023; provided, however, that initial appointments of the members to the PAC after the date of this act shall be made as soon as practicable pursuant to section 6 of this act.

4/19/23
EB

Op-Ed // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

nor’s Councils on Black Empowerment and Latino Empowerment.
• Reconstituted a historically diverse and talented Judicial Nominating Commission.
• Led the Executive Branch to conduct equity assessments.
The Healey-Driscoll administration also:
• Joined the multistate Reproductive Freedom Alliance, stockpiled mifepristone and issued an Executive Order protecting access to medication abortion and protection for patients and providers.
• Filed a supplemental budget for fiscal year 2024 that extends universal school meals through the end of 2024 school year and explores how to keep the program running long-term, invests in MBTA hiring, and makes preparations for the end of the COVID-19 health emergency.
• Launched a \$50 million grant program to fund

decarbonization retrofits of existing low- or moderate-income residential buildings.
• Created the Office of Federal and Regional Energy Affairs to promote regional cooperation and advocate for advancing the state’s clean energy transition with federal, state, and other stakeholders.
• Created the position of Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure to drive and support the state and municipalities’ competition for federal funding and convened an Inter-agency Task Force.
• Filed and worked with the Legislature to establish the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.
• Created the position of Director of Rural Affairs to serve as a dedicated advocate and ombudsman for rural communities, responsible for cultivating rural economic development to ensure that state government is attuned to

the unique needs of rural communities.
• Appointed the state’s first Secretary of the newly established Executive Office of Veterans’ Services.
• Announced 9 new early college programs including the first partnership with UMass to expand access to high schools.
• Created the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity and the Office of Federal and Regional Energy Affairs.
• Announced a Director of Data Initiatives to strategize the state’s economic growth and launched a Future Skills awareness campaign to connect talent with employers.
• Established the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness program to fund 177 cities and towns with cybersecurity training.
The following Op-ed was written by the Healey Driscoll offices.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Rescue surprises

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Rescue dogs come from many different situations. No matter how much information you may have about the dog you choose, you'll only learn the whole story after that animal settles into your home and the true personality and behavior emerge. Typically, this doesn't happen overnight.

Often there is a "honeymoon" period with a new rescue. Initially, dogs spend time adapting to a new space's sights, sounds, smells, and routines. It takes time for a rescue to begin to trust the people around them. Slowly they begin to figure out the cast of characters in this new place.

They learn who they can rely on to feed them or respond when they need to relieve themselves. A dog will quickly determine who's a pushover, who means what they say, who will share food, and who they shouldn't bother. This goes for other animals in the home as well as people.

As Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D., animal behaviorist, writes, "Fido in one place is not necessarily predictive of Fido in another. Context and the environment plays as big a role in dog behavior as it does in yours. Probably bigger. But let's start with us: Are you the same person during an intense meeting at work as you are when having drinks with friends, just a few hours later?"

Different Starting Points

How much information you receive about a dog depends on how the animal came into a rescue organization. Little or nothing is known about strays who are picked up on the street and placed in a shelter.

Shelter workers, foster homes, and rescue groups do their best to evaluate the dogs in their care. However, it is ultimately

your job to help your new family member to adapt and learn what is expected. We recommend two favorite online resource centers to anyone adopting a dog.

The Best Friends Animal Society has a resource center. They call it "... a comprehensive online library where you'll find information about pet health and training, as well as educational materials and interactive resources for people with pets and rescue workers."

We like the specific guidance they supply on topics like "Understanding and Caring for Rescued Hoarded Dogs," "Training Shelter Dogs," and "Puppy Mill Rescue Dogs."

You can also rely on the popular adoption website Petfinder.com. They offer a great "Dog Adoption Checklist" and guidance for bringing a new dog home, introducing animals, puppy proofing, and specific behavioral problems.



This pup was one of our happiest rescue surprises. Despite the reason for his surrender, he was well-behaved and gentle in his forever home.

Happy Surprises

Many purebred breeds have rescue groups that place dogs in foster homes and evaluate their behavior before placing them for adoption. In some cases, these dogs were surrendered to the group by a family who provided background. While that information is helpful, it may not predict how the animal will respond in your home.

One of our happiest rescue surprises was a dog surrendered to a rescue group because it was accused of nipping a child. A family experienced with dogs and without children was selected for us to interview. We recommended the adoption and enjoyed becoming friends with this family. We spent a lot of time with this dog, who was always well-behaved and gentle. The home and the people made this possible.

Yes, rescue dogs come

with baggage that you may have to help them unpack. But, for every dog with separation anxiety, leash aggression, or barking, there's another dog who became the well-behaved best friend a person sought when they adopted a rescue.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Parziale

Longtime Suffolk Downs Security Guard

Joseph "Joe" Parziale of East Boston died on April 11.

Joe was born and raised in East Boston and was a Vietnam Era US Marine Corps veteran. He worked for many years as a security guard at Suffolk Downs Racetrack where he could also watch the races, which he loved. He also enjoyed trips to Foxwoods Casino to play cards.

The beloved son of the late John and Mary (Barone) Parziale, he was the brother of the late Sabino "Sonny" Parziale, Anthony "Pal" Parziale, John Parziale, Carmela "Millie" Matthews, Virginia "Jeannie" Giorgi and Frances "Frannie" Campo and dear brother-in-law of June Parziale. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and their children.

Family and friends will



honor Joe's life from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 in the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St. [at Day Sq] East Boston with a Prayer Service and Military Honors at 12:45 p.m. Joe will be laid to rest privately at a later date in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Please leave messages of condolence for his family on his Tribute Page at MagrathFuneralHome.com

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Flaggers // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that about 46 other states already have civilians working on construction details.

