

East Boston

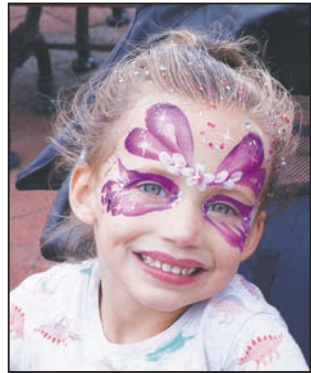
TIMES-FREE PRESS

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

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EASTIE PRIDE DAY IS AN EAST BOSTON TRADITION

Last Saturday afternoon the Annual Eastie Pride Day was held at the beautiful Piers Park. This day has been celebrated for more than 30 years. The event allows residents of East Boston to show their pride in their neighborhood and get to meet newer members of the community.



Annie Flores with a beautiful smile enjoys Eastie Pride Day.



Showing America Pride, Kristine and Todd Isherwood. See pages 10 and 11 for more photos.

BPDA approves two projects

At 9 McKay and 1141 Bennington

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During its meeting last Thursday, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board approved two projects in the neighborhood — one at 9 McKay Place and the other at 1141 Bennington Street.

The 9 McKay Place project encompasses six parcels on the corner of Maverick Street and McKay Place, and as part of the project, four buildings will be demolished at the site.

The demolition will allow for the erection of a five-story, 41-unit residential building. During last Thursday's meeting, Attorney Derric Small indicated that the project will have 36 parking spaces and 44 enclosed bike spaces.

Some other aspects of the project to note are the creation of a publicly accessible pocket park, a new bus stop, the addition of at least seven new trees in the area, a meeting room, and a gym.

The proponents have also committed to donating \$25,000 to the Donald McKay School — an abutter — to improve the school's playground and teaching garden.

However, a significant topic discussed recently concerning the project is its Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) units.

Per a document dated August 17 found on the project's webpage on the BPDA's website, the project proposes to have seven IDP units out of the 41 total. Further, of those seven IDP units, four will be at 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), and three will be at 100 percent AMI.

Recently, the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) held discussions about requesting that the proponents add more affordable units or deepen the affordability of those units.

The association actually had a vote in which 14

See BPDA Page 2

Wu announces expansion of swim safe program

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu, the City of Boston's Human Services Cabinet, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families announced applications are now open for Swim Safe Boston grants to support non-profit organizations in Boston that provide free aquatics programming to residents. The grant funding follows a successful launch of the Swim Safe

program announced this summer. Demand for free swim lessons has been high, demonstrating the need for an expansion of the Swim Safe campaign. Through these grants, the city is allocating additional funding to offer year-round capacity, especially for beginner-level swim lessons.

Additionally, the City is acting with urgency to renovate several city-owned pools, many of which

were built in the 1970s. Mayor Wu has made an unprecedented commitment to aquatics programming by commissioning a first-ever citywide evaluation of aquatics infrastructure with the goal of expediting the improvements needed to get city pools back open. In addition to the assessment, this fiscal year, Mayor Wu allocated \$34.3 million in the FY24-FY28 capital plan for repairing and renovating the

city's pools.

"Swimming is a life skill that goes beyond the summer months, so we're thrilled to be able to expand the Swim Safe lessons year-round," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I encourage all community partners offering aquatics programming to apply for these grants so we can continue growing this successful initiative. By elim-

See SWIM SAFE Page 4

FIRST PRIORITY HOSTS A BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY



Last Saturday First Priority Credit Union in East Boston on Swift Street held a neighborhood block party. President/CEO Tony Paciulli (left) is shown with his staff at First Priority Credit Union. See page 9 for more photos.

Special to the Times-Free Press

East Boston attorney Albert J. Moscone Jr. has been selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers magazine as one of the top lawyers in the nation.

Moscone, 35, was nominated by his peers in the legal profession for the prestigious award. Only five percent of attorneys in the country are honored each year.

"I'm very proud to receive their recognition," said Moscone. "I'm excited to receive the award and get this exposure at this point in my career. I've only been practicing law for eight years."

The son of Albert Moscone Sr. and Valerie Moscone, Moscone grew up in East Boston and graduated from Savio Prep (formerly St. Dominic Savio High School) in 2006. He played hockey, soccer, and baseball for the Spartans.



COURTESY PHOTO

Albert J. Moscone Jr. has been selected as one of the top lawyers in the nation.

He continued his education at Suffolk University and graduated from the

See MOSCONE Page 12



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Back to School Special Section on Pages 5-7

BPDA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of 22 respondents favored a GSCA suggestion to deepen the affordability of the IDP units and have six at 70 percent AMI. This result was communicated via a letter — dated August 15 — to a Senior Project Manager at the BPDA.

Moreover, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta wrote a letter in opposition to the project citing that the proponents “ignored” the requests of both herself and the GSCA “to explore other subsidies readily available to them to create housing that is inclusive of existing residents.”

Other concerns penned in the GSCA’s aforementioned letter to the BPDA, which were broached over three meetings the association had with the project team between last November and this July, included how close the project is to the McKay School and how it might impact things like safety and the displacement of those who live in the buildings that will be demolished.

Yet, even with the problems some in the neighborhood had with the affordable unit makeup and the concerns mentioned above, the GSCA actually voted to support the project by a vote of 14-8, which was also enclosed in the August 15 letter, just days before the BPDA Board approved the project.

The BPDA Board was not done in East Boston after it approved the 9 McKay Place project, as it also approved a development proposal at 1141 Bennington Street — the site of the old New England Casket Company, which was destroyed by a fire in 2019.

As part of this proposal, there would be demolition of “the remaining site features,” per a document dated August 17 found on the project’s webpage on the BPDA’s website, to create a transit-oriented residential development.

The project would include 220 units, a little over 1,100 square feet of ground-floor retail space, 121 parking spaces, and a total of 289 bike parking spaces, including 222 covered resident and employee spaces, 48 visitor spaces, and 19 Blue Bike Docks.

Other aspects of the project, coined “Mitigation & Community Benefits,” are also included in the aforementioned BPDA document, which touches on things like public realm enhancements, transportation improvements, and more.

Moreover, regarding unit affordability, there will be 31 IDP units as part of this project. Lizbeth Bello, a member of the project team with Redgate — the developer — indicated at the meeting that more of the affordable square footage would go toward larger two and three-bedroom units.

Similarly to the 9 McKay project, this proposal also went before a neighborhood group multiple times — the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC).

Back in April, the OHNC voiced concerns about the massing and height of the development, the amount of parking, and the traffic impacts it might cause. Further, the project team also presented in June to discuss mitigation tactics for parking, traffic, and more.

Another big issue some residents had with the project, which was brought up at the June OHNC meeting, was the unit makeup and the amount of one-bedroom units.

While the project team seemed to do its best to quell some concerns with the mitigation tactics presented, it was not enough to win support from the OHNC as it opposed the project in a vote of 25-14 at the end of the June meeting.

While an OHNC majority opposed the project, Coletta wrote a letter in non-opposition to the project with some provisos. Per a release from her office, the letter “cited outstanding provisions of her neutrality contingent on increased affordability, climate resilience and preservation of Belle Isle Marsh, as well as local preference for ground-floor commercial space.”

In the end, even with concerns from the OHNC and a majority opposition, it was not enough for the BPDA’s Board to deny the project.

If you want to learn more about each project,

you can visit the webpage for both on the BPDA’s website at the links below.

9 McKay Place: <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/9-mckay-place>

1141 Bennington Street: <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/1141-bennington-street>

Further, the full recording of the BPDA Board meeting can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z_aKf-me28U&ab_channel=BostonCityTV.

Coletta opposes 9 McKay Place, non-opposition for 1141 Bennington

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta provided two letters to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) board last week for their Thursday, August 15 meeting. The BPDA Board reviewed both 9 McKay Place in the Gove Street neighborhood of East Boston as well as 1141 Bennington Street in Orient Heights. The BPDA board ultimately approved both projects despite the Councilors opposition to McKay Place and non-opposition with provisos for Bennington Street.

In a letter regarding 9 McKay Place, Councilor Coletta staunchly opposed the project citing the developers apathy to providing affordable units that are truly affordable for residents of East Boston. She stated that “After months of encouragement, the proponents were unwilling to increase [affordability] and ... They ignored my requests and those of the Gove Street Citizens Association to explore other subsidies readily available to them to create housing that is inclusive of existing residents.”

Coletta added, “I understand the delicate balance required to spur growth while building intentionally for those at the margins here in Boston. It is vital that developers looking to make a profit are willing to compromise where they can. In this instance, it was clearly not a priority for some members of the project team.” The project was ultimately unanimously

approved by BPDA Board members without questions or comments.

Additionally, she wrote a letter of non-opposition to 1141 Bennington Street but cited outstanding provisions of her neutrality contingent on increased affordability, climate resilience and preservation of Belle Isle Marsh, as well as local preference for ground-floor commercial space.

Coletta outlines the need for protection against the projected 2030 1% storm flood pathway and ongoing discussions especially given the pending Conservation Commission review. She requested biannual conversations with DCR, the MBTA, Climate Ready East Boston representatives, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, and local electeds to continuously review resilience strategies in coming years.

She also called for the developer to continue working with the Boston Housing Authority to increase their affordability levels from 60% AMI to 30% AMI by pursuing project-based vouchers. This would guarantee a large portion of low-income East Bostonians threatened with displacement a way to stay in their own neighborhood. Additionally, she puts on record that the proponent promised to ensure the ground floor retail space will be affordable for locally-owned business enterprises. The BPDA board unanimously voted to approve 1141 Bennington Street without questions or comments from board members.

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

Opposition to 9 McKay Place letter to the Boston Planning and Development Board

Dear Board Members, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal at 9 McKay Place in East Boston. After months of encouragement, the proponents were unwilling to increase the overall number of deed-restricted units or lower AMI levels below the proposed 80-100% to reflect existing income-levels in East

Boston. They ignored my requests and those of the Gove Street Citizens Association to explore other subsidies readily available to them to create housing that is inclusive of existing residents.

