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EBCCS – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A photograph of two female students in school uniforms (white shirts and dark vests) standing behind a wooden podium. The student on the right is speaking into a microphone, while the student on the left, wearing glasses, looks down. The background is slightly blurred, showing a red and white striped flag.

**Carolos Hincapie, as Jesus, rises victorious over death.**

---

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Out of the 13 responses, the most supported ideas were an afternoon walk on the Greenway, a block par-

As the discussion progressed, some venues were briefly mentioned, but Batra made it clear that there would not be a total switch to in-person meet-

**See GSCA Page 2**

## Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced six Open Streets events, adding Hyde Park as an Open Streets location and beginning the popular car-free event series earlier in the year. Similar to years past, more than a mile will be temporarily closed to vehicular traffic to create room for community and play. The half-day events will allow local businesses to expand into the street, and to safely make space for music, games, bicycling, community tabling, and more. This year, Open Streets will be in Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, East Boston, and Allston-Brighton, with events throughout late spring, summer, and early fall. These pedestrian-focused events build on Mayor Wu's commitment to reimagining our

“Expanding our Open Streets events gives residents more opportunities to explore new neighborhoods in their city,” said

**See OPEN STREETS Page 9**

RUGGIERO  
FAMILY  
MEMORIAL  
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MEMORIAL HOME

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Crews performed track work in the underground tunnel of the Orange Line. Complimentary photo by the MBTA Customer and Employee Experience Department.



Infrastructure improvements were accomplished along the Orange Line. Complimentary photo by the MBTA Customer and Employee Experience Department.



Security and emergency management enhancements were performed at Downtown Crossing. Complimentary photo by the MBTA Customer and Employee Experience Department.

# MBTA makes further progress on expedited critical track work on Orange Line, removes seven speed restrictions

The MBTA today announced the completion of critical track work on the Orange Line. Crews accomplished this critical work due to unencumbered access to track areas while Orange Line service was suspended between Jackson Square and North Station for four days from March 18-21. As a result, six safety-related speed restrictions were removed last week with a seventh removed over the weekend following final completion work.

“With each step, we are following through on our commitment to rebuild our tracks to give our riders the improved reliable trip they deserve. I’m proud of the dedicated workforce that worked in a short window of time while delivering on significant work along the Orange Line corridor,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “There is much more to do, and we are determined to make tough decisions to prioritize work while balancing the need to ensure the public has sufficient options to use mass transportation alternatives. We thank riders for their patience and understanding as we continue reinvesting in our infrastructure and make important progress to give them a system that they can rely on and be proud of.”

With unencumbered access to Orange Line stations, crews were able to accomplish critical work and maximize access to tracks and stations in a number of ways:

- More than 5,000 feet of rail was installed.
- 27 cologne egg rail fasteners were replaced.
- 63 rail “shoulders” were cored.
- Nearly 260 plates were installed.
- 10 switch timbers embedded in concrete were replaced by the Maintenance of Way team.
- 500 feet of stringer cable was replaced.
- Nine third rail insulators were replaced by the Maintenance of Way team.
- Critical switch and crossover work was accomplished.
- Tunnel inspections were performed between State and Haymarket.
- Structural overhead inspections of stations were accomplished at Chinatown, Massachusetts Avenue, Ruggles, and Roxbury Crossing with additional station entrance inspections performed.
- Concrete slab sections were replaced within the State station “Rainbow Corridor.”
- Station inspections were accomplished between Jackson Square and Downtown Crossing.
- Modernization work along the southwest corridor between Roxbury Crossing and Chinatown was performed with concrete coring accomplished in eight locations.
- Security and emergency management enhancements were performed at Downtown Crossing.
- Crews performed visual surveys and measurements of tunnels,

As a result of this critical work, the following safety-related speed restrictions are no longer in place:

Speed Restriction Number	Restriction Information and Location	Status
1. 526479	Northbound between Ruggles and Massachusetts Avenue	Removed
2. 000045	Northbound at Back Bay	Removed
3. 523874	Northbound between Back Bay and Tufts Medical Center	Removed
4. 523882	Northbound between Tufts Medical Center and Chinatown	Removed
5. 000055	Southbound at Chinatown	Removed
6. 000061	Northbound at Back Bay	Removed
7. 000002	Northbound between Tufts Medical Center and Chinatown	Removed

Additionally, four speed restrictions were removed on the Red Line last week:

Speed Restriction Number	Restriction Information and Location	Status
1. 000128	Between Quincy Center and Quincy Adams	Removed
2. 000132	Between Andrew and JFK/UMass	Removed
3. 000129	Between North Quincy and Wollaston	Removed
4. 000131	Between JFK/UMass and North Quincy	Removed

communication rooms, and emergency exits from Ruggles to State in support of the MBTA’s State-wide Radio System cable installation path. Crews also surveyed Station Communication rooms and public areas for radio equipment installations as the crew progressed from

station to station through the tunnels. A variety of other in-station work also took place along the Orange Line to further enhance the rider experience, including:

- cleaning, sanding, and painting wooden station benches;
- fire retardant installa-

tions;

- station painting;
- door repairs;
- yellow tactile edging repairs to platforms;
- flooring repairs to prevent tripping hazards;
- concrete repairs;
- stairway upgrades and repairs, including handrail repairs;

- waste receptacle replacements;
- powerwashing and cleaning work; and
- installing/replacing station signage, including system maps.

For more information, visit [mbta.com/TrackProgram](https://www.mbta.com/TrackProgram).



Crews worked in critical track areas during this Orange Line diversion. Complimentary photo by the MBTA Customer and Employee Experience Department.

Dear Mar,

I just wanted to show you how much I love and appreciate you.

I recall one year in 1980 something you were given the title of mother of the year. To me, you are the mother of a lifetime. I am truly sorry for dragging you through times I wish I could take back. All the while knowing you never stopped loving and supporting. You were and still are my biggest fan.I watched you go through many of life's challenges only to come out more determined than ever. I clung on to that! Determined, and was able to come out of my own trials an tribulations with not just determination but hope. I would have never made it if I didn't have you, Fran Carbone, aka. Momster, aka Helmut.

Happy Easter Mar

I love and cherish you. We all do!

## GSCA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ings but that it would be occasional. The option of a hybrid meeting was also broached.

Later, the conversation about community building and potential in-person meetings ended. However, Batra clarified that these conversations will be open and continue at the next GSCA meeting in April.

In addition to community building, those in attendance considered changing the name of the GSCA.

“When I joined the board a couple of years ago, I was a little uncertain about having ‘Citizens’ in the name,” said Batra.

Batra continued explaining that he was unsure how well the definition of citizen translates in other languages and said, “It’s just a nuance that might get lost. So we’re

thinking it might be better to just change the name.”

Again, there were 13 responses to a survey that provided different options for an updated name, and the top choices were Gove Street Neighborhood Association and Gove Street Community Association.

Overall, there seemed to be significant support for a name change, with those in attendance providing opinions that the concern about the word citizen was valid, that there is no downside to a name change, and more.

Another Board Member, Paola Villatoro, provided some context regarding a potential name change.

Villatoro, who indicated she was born in Honduras, said, in part, “I would say that, like, if people like my parents saw the name,

they probably wouldn’t even continue even reading the flyer because they just would assume that it’s not for them.”

Batra, who said his parents are immigrants, also added context, saying, “I could see people just not born here seeing citizen in the title of the name and just not really paying any further attention to it because they’re not citizens.”

There was also a more specific discussion about the potential new name. Batra leaned toward the Gove Street Community Association since the group would retain the GSCA acronym and liked the idea of being a community because of what it implied.

However, Claudia Lawry, an attendee, and O’Reilly seemed to favor

Gove Street Neighborhood Association. Lawry pointed out that other East Boston groups use the moniker ‘Neighborhood Association’ and that neighborhood might translate most sensibly.

O’Reilly echoed Lawry, saying, “People know what a neighborhood association is, and the fact that they’re all over the city and at the present time, all over the city neighborhood associations are rising up — it does signal who we are.” Others in the meeting chat also tended to agree with O’Reilly.

Ultimately, there has not been an official name change at this time. The conversation is slated to continue in April, and there could potentially be a vote. The GSCA will meet again on April 22.



CELEBRATING ELECTED WOMEN IN OFFICE

The inaugural Breakfast in Celebration of Elected Women from Revere, Winthrop, and East Boston took place this past

Saturday at Pamona Cafe, orchestrated by hostess Hannah Belcher. The event saw a gathering of elected officials from the

respective communities, including the presence of State Representative Jessica Giannino and State Senator Lydia Edwards.



State Senator Lydia Edwards talks with those who attended.