"As it stands now, Boston Police – on overtime – man the construction details that go on around the city – they've done this for years," said Johnson.

Moreover, according to Johnson, the police union has the detail work in their contract. With the police in contract negotiations this year, she wants to show Mayor Michelle Wu there is support for turning this work over to civilians.

"This is a problem because this is all done on overtime, and so it's incredibly expensive for the city. The construction companies or the private

individuals who have to have a police detail – they're supposed to pay for this," said Johnson.

"But, by and large, the system is somewhat broken, and so a lot of times the money is not reimbursed, and the city just winds up fronting the money and not having it ever come back to them," she added.

While saving the city money could be a benefit from this initiative, there were also thoughts that it would free up police officers to do other work rather than monitor the safety around construction sites.

Earlier in the meeting, JPNA Treasurer Andrew Pike brought up people "blowing through" the intersection of Cottage and

Marginal Street.

Sergeant Joe Cintolo indicated that the police would pay attention to this area in response to Pike's concern. However, Cintolo mentioned that the police are currently short-handed and only have one traffic car out.

"We saw tonight the police can't even cover basic traffic problem areas," said Johnson, in a comment referencing Pike's concern and underscoring the idea that civilian flaggers could allow the police to focus on other issues.

Along with gauging the JPNA's interest in the initiative, Johnson and Sparks are asking for neighborhood groups to

vote and potentially send a letter to Mayor Wu regarding the issue.

Pike, who was taking questions and comments from the chat, identified that there was some support for the initiative from those in attendance at last Monday's meeting.

Although there was some support in the chat, Margaret Farmer, JPNA's Co-Chair, mentioned there would have to be a discussion amongst the board to determine the process for eventually writing a letter in support.

"This would be a wonderful thing for the city. It would provide jobs, it would help the budget – it would be a great thing," said Johnson.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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Boston Parks and Recreation Department Open Space plan comment period now open

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) has announced the opening of the comment period for the public to provide feedback on the 2023-2029 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The plan offers a framework for open space protection and expansion in response to city growth and recreational needs.

The draft plan and comment form are available at boston.gov/open-space-plan for public review. Copies of the draft are also available at the central Boston Public Library in Copley Square and Boston Parks and Recreation Department headquarters at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue. Comments will

be accepted via the online form until May 21, 2023.

The OSRP is a wide-ranging document, updated every seven years, that provides a comprehensive property inventory of all public open space, regardless of ownership, and analyzes those spaces to understand how they are meeting the open space needs of city residents.

The Parks Department assessed the current open space system through data analysis, research, mapping and public input. The plan integrates the work of a complementary Parks Department planning project, the Parcel Priority Plan, which identifies the potential open space value of parcels throughout the city to consider for open space protection of acquisition.

The OSRP analysis leads to a set of goals and a Seven-Year Action Plan that will guide the City's parks-related work heading towards 2030. The plan will inform investment, programming, operations, citywide initiatives, and evaluation of ongoing policy work.

Analysis of distribution and access to park land and features provides a picture of where investments and park improvements, or expansion, are needed. Public input provides direction on open space needs and priorities which will be incorporated into future park improvement projects as well as management considerations.

Because parks and open spaces are central to the future health, resilience and livability of Boston, the OSRP complements the Climate Ready Boston reports, the Urban Forest Plan, and the Climate Action Plan. These planning efforts share fundamental objectives to improve quality of life while preparing for climate change.

Hayden announces 2023 Community Reinvestment Grant program application dates

District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced that community non-profit organizations in Suffolk County can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 through his office's Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG) program.

"It's more important than ever for our neighborhood-focused service organizations to engage with residents of all ages throughout the county, and I'm looking forward to presenting the next round of funding to help them do that," Hayden said.

The CRG program will provide funding of up to \$10,000 to 501(c)3 non-profits that provide programming designed to prevent youth violence, substance use disorder, or substance use treatment in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. State law allows prosecutors to distribute up to 10 percent of assets seized in narcotics prosecutions to community-based organizations for crime prevention and substance use treatment.

The deadline for submissions is May 19, and Hayden expects to announce grant recipients on June 1.

More information on the CRG program can be found at Community Reinvestment Grant — Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (suffolkdistrictattorney.com) and the submission forms are available at SCDAO-CRG-RFP-FY23.pdf (squarespace.com).

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SECOND ANNUAL MARATHON DAFFODIL DASH

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

HYM Investment Group LLC partnered with Revere Parks and Recreation partnered for the second annual Marathon Daffodil Dash on April 15 on the Suffolk Downs track. Four hundred children, ages 3-13, partic-

ipated in a 50-yard-dash. After the races, children and their families planted wildflowers with For Kids Only, Revere, wove flower crowns, and had their faces painted.



Darwin, Victoria, Genesus, 6, and Sebastian.



Eneyda, Madeline, Aracely, and Rebeca Guevara, 4-years-old, of East Boston.



Kristin Killeen, Karissa Killoren, Karter Seaburg, 5-years-old, and Cassidy Gordon, 10-years-old.



Families weaving flower crowns with PP USA.



Families planting wildflowers with For Kids Only Afterschool.



Nine and 10-year-olds running the 50 yard dash.



Four-year-olds running in the 50-yard dash.



Juan, Diana, Sebastian, 12, and Samuel Sepulveda, 8.



Davina Souza, and fellow five-year-olds running in the 50-yard dash.



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John Leone, Sports and Fitness Coordinator, assisting a young participantl to the finish line.