As you know, the City of Boston is in a dire affordability crisis with East Boston as the epicenter of gentrification and displacement. Everyday, I hear from families who are struggling to afford to stay here with homeownership opportunities increasingly out of reach.

I understand the delicate balance required to spur growth while building intentionally for those at the margins here in Boston. It is vital that developers looking to make a profit are willing to compromise where they can. In this instance, it was clearly not a priority for some members of the project team.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at gabriela.coletta@boston.gov and (617) 635-3200.

Sincerely,
Gabriela Coletta
Boston City Councilor
Non-Opposition to 1141 Bennington Street with Affordability and Climate Resilience Provisos letter to the Boston Planning and Development Board

Dear Board Members, I am writing to express my non-opposition to the proposal at 1141 Bennington Street in East Boston. The proponent, 1141 Bennington Street, LLC., has made significant progress to ensure this site conserves portions of the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, furthers our climate resilience goals, improves the surrounding public realm, and provides sufficient levels of affordability for a community in crisis. There are a few outstanding matters included in this letter that I would like the proponent to agree to on the record.

My understanding is that the proponent has engaged in ongoing collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), and Climate Ready East Boston representatives. They will provide district-scale flood protection with elevation and permeability strategies that will mitigate a projected 2030 1% storm flood pathway into East Boston. Ongo-


ing conversations with these agencies and the City of Boston are necessary following a pending Conservation Commission review, especially as it relates to future enhancement of the upland area adjacent to Belle Isle Marsh and catch basins to capture stormwater runoff. I’m requesting biannual conversations with the aforementioned agencies, Friends of the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, and my office to ensure promises made are being kept and review opportunities for additional resilience strategies if needed.

As it relates to housing affordability, I am partially pleased with the overall spread of AMI’s from 60-100% for units included as part of Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) and the inclusion of family units in order to meet Affirmatively Fair Housing Assessment standards. I would like the proponents to commit to seeking guidance from the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to increase their affordability for rental units by including project-based vouchers from the City of Boston Voucher Program (CBVP). The inclusion of CBVP will make income-restricted housing affordable to low-income and extremely low-income renters in Boston and ensure new tenants pay no more than 30% of their income. This is in line with Mayor Michelle Wu’s vision for a reformed IDP where 3% of the total rental units will be subsidized by the BHA’s CBVP.

Lastly, the proponents legal representative has agreed to ensure the ground floor retail space will be affordable for local business enterprises. They have also agreed to work with the City of Boston to seek subsidies or grants to assist with keeping rental prices low in order to attract a business owner currently without a brick and mortar. This site is located in a food desert and so I’ve requested serious consideration to provide affordable food market options that are easily accessible by walking or public transit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at gabriela.coletta@boston.gov and (617) 635-3200.

Sincerely,
Gabriela Coletta
Boston City Councilor
District One




Virtual Public Meeting

2 Ford and 970 Saratoga St

September 6, 2023
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/2Ford970Sar
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 995 0867



Project Proponent:
MG2


Project Description:
The information at this meeting is crucial to you as a City of Boston resident, and stakeholder. Interpreting services are available to communicate the content of these documents at no additional cost to you. If you require translation services, please contact the following: Tyler.C.Ross@boston.gov. The meeting is scheduled for 09/6/2023. Please request interpreting services no later than 5 days before the meeting date.


Meeting of the general public to review the proposed 2 Ford and 970 Saratoga St project. Please note that this is a Public Meeting. The meeting will begin with a 45-minute presentation of the project by the development team, followed by 45-minutes of public Q&A.

mail to: **Tyler Ross**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4214
email: tyler.c.ross@boston.gov

website:
bit.ly/EB-2Ford-Street

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Winthrop Low Vision Group meeting discusses FY2024 state budget

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

John Oliveira, Acting Commissioner for the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), Brookline, attended the August 16, Winthrop Low Vision Group meeting at the Robert DeLeo Senior Center to discuss the proposed \$27.1 million FY2024 state budget as well as agency resources, such as occupational therapy and home care assistance.

“The funding is helping people stay in the community, be more confident, and help people manage a situation that they’re not used to,” Oliveira said.

The meeting was attended by members of the Winthrop community and neighboring cities who suffer from vision



John Oliveira, Acting Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

loss caused by optic nerve damage and eye conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, and retinitis pigmentosa.

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind serves approximately 30,000 visually impaired

individuals. Through MCB, those with low vision can join adult support groups, enroll in educational opportunities, gain access to case managers, and partake in social rehabilitation services. Volunteers can assist in reading mail and grocery shopping, as well.

“We’re a social model and don’t charge for the services that we offer. Some tax dollars pay for the agency,” explained Oliveira. “We have additional money to buy technology; and with that equipment comes the commitment to do the training to learn how to use it.”

Oliveira explained that organizations, such as The Carroll Center for the Blind and the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, advocated for earmarks to Governor Maura Healey’s proposed budget to provide additional services to social rehabilitation consumers.

“On the vocational side, we get our money from the federal govern-



Winthrop Low Vision Group gathering for a meeting with the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind on August 16 at the Robert DeLeo Senior Center.

ment, and match it with state funds. On the social rehab side, we look for state dollars for services that we provide for the social rehab consumers,” said Oliveira. “The advocates did not think there was enough for the rehab consumers, so over the past few years, they have proposed additions. Those earmarks were passed: one for The Carroll Center, and one for the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.”

Oliveira encouraged attendees to contact The Carroll Center for technology lessons, and independent living skills training, and the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for

counseling, and day programs.

“Even if you get services from the earmark funding, we have rehabilitation teachers who can come to your home, work with you in your kitchen, or in any skill set you’re looking for,” described Oliveira. “We have orientation and mobility instructors who work with you in your neighborhood to get you acclimated to using a cane.”

Oliveira recommended that those with low vision use white canes to navigate sidewalks, and locate where dips, curbs, and unexpected objects are to avoid injuries. Bicycle lanes have presented a new challenge for those using canes because they

are an additional obstacle to cross while having to avoid bicycle and scooter traffic.

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind has received many complaints concerning bicycle lanes; especially in Boston; but Oliveira assured attendees that instructors can guide them in using canes effectively to ensure their safety while approaching bicycle lanes.

“Aging-related disorders are the leading factor in losing vision for most in the U.S.,” revealed Oliveira. “Use groups like this for early intervention, and learn how to rely not so much on your vision, so when your vision changes, you can use more non-visual techniques.”

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TRUMP AND BIDEN: WORST CANDIDATES EVER?

As it becomes increasingly apparent that the candidates for President in 2024 will be Joe Biden and Donald Trump in a rematch of their 2020 campaign, it is understandable why Americans are so pessimistic about the future direction of the country.

Both men by far will be the oldest presidential candidates ever in our history, with Biden clocking in at 82 and Trump at 78. (Ronald Reagan was 69 when he first ran for President). And please, don't tell us that we're being ageist. The job of President of the United States is 24/7/365 and requires stamina and energy, traits that both men are sorely lacking.

Both are barely able to put together a complete sentence, let alone two (just read the transcripts of any of their interviews or speeches without a teleprompter) and Biden's mental faculties are diminishing almost on a daily basis. Biden has barely held any press conferences and when he does, he only responds to questions that mostly have been submitted in advance, a sign that his handlers know fully well that his mental acuity is severely diminished.

However, even more troubling than their advanced age are the scandals and legal troubles that will become the focus of their upcoming campaigns. We do not need to go into Trump's well-known myriad of legal problems, but Biden's issues with his son Hunter have become front-and-center in recent weeks.

What is most troubling about the Hunter Biden matter is Joe Biden's insistence, "My son has done nothing wrong," the President said on MSNBC in May. "I trust him. I have faith in him, and it impacts my Presidency by making me feel proud of him." (Whatever that's supposed to mean.)

However, Hunter Biden was willing to plead guilty to income tax charges, acknowledge his guilt in obtaining a handgun in violation of the law, AND wanted to be cleared of other possible crimes in a plea bargain deal that ultimately fell apart -- yet Joe Biden insists his "son has done nothing wrong?"

Even more significant and troubling are the many shady business deals by which Hunter Biden enriched himself based solely on his father's position. For example, when Hunter Biden flew with his father, who was then the vice-president, to China, he met with his "business associates" and 10 days later made a deal that netted him millions of dollars.

Although the majority of Americans would like to move on from both Biden and Trump, it would appear that we're stuck with them -- creating a campaign that will feature the most unpopular, and arguably the worst, candidates in American history -- one of whom is running to keep himself out of jail and the other to keep his son out of jail.

OUR AGE OF ANXIETY

The Wall St. Journal this past week featured a front page story entitled, "The Booming Business of American Anxiety." The issue of New York Magazine two weeks ago touched on the same subject with the cover story, "Trauma: America's Favorite Diagnosis."

Just this week, CNBC released a survey that reveals that confidence in the future of business conditions by small business owners is at an all-time low.

Statistics suggest that American society is coming apart, both mentally and physically. Our life expectancy has been declining for the past few years -- the pandemic had a lot to do with that -- but the opioid crisis, gun violence, and alcohol abuse also are factors playing a huge role in our collective demise.

More Americans than ever between the ages of 35-50 report that they are binge-drinking and more Americans over the age of 65, especially women, are succumbing to premature deaths from alcohol.

In addition, 40 percent of Americans are considered obese and another 32 percent are overweight -- which means that almost 3/4 of Americans have lifestyles that will lead to a future of diseases (diabetes, cancer, etc.) and physical limitations that will create a lifetime of anxiety and depression.

Our unhealthy food -- i.e., high in saturated fat, salt, and sugar -- is addictive, no less so than opioids. Just as the Sacklers gave us Oxycontin, the fast-food industry has given us triple-bacon-cheeseburgers with fries and super-size soft drinks -- the more we eat, the more we crave them.

It is not a coincidence that the average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than the average male in 1960 and the average female today weighs the same as that man in 1960 -- and in those same 60 years, the number of fast food franchises has grown exponentially. (In 1960, there were about 400 McDonald's and Burger King franchises in the U.S. and today there are about 20,000).

When you add in all of the "big picture" challenges presented by climate change, economic inequality, the conflicts with Russia and China, and the elimination of individual rights by a reactionary Supreme Court, it is not surprising that Americans are feeling more anxious than ever before.

It is not an exaggeration to say that anxiety is our new national disease -- and there is no cure in sight.



Forum



PHOTO BY DAVE GREEN

Berklee Interim President David Bogen, Christopher Hudson, Daniel Sambula, Jasslyn Rodriguez, Joshua Richards-Jarvis, Hillary Perez, Finn Mulkern, Isabella Morgan, Harry McIntyre, Miguel Aleman, and Krystal P. Banfield, Vice President of Education Outreach and Social Entrepreneurship.

Miguel Aleman receives Berklee City Music Scholarship

Story by Marianne Salza

Pianist, Miguel Aleman, of East Boston is one of nine recipients to be awarded a four-year, full-tuition Berklee City Music Scholarship.

"I'm extremely grateful," said Aleman, 18. "It's a big achievement."

This year's scholarship recipients celebrated with a ceremony and concert featuring actor and poet, Omari Hardwick, and artist Malcolm-Jamal Warner with the Berklee City Music jazz ensemble. The August 8 presentation at the Berklee Performance

Center commemorated the conclusion of Berklee's Aspire: Five-Week Music Performance Initiative.

Aleman participated in Aspire during his freshman and sophomore years of high school, as well as the City Music High School Academy in his junior and senior years.

"We're around campus all year-round. It's cool being around Berklee that often, and talking to talented musicians," explained Aleman, a Boston Arts Academy graduate. "It's a hangout spot and welcoming atmosphere."

Berklee City Music

provides contemporary music education to youth from underserved communities at low or no cost. The non-profit program has presented 274, full-tuition scholarships, totaling over \$33 million, since its inception thirty years ago.

"I was in the pop ensemble. That was fun. We made cool arrangements to famous pop songs," said Aleman, who most enjoys playing jazz piano.

Learning how to communicate with other musicians is a skill that Aleman is proud to have learned along his musical journey.

"Adjusting to different

musicians is crucial. It has helped me build confidence, as well," said Aleman.

Aleman began studying music in 6th grade. He loves the sound of a grand piano; and listens to a myriad of music genres from jazz, to hip hop, and heavy metal.

In addition to his passion for music, Aleman plays soccer every day, and works as a cook and server at a Sardinian restaurant.

Aleman is interested in majoring in musical education, and hopes to become a music professor.

Swim Safe// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

inating financial barriers to lessons and investing in our pool facilities, we're making Boston a safer, more fun place for families."

Interested Swim Safe grant applicants should carefully review the application materials and fill out this form to be considered for a Swim Safe grant. Awardees must be non-profit organizations that operate aquatics facilities that are located in the City of Boston. The maximum award that will be considered for this opportunity is \$150,000. The grant application will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15.

Swim Safe is part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore: Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. The funding to support swim instruction builds off the Mayor's commitment to ensure all Boston kids learn to swim and can safely enjoy our City's coastline and pools.

"The Swim Safe Boston grant program will help ensure that our partners have year-round support to help meet the high demand for swim lessons in Boston," said Human Services Chief José F. Massó. "We are excited to see so much enthusiasm for swimming and we want to continue the momentum generated this summer into the school-year."

As a coastal city with numerous pools and nat-

ural bodies of water, Boston families have an array of opportunities to enjoy water recreation. Swim Safe is focused on removing barriers to water access and increasing safety among Boston residents. Nationally, fatal drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 years old and the second leading cause of injury death for children ages 5-14 (CDC). Black and Latino youth are less likely to know how to swim and therefore are at higher risk of drowning (CDC).

The City of Boston is seeking to remedy this disparity by investing in swim lessons, repairing the city's public pools, and recruiting and training lifeguards to staff the city's pools. The grant program announced today will be available to organizations that operate pools in Boston and have experience offering programming to the public. Swim lessons will be prioritized for funding, though other free aquatics programming is also eligible for Swim Safe grant support.

"I'm a mom of five-year-old twin boys and grateful for the opportunity to get them comfortable and safe in the water," said Elizabeth Lendor, whose twin boys are learning to swim at BCYF Hennigan Community Center. "With paid swim programs at capacity in and around the City of Boston, it's nothing short of a miracle that we were able to get a spot for both boys and for

free!"

"Boston Centers for Youth & Families is excited to be able to offer funding to support our aquatics partners across the city," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families. "Together, we operate pools in every neighborhood and will use this partnership to offer free and accessible aquatics programming to Boston's families."

The City of Boston is working across departments to renovate several of our city-owned pools, following years of disin-

vestment. Over the last 3 months, the City has reopened the BCYF Paris Street Pool in East Boston and the BCYF Hennigan Pool in Jamaica Plain. The BCYF Paris Street Pool reopening was the result of a \$10.2 million investment, featuring an open, airy main entrance and lobby, fully renovated changing rooms, a new pool filter room, mechanical and electrical upgrades, building interior and exterior repairs, and other upgrades making it a more inviting and user-friendly space.

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President

Stephen Quigley
stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

Advertising and Marketing

Debra DiGregorio -- deb@reverejournal.com

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella -- mdibella@winthrops transcript.com

Senior Sales Associates

Sioux Gerow -- charlestownads@hotmail.com

Legal Advertising

Ellen Bertino
ebertino@eastietimes.com

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors
Cary Shuman -- cary@lynnjournal.com

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates -- scott@chelsearecord.com
Kane DiMasso-Scott -- kdscott@thebostonsun.com

Business

Accounts Executive
Judy Russi
judy.russi@eastietimes.com

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2023-2024 DISTRICT Calendar

2023

- August 8-10 New Leader Institute (NLI)
- August 15-17 August Leadership Institute (ALI)
- August 22-24 New Teacher Institute (NTI)
- August 22-24 Teacher Summer Institute (TSI)
- August 31 UP Academies: Boston & Dorchester, all grades – first day of school
- September 4 Labor Day: No school
- September 5 All teachers and paras report
- September 5 UP Academy Holland, all grades – first day of school
- September 7 Students in grades 1-12 report, including grade 1 in ELCs and EECs
- September 11 Pre-K & Kindergarten students report, including EECs, ELCs, and special education
- October 9 Indigenous Peoples' Day: No school
- November 10 Veterans Day: No school (Observed)
- November 22 ... Early release for students and school staff
- November 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess: No school
- December 22-January 2 Winter Recess: No school
- December 25 Christmas Day

2024

- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 2 All teachers and paras report
- January 3 Students return from recess
- January 15 M.L. King Jr. Day: No school
- February 19 Presidents' Day: No school
- February 20-23 February Recess: No school
- February 26 Students return from recess
- March 29 Good Friday: No school
- April 15 Patriots' Day: No school
- April 16-19 Spring Recess: No school
- April 22 Students return from recess
- May 27 Memorial Day: No school
- June 4 (or day 170) Last day for seniors
- June 18 (or day 179) Early release for students
- June 19 Juneteenth: No school
- June 20 (or day 180) . Last day of school if no days are lost due to cancellations. Early Release Day

Major Religious & Cultural Holidays

2023

- Sep. 16-17* Rosh Hashanah

Sep. 24-25* Yom Kippur

Nov. 12 Diwali begins

Nov. 23 Thanksgiving

Dec. 8-15* Hanukkah

Dec. 25 Christmas

Dec. 26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa
- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday

Mar. 11* Ramadan begins

Mar. 29 Good Friday

Mar. 31 Easter

April 10* Eid al-Fitr

April 22 Earth Day

April 23*-30 Passover

May 5 Orthodox Easter

June 17* Eid al-Adha

June 19 Juneteenth

July 4 Independence Day

2024

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day (observed Jan. 2)

Jan. 6 Three Kings Day

Feb. 10 . Lunar New Year

- ▲ Start or End Date
- All Teachers and Paras Report
- Central Offices and School Buildings closed
- School Buildings closed
- *begins the night before at sunset

AUGUST 2023

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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OCTOBER 2023

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JULY 2024

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Extenuating circumstances and/or inclement weather may necessitate changes to the calendar during the year.
Visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/calendar for current information.
Produced by the Boston Public Schools Communications Office | March 2023

Revision: 05.04.23

Welcome Back Students!

Good Luck in School This Year!

State Representative
Adrian Madaro

Welcome Back to School

Give it your all this year!

State Senator
Lydia Edwards

Wishing all Students a Successful and Safe Return to School!

Boston City Councilor
Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Must-have items for your high schooler’s back-to-school shopping list

(StatePoint) Setting your high schooler up for a successful school year all starts with having the right educational tools and personal supplies. Here are the must-have items to add to your cart this back-to-school shopping season:

A Tablet or eReader
If you remember your own high school years as being defined by lugging heavy textbooks around campus all day and then home with you each night, consider sending your teen back to school with an e-reader or tablet. This slim, back-saving technology makes it possible for students to access the educational content of all their many courses in one place. What’s more, some studies suggest electronic devices facilitate learning better than physical textbooks. Look for options that offer annotation and note-taking capabilities, as well as a full-color display, so that textbook diagrams and images can be fully understood.

A Graphing Calculator
In high school STEM classes such as trigonometry, calculus and physics, students need to go beyond simply arriving at the correct answer. They must also understand the theory and foundation behind the mathematical principles they are studying. That’s where a highly-functional graphing calculator can come into play. Designed for high school students and beyond, Casio’s affordable fx-9750GIII graphing calculator builds on the cutting-edge capabilities of its predecessors, offering a more seamless learning experience, an enhanced natural display and an improved keypad for fractions, standard-to-decimal conversion and scientific notation. Expanded menu options include Exam Mode, to comply with major standardized test-taking rules, as well as a Python Add-In, giving students the ability to create, save, edit and run Python files, as well as import and export these files with streamlined computer connectivity.

Personal Items
Send your teenager to school with some basic personal supplies that they can leave in their locker. Having access to these items between classes will help them feel their best throughout the day and eliminate distractions, so they can better concentrate on learning. A stick of deodorant is especially useful for students enrolled in physical education or who are involved in sports. Also include a bottle of hand sanitizer to help fight infections, particularly as cold and flu season draws near, feminine hygiene products, dental floss and tissues. An extra layer is also always helpful in both cooler weather and during the warmer months when the air conditioning may be running at full force.

In high school, the coursework becomes much more challenging and the social terrain much more complex. However, with the latest tech tools and a stash of personal supplies, your teenager can navigate both arenas with less stress.

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!
GOOD LUCK AND HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

from the staff of

Channel Fish

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STAR POWER NATIONALS



Sheila Rosanio School of Dance and Gymnastics recently competed in the Star Power Nationals in Connecticut. They were chosen one of eight performances out of 2000 performances.

Tech-friendly ways to ace the school year

(Statepoint) American families are expected to spend record-high amounts this back-to-school season. According to the National Retail Federation (NRF), families with children in elementary, middle and high school will spend \$890 on average for school items, while those with college-aged students are looking at more than \$1,360 in shopping expenses.

Whether your kids are off to kindergarten or college, here’s how you can shop smarter and prepare for the school year:

1. Upgrade Your Devices. Electronics and tech are a top priority for families this school season. The NRF says Americans are expected to spend a collective \$15 billion on electronics for back to school and \$23 billion for back to college. The good news is that you may be able to score deals this back-to-school season to help save on smartphones, wearables and more. T-Mobile is offering a free REVVL 6 Pro 5G, OnePlus Nord N30 5G or Samsung Galaxy A14 5G when adding a voice line for each device on a qualifying plan via 24 monthly bill credits plus tax. Plus, if T-Mobile customers prefer to gear up with a wearable, they can score the wireless company’s exclusive SyncUP KIDS Watch for free when adding a qualifying watch line via 24 monthly bill credits plus tax. To learn more about T-Mobile’s back-to-school deals, head to t-mobile.com/offers/back-to-school-deals.

2. Keep Track of School Items. It’s the time of year when backpacks, lunchboxes and musical instruments tend to go missing. Ensure your child or college student never loses their items again by plac-

See TECH Page 7

nicole zervas
dance academy

Celebrating 35 years!

- Open House at Studio
Thursday, August 24th & 31st, 6-8 p.m.
Saturday, August 26th, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
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Beginner through Advanced
- Tiny Toes Program ages 3-6 years
- Tiniest Toes Program ages 18m-3 years
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- Aug. 26th 10 — 4:00 p.m.
- Aug. 28th 4 — 8:00 p.m.
- Aug. 30th 4 — 8:00 p.m.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Tips for parents and kids to stay organized this back-to-school season

(StatePoint) The start of a new school year carries with it so much potential, particularly when students -- and their parents -- stay organized. Amid the back-to-school chaos, use these tips and gear recommendations to help keep everyone on track, whether they are at school, at home or on-the-go:

Notes and Big Ideas

Color-coded notebooks and binders, along with labeled dividers, can help you keep your coursework straight and your note-taking organized. Take your color-coding a step further by extending the concept to the tools you write with. Pilot Pen’s G2 gel pen is a go-to for busy students and parents with its smooth, long-lasting gel ink that’s able to keep up with busy schedules.

Science has shown that writing a to-do list with an appealing color can lead to greater productivity. Inspired by color trends and color psychology, the G2 Harmony Collection colors were developed to promote balance, relaxation and hope, helping students get more done, stay positive and achieve their highest potential this school year. G2 is available in four point sizes and over 35 colors, so it’s ideal for note-taking, writing down big ideas, goal-setting and more.

Planning and Scheduling

With the back-to-school season comes a flurry of planning and scheduling -- from after-school activities to field trips. Parents and kids alike can stay on top of all the

last-minute changes with a desk calendar and an erasable pen. Pilot’s FriXion line of erasable pens and markers write smooth and erase clean, so you can edit plans as often as they change. It’s much easier to remember tasks and events when you’ve recorded the details in a central location, so start a habit of entering all activities into your calendar as soon as they’re planned. The smooth gel ink and precise point of the FriXion Synergy Clicker is great for detailed planning, while FriXion Fineline brings colorful, mistake-free writing to notes and calendars.

Lockers, Backpacks and Desks

Use organizational tools anywhere school supplies are stored, such as lock-

ers, backpacks and home study areas. Simple shelving and magnetic door organizers can maximize storage potential in any locker, whereas a backpack with multiple pockets allows you to arrange items by subject. Periodically empty your backpack completely; you may be surprised by the loose papers you find at the bottom. Use the opportunity to re-order items as-needed and to wipe down the bag’s interior. Parents and

kids should keep clutter to a minimum in home workspaces with filing systems and supply trays. This will help prevent important papers and other items from going missing and improve productivity.

Down to the Details

If you’re smudge-prone, use quick-dry ink for effortlessly clean lines. When it’s time to study, this will make reading your notes a lot easier. Pilot’s Precise Rolling Ball, available in capped and

retractable styles, features a precision tip -- great for organized notes and homework.

For more back-to-school inspiration and tips, visit powertotheopen.com.

Staying organized is easier said than done for families and students. However, relying on tools meant for the task at hand, whether that’s note-taking or event scheduling, can make it much simpler.

How to help keep your child safe and healthy this school year

(StatePoint) As students return to classrooms, doctors say that it’s important to ensure that children are up-to-date with routine childhood vaccinations.

“The evidence around vaccinations is abundantly clear; they’re safe, effective and will help protect you, your loved ones, and your community from preventable diseases. If you have questions about vaccines, their safety, or effectiveness, please speak to your physician. We are here for you, eager to answer your questions, and ensure your family is protected,” says Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, M.D., M.P.H., president of the American Medical Association (AMA).

In an effort to promote a safer, healthier school year for everyone, the AMA is sharing these vaccine facts and insights:

- Vaccines are safe, effective and save lives. Routine childhood immunization is highly effective at preventing disease over a lifetime, reducing the incidence of all targeted diseases, including measles, mumps, rubella, polio and chickenpox. For the U.S. population in 2019, vaccines prevented more

than 24 million cases of disease.

- The benefits of vaccines can be quantified. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2021 will prevent 472 million illnesses, almost 30 million hospitalizations and more than 1 million deaths, saving nearly \$2.2 trillion in total societal costs, including \$479 billion in direct costs.

- Vaccination rates have fallen. Even before the rise in vaccine misinformation and disinformation associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine hesitancy was increasing, elevating the risk of community outbreaks, which put under-and unvaccinated children at risk for serious illnesses, like measles. According to a mid-January 2023 report from the CDC, vaccination coverage decreased in most states for all vaccines among kindergarteners for the 2021-22 school year when compared with the previous school year, which was already below pre-pandemic levels.

- Speak to your child’s physician. With increased

misinformation around vaccinations, it is critical that you seek out reliable, evidence-based sources for information. These sources may begin with websites like getvaccinesanswers.org, but they should also include your child’s physician.

Physicians can also answer questions on the new monoclonal antibody therapy, nirsevimab, available for infants and children under the age of 19 months, for the prevention of RSV disease.

- Don’t let cost be a barrier. Programs like Vaccines for Children (VFC) are federally funded to provide no-cost vaccinations to children whose families otherwise could not afford them. Parents can learn more by contacting their state or local health department.

“Make an annual well child visit and immunizations a part of your household’s back-to-school routine,” says Dr. Ehrenfeld. “Doing so will protect you and your family from a number of preventable illnesses. It’s something I do for my own children, and I urge you to do so, too.”

East Boston Central Catholic School awarded CHF Grant

East Boston Central Catholic School announced today that it received a \$5,000 grant from Catholic Health Foundation (CHF) of Greater Boston to support the school’s health program.

The award for the School’s health program initiative will help fund necessary supplies and staffing.

CHF Executive Director Lynne Sullivan stated, “The Catholic Health Foundation is thrilled to be able to support such a wide range of organizations meeting critical health needs, particularly in the areas of child and youth wellness, mental health, and food insecurity.”

“It’s a privilege for CHF to be able to support these incredible organizations,” said Board President Gavan Mooney. “They are the real heroes and what they do makes a differ-

ence. They’re helping us build connections and design solutions to issues that affect our communities and that will bring about long-term positive health benefits.”

The Catholic Health Foundation makes it possible for locations like ours to enhance programs and provide our students with improved health care.

ABOUT East Boston Central Catholic School:

Established in 1974, East Boston Central Catholic School was the first collaborative Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Boston and is now the only remaining Catholic School in East Boston serving students from Pre-K through grade 8.

Rediscover Excellence and apply for a seat now! Visit our website at EBCCS.org or call 617-567-7456 to arrange a tour. Financial aid is available.

About the Catholic

Health Foundation

The Catholic Health Foundation of Greater Boston, Inc. (Catholic Health Foundation, “CHF”) is overseen by the Archdiocese of Boston’s Catholic Community Fund and exists to provide financial support to non-profit organizations that provide health care and healthcare services consistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church within the 144 cities and towns that comprise the Archdiocese of Boston. Grants through the CHF are distributed annually in accordance with the restrictions established in the original endowed gifts. No grants are made to individuals or government agencies, or for endowments or operating deficits. Since its first grants in 2014, CHF has distributed 630 grants totaling \$6,672,677.

Tips to make your back-to-school shopping game plan

(StatePoint) Staying on top of consumer trends can make for a better shopper experience this back-to-school season, helping you land the best deals on the right products at the right time.

The results of a new survey from Sensormatic Solutions, a leading retail solutions provider of Johnson Controls, show that despite new shopping options popularized during the pandemic, such as buy-online-pick-up-in-stores (BOPIS), 79 percent of respondents plan to conduct their back-to-school shopping in stores this year, a slight increase from 2022. The most important factors when shopping in-store include price (91 percent), product availability (75 percent) and a safe and comfortable store environment (44 percent).

“Consumers are still viewing in-store shopping, particularly in the back-to-school season, as an experience to be enjoyed rather than an errand,” says Kim Melvin, global leader of marketing and communications at Sensormatic Solutions. “Retailers are accommodating and encouraging this point of view, and it’s creating a better, more responsible, and more agile

industry for customers and retailers alike.”

Consumers are also less worried about how the current U.S. economy will impact their back-to-school shopping budget than they were last year. Despite talk of a recession, 51 percent say their budget will not be impacted or that they even plan to spend more this year, a notable increase as compared to 43 percent in 2022. Consumers plan to spend the most on clothing and apparel (70 percent), shoes (58 percent) and school supplies (53 percent).

No matter how much you’ve budgeted for back-to-school shopping or what items you plan to spend the most on, you can use these top strategies from Sensormatic Solutions to make your back-to-school shopping experience successful and stress-free:

- 80 percent of respondents plan to begin their back-to-school shopping in July or August – an increase over last year – so don’t wait. If you’re like many shoppers, and price and product availability are heavily factored into your shopping habits, you may want to jump on the trend of shopping earlier in the season to ensure

you’ll find the supplies you need at the best prices.

- Don’t worry about what days you plan to head to the store. In-store traffic is likely to be steady throughout the week, with 35 percent of consumers saying they’re more likely to shop on weekdays, 32 percent saying weekends and 33 percent saying they have no preference.

- With 75 percent of respondents saying product availability is an important factor when shopping in-store, consider planning out your shopping list to ensure retailers have your items in-stock before you arrive. Thankfully, technologies like inventory intelligence are making brick-and-mortar shopping more reliable and convenient.

For additional survey results and insights, visit <https://www.sensormatic.com/resources/ar/2023/back-to-school-survey-2023>.

“Gearing up for a new school year is always exciting for both parents and kids. And with a bit of knowledge of how your fellow consumers plan to get their seasonal shopping done, you can develop smart shopping strategies,” says Melvin.

Tech // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ing a T-Mobile SyncUP TRACKER in items of importance. It’s a simple, easy way to help you keep track of belongings.

3. Stay Connected for Study Time. For families or college students looking for an affordable option to stay connected at home, T-Mobile has them covered with 5G Internet for only \$30 per month with a Go5G Plus or Magenta MAX plan and AutoPay. For those unsure about making the switch, the wireless company offers a worry-free Test

Drive of its 5G Internet for 15 days. And, T-Mobile 5G Internet comes with a Price Lock Guarantee, so you can rest easy knowing your monthly rate won’t increase (exclusions like taxes and fees apply). Learn more by visiting <https://www.t-mobile.com/homeinternet>.

4. Prioritize a Sleep Routine. A recent “Lancet Journal” study found that children need at least nine hours of sleep each night to support healthy neurocognitive development. Set your kids up for suc-

cess by creating a school bedtime and wake-up routine a couple weeks before school begins to help ease into the new academic year. Apps like Moshi use sounds, sleep stories and even meditations to encourage better sleep for kids, and Calm can be used for college students and parents to ease stress.

Get ready to rock the school year with some savvy planning, deal-hunting adventures and a dose of healthy habits that create an epic year ahead for you and your family.

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PERFORMING ARTS FOR ALL AGES - ALL LEVELS

East Boston Central Catholic School offers another year of meals at no cost for students

EBCCS will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, EBCCS will offer healthy meals every school day. The Massachusetts legislature has provided funding to make meals available at no cost to all students during school year 2023-2024, regardless of household income. However, families should still complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for key funding for academic resources and may also connect families to additional benefits. This data will also support the additional funds provided by the Commonwealth for this pilot.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application. Applications also are available in the main office of the school.

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2023-2024						
	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$18,954	\$1,580	\$365	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$519
2	25,636	2,137	493	36,482	3,041	702
3	32,318	2,694	622	45,991	3,833	885
4	39,000	3,250	750	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	45,682	3,807	879	65,009	5,418	1,251
6	52,364	4,364	1,007	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	59,046	4,921	1,136	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	65,728	5,478	1,264	93,536	7,795	1,799
Each additional person:	+6,682	+557	+129	+9,509	+793	+183

Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact Maryellen Punch at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, Maryellen will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to EBCCS 69 London St. East Boston, MA 02128.

When known to EBCCS households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to EBCCS households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible", because the child is cate-

gorized, as defined by law as:

- Foster
- Homeless,
- Migrant,
- Runaway,
- Enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or
- Enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above, or should submit an income application.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

For more information, you may call EBCCS at 617-567-7456 or e-mail at mpunch@ebccs.org.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g.,

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
program.intake@usda.gov.

Hayden announces Youth Advisory Council; encourages Suffolk County teens to apply

District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced the creation of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Youth Advisory Council, which will meet regularly throughout the school year to give Hayden's office insight into issues such as youth violence, gun possession, bullying, peer pressure, and substance abuse.

Applications for the council are available on the SCDAO website. Hayden is encouraging high school-aged teens throughout Suffolk County to apply.

The council will augment the office's other juvenile-focused initiatives, such as the Juvenile Alternative Resolution (JAR) program, which provides diversion options to eligible juvenile offenders.

"We are always seeking to better understand the factors that lead some of our young people down dangerous paths. We want to ensure that our youth have the resources and support in our communities to be safe. A helpful tool in doing so is to hear directly from them. We've seen over the past few weeks some disturbing incidents involving violence committed by teens, including attacks on strangers and on police, and other young people being harmed. Our hope is to hear directly from

our young residents what they think might be contributing to these types of behaviors and experiences. Arraigning young people on criminal charges is, sadly, something we sometimes need to do, but never something we want to do," Hayden said.

Members of Hayden's community engagement team and juvenile unit will guide the council discussions and solicit participation and input from members on the array of issues facing teens throughout the county. Recent societal events have presented teens with particular challenges, Hayden said.

"The COVID pandemic has had a unique impact on today's young people. Put simply, teenagers in Boston and Suffolk County—and across America—have had their lives impacted in ways unlike any other time in our history, and our goal is to learn directly from them the pressures they face on a daily basis. The Youth Advisory Council will not only provide our youth with an opportunity to voice concerns, but can empower them to take on a greater initiative. We're hoping their insight will help us develop approaches that keep teens away from behavior that can short-circuit their futures," Hayden said.

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FIRST PRIORITY CREDIT UNION HOSTS A BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY

Last Saturday First Priority Credit Union in East Boston on Swift Street had a neighborhood block party. It was their way to get the children in a back-to-school state of mind, while at the same time enjoying lots of fun activities. Back to school backpacks were given out to the children, and a petting zoo was also a hit with the young ones. Face painting, hot dogs and a moon bounce as well as many give aways made the day a memorable one for all who attended.



Nicole Vanderlaan from Kids Party Productions offered balloon animals and face painting for the kids.



Molly Roark from 1st Priority Credit Union at the raffle table with the Urban family, David, Heidi, Fiona, and brother David.



Milo Poole with Buggs Bunny from the Enchanted Animal Parties.



Revere School Committee member Aisha Milbury-Ellis with her daughters, Evangeline and Etienne Ellis try their hand at some of the many fun games at the 1st Priority Block Party.



Luck Ducky with Nina and Romie Fetherston.



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EASTIE PRIDE DAY IS AN EAST BOSTON TRADITION

Last Saturday afternoon the Annual Eastie Pride Day was held at the beautiful Piers Park. This day has been celebrated for more than 30 years. The event allows residents of East Boston to show their pride in their neighborhood and get to meet newer members of the community.

Many sponsors con-

tribute all kinds of goodies, free to all comers of the festival. Ice Cream, slush, cotton candy, street corn, tee shirts, face painting, and music, to name a few, never mind the many vendors with their give-away's.

It's always a fun day, it was a little overcast and windy, but it was a great day to show Eastie Pride.



Enjoying the day as it was intended, pizza lover Ang Green.



The LaMatina family, Sal, Lisa, and Liana pass out free slush to everyone at Eastie Pride Day.



Free cotton candy from Lois Dente and Steven Gingras.



All dressed up for the day, Stephanie Mauricio, Victoria Lopez, and John Barrios.



AWG workers, Kristen Freitas and Charlene Liska.



Chris Alvarez enjoys delicious fried dough.



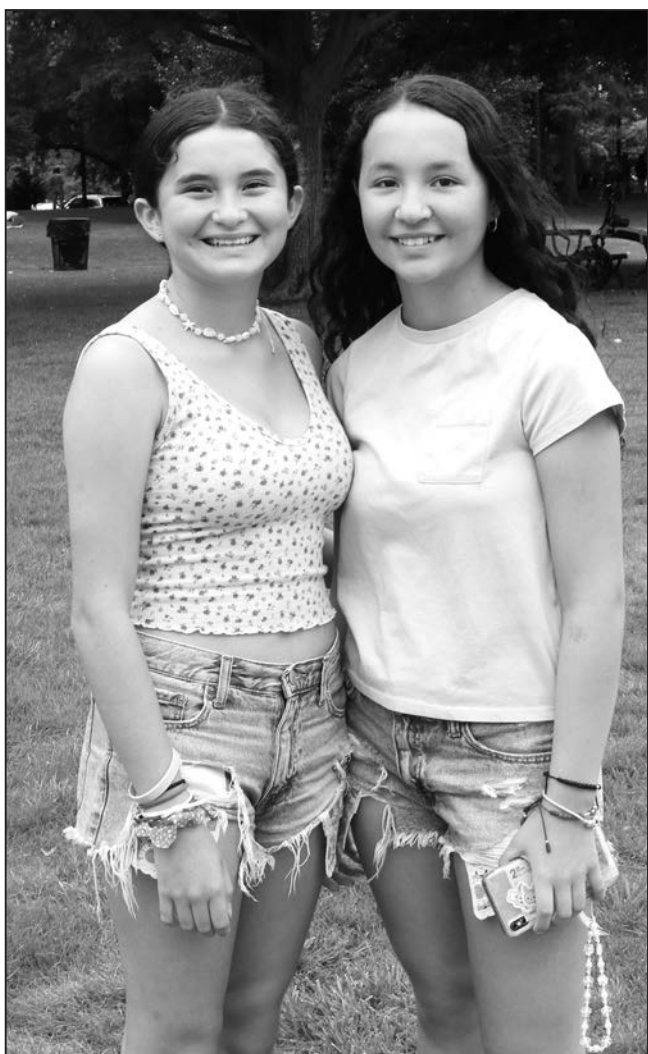
Enjoying Piers Park, Nancy Vargus, Linda Ciampa and Jean Signorino.



Izabella Salvador poses for a photo-op.



Lenny Warner and Becky Swope show their Eastie Pride.



Isabella Prada and Mariana Rodriguez enjoying Eastie Pride Day.



USPS employee Anna Robinson with Michael Shrewsbury and his daughters Hope and Joy.



A children's show provided by Ever-After Storybook Entertainment.

EASTIE PRIDE DAY IS AN EAST BOSTON TRADITION



East Boston Neighborrhod Health Center is always showing Eastie Pride, shown is Nery Castro with Nathan and Caleb Castro.



Beverly Richards Dance Studio an Eastie tradition, shown Michelle Waters, Beverly Richards, and Holly McLaughlin.



Recovery on the Harbor with Brian Carnahan and Billy Magner.



Bono Restaurant and Catering a family run business, Andrea Granados, Margarita, Mia, and Ferrando Rosas.



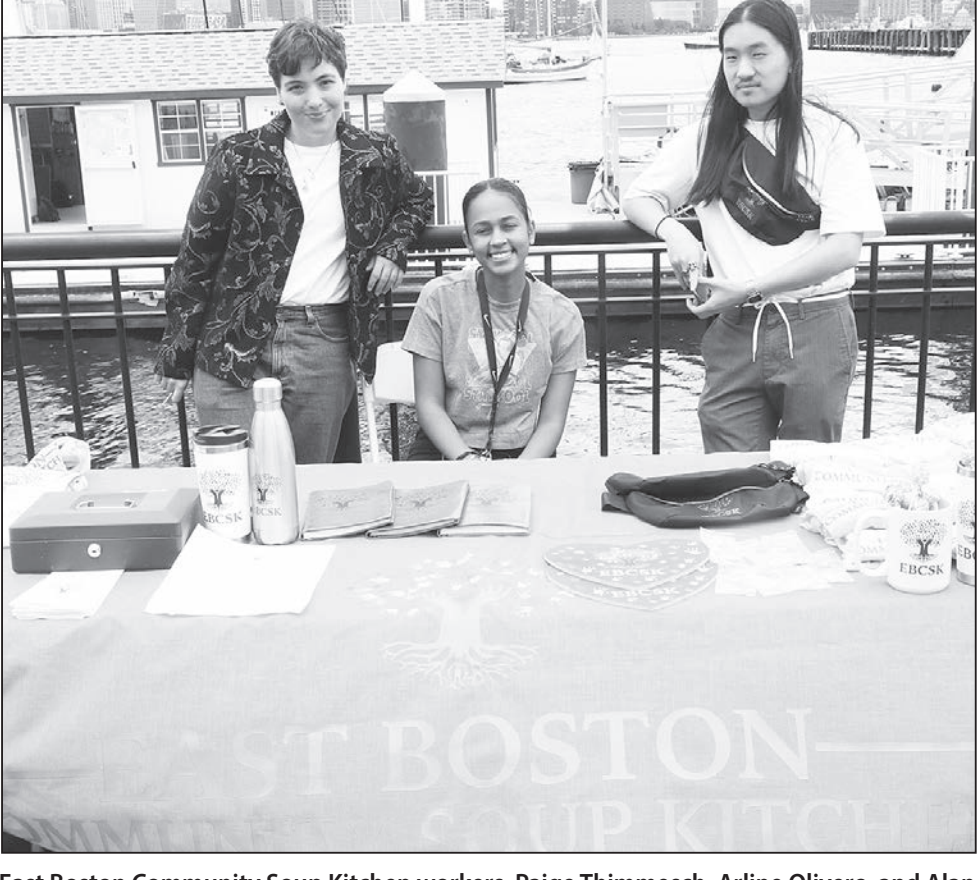
Spin to Win, from Rockland Trust, Rosa Carbo tries her luck, shown with Jennifer Osorio and Roxana Mejia.



Beware of Denise Band performed at Piers Park.



The East Boston Chamber of Commerce had a treasure hunt for free stuff, and the crowd around the table showed how popular it was. Shown from the chamber is Shirley fabbo.



East Boston Community Soup Kitchen workers, Paige Thimmesch, Arline Olivero, and Alan Yu.



Boston Public Library was a busy booth, shown are Diana Bettrau and Caitlin Peterson.

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Healey-Driscoll Administration announces updates to MBTA communities guidelines

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) has announced updated Guidelines relative to the MBTA Communities law. In response to feedback from municipal leaders in several MBTA Communities, EOHLC is revising the Guidelines to offer cities and towns either directly served by or adjacent to MBTA services a path to receive some credit for residential unit capacity in mixed-use zoning districts. The guideline revisions also specify 13 additional discretionary grants that will take noncompliance of the law into consideration when awarding funds.

The MBTA Communities law (Section 3A of the state's Zoning Act) defines 177 cities and towns as MBTA Communities. These are municipalities that either host MBTA services or abut a city or town that hosts MBTA services. The law requires that an MBTA community shall have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multifamily housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria set forth in the statute. The lack of zoning for multi-family housing is a barrier for new housing development in Mas-

sachusetts. By allowing multifamily housing near transit, we can create new housing options for families in walkable neighborhoods closer to transit options.

"The MBTA Communities law is a vital tool to incentivize and expedite much-needed housing development across the state," said Ed Augustus, Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities. "These updated guidelines demonstrate a collaborative effort with MBTA Communities to implement the law, ensure compliance, and provide reasonable adjustments to zoning requirements without reducing the total number of required housing units. Nevertheless, compliance with the law is mandatory and today's updates specify thirteen additional discretionary grant programs that will now take 3A non-compliance into consideration when awarding funds."

To date, EOHLC and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership have provided more than \$2 million in technical assistance to over 50 cities and towns. A total of 176 MBTA Communities are currently compliant.

New Consideration for Mixed-Use Development

Under the updated Guidelines, EOHLC will take into account the existence and impact of "mixed-use" zoning that requires ground floor commercial uses in buildings that also allow residential use as-of-right on other floors. MBTA Communities always could allow ground floor commercial in their proposed multi-family zoning districts. However, before the changes, residential unit capacity in a property that required ground floor commercial could not "count" in any way towards its compliance with the law.

The updated Guidelines specifically:

- Allow an MBTA community to "offset" the minimum multi-family unit capacity requirement in certain multi-family zoning district(s) by up to 25%, based on the unit capacity of a mixed-use zoning district that meets key requirements of Section 3A and the Guidelines, but for requiring a ground floor non-residential component. Such "offset" – only available where existing village-style or downtown development is essential to preserve pedestrian access to amenities – still requires a municipality to demonstrate

the same total amount of unit capacity.

- Protect the financial feasibility of achieving housing goals where mixed-use zoning requires ground-floor non-residential uses by (i) setting forth location criteria for mixed-use development districts and requiring that EOHLC has pre-approved the location before the MBTA community's vote on its zoning changes; (ii) capping the percentage floor area of each development that may be required to be non-residential (ground floor only); (iii) requiring a broad mix of non-residential uses allowed as of right; and (iv) prohibiting minimum parking requirements for non-residential uses.

These revisions to the Guidelines are intended to provide greater flexibility to MBTA communities to adopt new zoning districts in mixed-use neighborhoods, and to promote housing opportunities for residents in such neighborhoods. The revisions do not reduce the total unit capacity required by the Guidelines.

"We urgently need to clear the way to build more housing in our suburban communities, but we don't want to squeeze out our restaurants, retail-

ers, and other merchants in the process. These guideline adjustments will go a long way towards protecting our mom-and-pop merchants and small downtowns while – thanks to additional housing – will also create the vibrancy and foot traffic our small businesses need to thrive. We appreciate that the Healey-Driscoll administration listened to the concerns many of us shared and put forth this thoughtful solution."

Greg Reibman, president, Charles River Regional Chamber (Serving Newton, Needham, Watertown, and Wellesley).

Additional Discretionary Grant Programs Where Non-Compliance Will Be Considered

Section 3A states that any MBTA Community not in compliance with the law will not be eligible for three state discretionary grant programs: MassWorks, the Housing Choice Initiative, and the Local Capital Projects Fund.

The updated Guidelines list 13 discretionary grant programs that will take compliance with Section 3A into consideration when making grant award recommendations, emphasizing the seriousness with which the Healey-

Driscoll Administration views compliance.

Those 13 additional grant programs are as follows:

- 1 Community Planning Grants, EOHLC,
- 2 Massachusetts Downtown Initiative, EOED,
- 3 Urban Agenda, EOED,
- 4 Rural and Small-Town Development Fund, EOED,
- 5 Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, MassDevelopment,
- 6 Site Readiness Program, MassDevelopment,
- 7 Underutilized Properties Program, MassDevelopment,
- 8 Collaborative Workspace Program, MassDevelopment,
- 9 Real Estate Services Technical Assistance, MassDevelopment,
- 10 Commonwealth Places Programs, MassDevelopment,
- 11 Land Use Planning Grants, EOEEA,
- 12 Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grants, EOEEA, and
- 13 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning and Project Grants, EOEEA.

Moscone // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

New England School of Law.

Moscone's law offices, Moscone Law, are based in East Boston and specialize in criminal and real estate litigation.

"The word 'attorney' is synonymous with being a problem solver, and I find the legal profession rewarding because I am able to help people," said Moscone. "And it allows me to give back to the community."

Moscone is a member of the board of directors of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and the East Boston YMCA. He is also a generous sponsor of several local events.

He and his wife, Emily Moscone, have a daughter, Julianna, 11. He also has a one-year-old son, Luciano.

Moscone will be featured in the Best Lawyers Magazine that will be published in early 2024.

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

CURRY COLLEGE SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates roughly 900 students who were named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List.

Christopher Manta of East Boston

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

25 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 2,050 students. The student body consists of 1,830 traditional students and nearly 220 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and visual arts program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu.

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Councilors plan hearing to discuss increasing emergency services

Special to the Independent

Boston City Councilor or Gabriela Coletta and Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy will hold a hearing to discuss increasing emergency services on Wednesday, September 6, at 10 a.m. in the Iannella Chamber, Fifth Floor of Boston City Hall.

“My office has received numerous calls from constituents about concerns regarding emergency service staffing and resources. District One has seen an uptick in delayed medical emergency assistance with arrival times close to an hour after dispatch. Our city must grow responsibly and ensure we can provide adequate services to all residents, especially emergency services, so every resident has access to lifesaving care within minutes,” said Councilor Coletta. “I look forward to the upcoming hearing with EMS, BFD, BPD and members of the Wu Administration to collaboratively work in planning for our city’s growth, which must coincide with planning for increased emergency services. Every second matters when it comes to saving lives.”

“A swift and timely response from medical personnel is crucial and, in some instances, lifesaving. Our EMS work tirelessly every day to respond to the medical needs of all of the residents in Boston, but they are not always able to respond as quickly as they need to across the City. By properly funding our Emergency Medical Services, and responding properly to growth in different areas of the City, this will ensure response times within minutes, which will save lives.” said Councilor Murphy.

The Councilors efforts underscore the urgency in supporting EMS with the resources needed to deliver high-quality care. During the hearing, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Boston Fire Department, Boston Police, and the Boston Planning and Development Agency will join to discuss increasing Boston’s emergency services, particularly as the BPDA leads planning efforts for each neighborhood, while uplifting the incredible service and commitment our emergency service departments have led for our city.

Highlights of the Order Include:

“WHEREAS, In January, Mayor Wu shared a vision for Boston to sustainably reach its peak population of 800,000 residents with the housing, schools, parks, and

public transit to support that growth; and

WHEREAS, The current population of the City of Boston is more than 650,000, which would mean growing in population by 150,000 new residents; and

WHEREAS, Yet, there has been less focus on a plan to ensure there are adequate city services and infrastructure to absorb this growth responsibly. It is incumbent upon the City to review and analyze how this anticipated growth will impact our ability to provide basic city services such as public safety responses under fire, police, and emergency services.; and

WHEREAS, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the City of Boston’s municipal ambulance service, caring for patients with clinical proficiency, professionalism and compassion. Member’s of Boston EMS answered the call for over 134,000 medical emergencies in 2022, serving residents across every neighborhood of the city. Our EMS responders also served admirably as frontline workers during the pandemic and deserve adequate support from the City; and

WHEREAS, On Friday, May 19, a Charlestown elderly woman was in need of assistance following a medical emergency. While Boston Fire services arrived around 15 minutes after an emergency call was made, Boston EMS arrived about an hour after they were dispatched. The delay resulted in delay of care; and

WHEREAS, The resident later found out EMS transport was coming from a different neighborhood because Charlestown’s ambulance was occupied with a different call. This incident highlights the necessity in assessing city service needs in tandem with investments in city growth; and

WHEREAS, Effective growth requires a holistic approach in how the city will invest in more resources to successfully support its growing number of citizens, particularly in instances of distress. We must ensure that we have the appropriate ratio EMS cars, equipment, and personnel to provide residents with appropriate, life-saving response times;”

The hearing will be held under the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, chaired by Councilor Michael Flaherty. Members of the public are encouraged to provide written or oral comments.

Joyce Decareau

Bartender at Eddie C’s in East Boston

Joyce (Golisano) Decareau of Revere, formerly of East Boston and the North End, passed away on August 12.

Joyce was a bartender at Eddie C’s in East Boston.

The loving daughter of the late Salvatore and Dorothy (Muchini) Golisano, she was the beloved wife of the late Thomas Decareau; devoted mother of Janice Decareau of Revere, Triesto Decareau and Thomas Decareau, both of East Boston; dear sister of Salvatore Golisano, Dorothy Golisano, Anita Altri, Guy Golisano, Grace Golisano and the late Dennis and Frankie Golisano; cherished grandmother of Jessica, Alex, Ashley, Kayla and Thomas Decareau III and adored great grandmother of Adriana and Joel Jr. She is also survived by her loving companion, Abel



Gomez.

Family and friends honored Joyce’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Sunday, August 20 and again on Monday morning, August 21, before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church in East Boston for a Funeral Mass. Joyce was laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Anne Simone Brangiforte

She will truly be missed by all who knew her

Anne Simone (Diaz) Brangiforte, a lifelong resident of East Boston, passed away on August 21.

Anne graduated from East Boston High School. She met her true love, Bibby at the age of 14. They were married a few years later and spent 58 years together. Anne worked at CVS in Boston for 32 years as an office manager. She enjoyed spending summers at 3 Ponds Campground in New Hampshire with her family for many years. She was an avid reader, you never saw her without a book in her hand. She could spend hours wandering around a bookstore, getting up to the register with at least three or four books. She would read a book a day.

She loved going out shopping for clothes. She and her husband Bibby would take trips on Saturdays to all different stores so they could buy all different kinds of goodies. Anne loved cooking Sunday dinner for the entire family. Every Sunday would consist of gravy, macaroni, meatballs and sausages at ‘Nonnie’s’. Eventually, her children took over this tradition and hosted Sunday dinner. She took pride in hosting the 7 fishes on Christmas Eve and welcomed everyone to her home.

In the last few years, Anne got sick, hindering her ability to walk. Every day she woke up and did her best with what life had given her. She took pride in her children and grandchildren’s accomplishments. She never said goodbye or ended a phone call without an ‘I love you.’ Anne will be truly missed by all who knew her.

The beloved wife for



over 58 years to Salvatore “Bibby” Brangiforte, she was the loving daughter of the late Richard and Anne (Aceto) Diaz; devoted mother of Phyllis Sorrentino and her husband, John of East Boston and Philip Richard Brangiforte, Headmaster of East Boston High School, and his wife, Carrie of East Boston; dear sister of Richard Diaz and his wife, Angie of Revere, Lorraine Chabuz and her husband, Ted of East Boston, Dennis Diaz and his wife, Kathy of Revere and the late Donald Diaz and his wife, Angela; cherished grandmother of Kayla, Vincent, John, Sarah, Amanda, Jacqueline, Nicolette and Alexandria and adored great-grandmother of Connor, Julien, Jaso, and Isabella. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Family and friends will honor Anne’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St. East Boston on Sunday, August 27, from 2 to 7 p.m. and again on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church in East Boston for a 10 a.m. mass celebrating Anne’s life. Services will conclude with Anne being laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Angela White

Of Woburn, formerly of East Boston

Angela (Tirone) White, 71, of Woburn, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, August 18.

The loving daughter of the late Joseph and Catherine (Hancock) Tirone, she was the beloved mother of Chad, Jimmy, Chris and the late Alex White; former wife of John White; dear sister of Diane, Joseph, Paul, Cathy, Johnny, and Bobby and cherished grandmother of five grandchildren. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Angela’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston,



on Thursday, August 24, from 4 to 8 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Saint Joseph Parish, Wakefield, on Friday, August 25, at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Angela being laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Mildred Frances DiSessa

She was unique and beautiful on both the inside and the outside and will be sorely missed

Mildred Frances DiSessa, 92, of East Boston passed away at the Leonard Florence Center for Living in Chelsea on August 16.

Mildred was a longtime sales employee of Macy’s and worked into her 80th year. She loved ballroom dancing and would frequently listen to music at home and sing along with the greats like Nat King Cole and Tony Bennett. Living next to Constitution Beach, you could easily spot her walking the beach at a brisk pace with her dear friend Paul Cesario. Her Mediterranean Italian cooking was world-class, and was not to be missed at the family’s Sunday dinners. It was essential that her children, family and friends always got enough to eat or to take home. A longstanding parishioner at Saint Lazarus-Joseph Church in East Boston, she was unique and beautiful on both the inside and outside, and will be sorely missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Born in Boston to Anthony Accomando and Amiela (Pacino) Accomando, Mildred was the oldest of two children. Mildred was the beloved former wife of the late Peter J. DiSessa,



devoted mother of Richard DiSessa and his wife, Donna, Joseph DiSessa and his wife, Lilly and Peter DiSessa; cherished grandmother of Danielle DiSessa and Rachel (DiSessa) Tracy and beloved great-grandmother of Isla and Nora; dearest sister of Felix Paige and adored aunt to Leslie Paige, sister-in-law to Amy Paige, dear friend to Paul Cesario and loved by many relatives and friends.

Family and friends will honor Mildred’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston today, Wednesday, August 23 at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church for a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass. Services will conclude with Mildred being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery with her beloved husband, Peter. May they rest in peace. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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

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PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

ADOPT-A-POLE KICKOFF

Recovery on the Harbor held an Adopt-a-Pole Kickoff Event on August 17 to commemorate Overdose Awareness Month, in August, and National Recovery Month, in September. Volunteers hung 120 purple ribbons along Bennington and Meridian Streets in memory of loved ones who lost their battle to substance-related causes.

“It was important for me to be here to recognize and celebrate the ones we

have lost,” said Damien Cabezas, President & CEO, North Suffolk Community Services. “For those who have recovered, like myself, it keeps us grounded. I’m grateful. There are many people who don’t have that support network, and we need to get the word out about the hotline. We are here to help and listen.”

Call the North Suffolk Community Services 24/7 recovery support hotline at (844) 677-3377.



Matt McDonough, Chief Probation Officer, East Boston Court, and Kevin O'Brien.



Damien Cabezas, President & CEO, North Suffolk Community Services.



Shannon Lundin and Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy.



Katie O'Leary and Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy.



Frank and Larry of the Gavin Foundation.



Community members and city leaders gathering for the Adopt-a-Pole Kickoff Event at Recovery on the Harbor, on August 17.



Katie O'Leary hugging Reverend Wayne S. Daley, Assistant Director of Community Engagement, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.



Teresa Hall, Julie Casey, and Rebekah Cole.



Jeanine Capone, Michael DeMarco, and Marissa Todisco.



Gloribel Rivas, of Representative Adrian Madaro's office, Damien Cabezas, President & CEO North Suffolk Community Services, Yamina Lachmi, of Senator Lydia Edwards' office, Sebastian Parra, of Councilor Gigi Coletta's office, and Nancy Slamet, Director of EASTIE Coalition.



Damien Cabezas (far left), President & CEO, North Suffolk Community Services, with Honorable John McDonald, First Justice, East Boston Court, and Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy (far right), with guests of the Adopt-a-Pole Kickoff Event at Recovery on the Harbor, on August 17.



Melissa Maragioglio, Erica Greene, Nicole Ubaldi, Kathy Curley, and Julie Casey.



Julie Casey, Audrey Clairmont, Katie O'Leary, Nicole Ubaldi, Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy, Kathy Curley, and Caitlin Gillespie.

Fire officials emphasize safety for incoming college students

As thousands of young adults make their way to Massachusetts colleges and universities, fire service leaders are reminding students and parents to be sure their living spaces have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, and that they know two ways out in an emergency.

“In the weeks and months ahead, many young people will be living away from home here for the first time,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “We’re particularly concerned about off-campus housing because that’s where the data shows the greatest loss of life, but fire safety is vitally important whether you live in a dorm, apartment, single-family home, multifamily dwelling, sorority, or fraternity. Everyone should have working smoke and CO alarms on every level of their residence and know two ways out in an emergency.”

Hyannis Fire Chief Peter J. Burke, Jr, who serves as president of the

Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, echoed that message.

“If your rental doesn’t have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, insist on them,” said Chief Burke. “Landlords are required to provide them, but don’t spend a single night unprotected in the meantime. For the price of a pizza, you can go to a hardware store and pick up smoke and CO alarms that could save your life. Choose photoelectric smoke alarms with sealed, long-life batteries, and test them once a month to be sure you’re protected. And if you hear that alarm, leave everything and get out right away. Waiting to evacuate or stopping to retrieve personal items increases your chances of being trapped.”

State Fire Marshal Davine said 2,608 fires occurred in student dormitories, fraternities, and sororities in Massachusetts between 2018 and 2022, causing six civilian injuries, 11 fire service injuries, and more than \$3

million in damages. He also noted that fire safety precautions should remain in place all through the year. Windows, doors, and stairways should always be clear of boxes, furniture, bicycles, and anything else that might hinder an escape. Fire doors should never be blocked or chocked open. And smoke and carbon monoxide alarms must remain operational all year long, as required by law.

“Never, ever disable a smoke alarm,” said Chief Burke. “Modern fires burn and spread faster than they did in past decades, and we have less time than ever before to escape a fire at home. Smoke alarms give you the warning you need to get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1.”

Working alarms, clear exit routes, and practicing a plan for using them are crucial for when a fire breaks out, but students can also take steps to prevent them from starting in the first place:

Smoking: There is no safe way to smoke, but

if you must smoke then do it responsibly. Don’t flick them on the ground, where they can smolder and ignite debris, or grind them out on porches or steps. Use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface and put it out, all the way, every time.

Electrical: Always plug appliances such as air conditioners and space heaters into wall sockets that can handle the current, not power strips or extension cords. Don’t overload outlets with multiple devices.

Heating: Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave a space heater

unattended.

Cooking: Stand by your pan! Don’t leave pots and pans unattended on a lit stovetop, and keep flammable items away from burners. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid and then turn off the heat. Cook only when you’re alert, not when you’re drowsy or impaired.

Candles: Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish them before leaving the room. Even better, switch to battery-powered candles.



Lithium-Ion Batteries: Use the charging equipment provided by the

manufacturer and disconnect it when the device is charged. Charge phones, laptops, e-cigarettes, e-bike batteries, and other devices on a hard and stable surface – never a bed, couch, or pillow. If you notice an unusual odor, change in color, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises, stop using the device right away. If you can do so safely, move it away from anything that can burn and call your local fire department.

For more fire safety tips for both on and off campus, visit www.mass.gov/dfs.

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DOGWOOD TREES RELOCATED FROM BACK BAY TO EAST BOSTON

Thanks to a generous donor and the efforts of open space advocates, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s Urban Forestry Division recently oversaw the relocation of three dogwood trees that had been growing on a rooftop deck in Back Bay to East Boston.

The Parks Department learned about the availability of the three trees from longtime community partner Margaret Pokorny, Co-Chair of the Tree Committee of the Garden Club of the Back Bay. The owner of the trees had to do a roof repair and in doing so the rooftop deck and landscaping needed to be removed, including the flowering dogwoods that had been growing in large containers on the roof for approximately 10 years. The Back Bay resident, who asked to remain anonymous, paid not only for the removal but the re-

location as well.

“The Forestry Division was thrilled to learn that a Boston resident who had larger diameter, healthy dogwood trees growing on their rooftop deck was interested in donating them to an appropriate location in need of more tree canopy,” explained Todd Mistor, Boston’s Director of Urban Forestry.

Analysis done during the planning process for Boston’s Urban Forest Plan showed that East Boston has the lowest tree canopy coverage of any neighborhood in the city. Thanks to the proximity to the tree’s original location in Back Bay and a partnership with the non-profit Tree Eastie, a suitable location was found in East Boston Memorial Park, not far from the East Boston Greenway.

“With the help of the donors and their landscape contractor and a network

of ‘tree people’ in the city an agreement was easily reached to gratefully accept these trees and put them into one of Boston’s most tree-needy neighborhoods,” Mistor noted. “This was a win-win for everyone.”

According to Bill Masterson, Founder and Executive Director of Tree Eastie, after being removed from the Back Bay rooftop by crane and transported to East Boston, the replanting went well and the trees have been watered regularly by Eastie Farm’s Climate Corp, an environmental stewardship program of high school students.

“We found the perfect location at Memorial Park in East Boston, adjacent to Logan Airport and along a walking path to the Airport T station,” Masterson noted. “These trees will provide years of noise and air pollution mitigation as well as add beauty, shade, and wildlife habitat to our community. East Boston residents are very grateful to the donor for their gen-



Eight-year-old Myles Masterson, Tree Eastie volunteer and grandson of founder Bill Masterson, points out the three dogwood trees donated by a Back Bay homeowner and relocated at East Boston Memorial Park. (Photo: Bill Masterson)



One of three donated dogwood trees begins its trip from Back Bay to East Boston. (Photo: Todd Mistor)

NEMO brings CFA show to MetroWest on August 27

What do community organizer and radio talk show host Ron Bell and Boston Globe travel writer and columnist Christopher Muther have in common? On Sunday, August 27, the answer will be CATS!

Both men are guest judges for an event that’s always the highlight of New England Meow Outfit, Inc’s (NEMO) annual cat show – the Cat and Owner Costume Contest! The contest celebrates the human-animal bond in a most a-mewsing way: Participants and their cats in coordinated (or other-

wise related) outfits will slowly parade past the two judges, each of whom will select a different winning pair to receive a \$40 Petsmart gift card. Russell Webb, allbreed judge and Vice President of the Cat Fanciers’ Association (CFA), will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event. It’s all part of a two-day cat show being held at The VERVE Hotel Boston, 1360 Worcester Street, in Natick, August 26 and 27. (Costume contest participants must be entered in the cat show in order to compete.)

Bell is a prominent community organizer and activist from Boston’s Mission Hill neighborhood. He is also a tireless advocate for social justice, best known as the founder of the Dunk the Vote organization, which focuses on increasing participation and voter turnout. He is affiliated with Boston Black News and co-hosts the Morning Crew radio show on WBPG-LP 102.9 FM Radio.

Muther is a travel writer and columnist for the Globe, a part-time DJ and a full-time feline enthusiast. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, he formerly

covered fashion and style for the G section of the Globe and served as an Adjunct Professor at Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

The contest is just one small part of the cat show, which is expected to bring together over 100 cats and over 30 pedigreed breeds, as well as a clowder of household pets. Eight professional judges affiliated with the Cat Fanciers’ Association (the world’s oldest and largest registry of pedigreed cats) will present and evaluate the cats for awards. Pedigreed cats will be judged based on their breed standard, which details the “perfect” example of each breed – for example, head shape, body length, coat quality, and color. Household pets are judged on an individual level – their looks, personality, and grooming come heavily into play. Any cat may be entered in this class – it is very inclusive and fun to watch.

Breeders will be on hand to meet spectators and help them learn about the different breeds. Vendors of cat-related articles will also be on hand for your shopping pleasure, and a raffle will offer visitors a chance to win ev-

erything from cat trees to jewelry to wine.

For kids, there’s even a stuffed animal contest with prizes, held on Saturday afternoon. Also on Saturday afternoon, Show Manager Iris Zinck (who is a CFA affiliated judge) will conduct the Kitty Playoffs, a contest to determine the most playful cat or kitten entered in the show.

Area cat lovers are welcome to enter their own cats (by August 21) so they can participate in the show, too. Kittens and Household Pets can be entered without a registration number, but all others must obtain a number from CFA. (More info at <https://cfa.org/blog/events/new-england-meow-outfit-aug23/>)

Spectators are welcome throughout the event, which runs from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for children under 12, and those under 5 are FREE!!

Advance tickets are highly recommended due to limited capacity!

Tickets are available via: <https://nemocatshow.ticketleap.com/dont-miss-bostons-only-cfa-cat-show>.

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