COURTESY PHOTOS

An inaugural Breakfast in Celebration of Elected Women was held recently at Pamona Cafe in Winthrop.



Shown are State Sen. Lydia Edwards with Winthrop Town Councillor and event host, Hannah Belcher, and State Rep. Jessica Giannino.



Elected officials shared laughs and conversation over the breakfast table. Shown above, School Committee women Aisha Millbury-Ellis speaks to everyone at the table.



Shown above, elected officials and elected-hopefuls from Revere, East Boston and Winthrop, alike gathered to celebrate women in local office at Pamona Cafe in Winthrop.

MBTA announces East Boston, Lynn, and Winthrop ferry service resuming this spring

Special to the Times-Free Press

The MBTA announced that East Boston ferry service will resume for the season effective Monday, April 1, and the Lynn and Winthrop ferries will resume for the season effective Monday, April 29. Weekend Hingham/Hull/Logan to Boston ferry service will also resume beginning Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 25, through Columbus/Indigenous Peoples’ Day weekend, Monday, October 14.

Service schedules for the East Boston ferry are available online now at [mbta.com/EastBoston](https://mbta.com/EastBoston). Lynn, Winthrop, and weekend Hingham/Hull/Logan ferry schedules will be posted in the coming weeks at [mbta.com/ferry](https://mbta.com/ferry). Spring service schedules for Subway, Bus, and Commuter Rail will be available soon at [mbta.com/ServiceChanges](https://mbta.com/ServiceChanges).

The East Boston ferry operates on weekdays and weekends from April 1 through November 30 between East Boston at Lewis Mall Wharf and the downtown Boston area at

Long Wharf (North). A one-way fare on the East Boston ferry is \$2.40 (or \$1.10 for Reduced Fare riders), which is the same as taking the subway. Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app. Printed LinkPasses, Commuter Rail Zone passes, and M7s are also accepted. M7 cards, or M7s, are MBTA Student CharlieCards that are pre-loaded with monthly passes for the school year for middle and high schoolers. In support of MassDOT’s Summer Tunnel project, the East Boston ferry will be free for riders as an alternate mode of transportation in July and August 2024. East Boston ferry service is funded through the Commonwealth.

The Lynn ferry operates on weekdays starting April 29 with new weekend service beginning Saturday, May 25, through October 31 between the Blossom Street Pier and the downtown Boston area at Long Wharf (North). A one-way fare on the Lynn ferry is currently \$7 (or \$3.50 for Reduced Fare riders) in

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Minimum incomes do not apply for this project.

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Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)			
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Saturday	04/13/24	10:00am-2:00pm	31 Liverpool Street East Boston, MA 02128
Thursday	04/18/24	3:00pm-7:00pm	31 Liverpool Street East Boston, MA 02128
Saturday	04/20/24	10:00am -2:00pm	31 Liverpool Street East Boston, MA 02128

To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <https://bit.ly/MayLandAppReg> or scan the code



SCAN ME

We will hold our first informational meeting on **April 10, 2024 from 10:00am - 12:00pm** at **Mattapan Heights, 249 River Street, Mattapan, MA 02126**. Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://trinitydm.zoom.us/j/8845942415>

We will hold our second informational meeting on **April 17, 2024 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm** at **Maverick Landing, 31 Liverpool Street, East Boston, MA 02128**. Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://trinitydm.zoom.us/j/84475957107>

**DEADLINE:** Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **May 5, 2024**. Mailed to **31 Liverpool Street, East Boston, MA 02128**

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

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call **617-569-3333** or email [Maverick@trinitymanagementcompany.com](mailto:Maverick@trinitymanagementcompany.com)

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Times-Free Press

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## CAN AI SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT?

The coming revolution in Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds great promise for the future benefit of mankind. (Yeah, we know, there are pitfalls, but for purposes of this editorial, we’re writing about a potential positive.)

As we were listening the other day to an interview with the amazing Jensen Huang, the President and CEO of Nvidia, the chip company that is pioneering the AI revolution, in which he was saying that AI could shorten the cumbersome Phase I-IV trial periods for new drugs by years (not to mention that AI can be used to develop new drugs), it occurred to us that in the same way, AI could be used to shorten environmental review periods for the construction of new wind and solar power facilities and their transmission lines.

Right now, the biggest obstacles to clean energy becoming more prevalent across the U.S. are the environmentalists themselves. Clean energy advocates and companies are finding it’s one thing to build-out a wind and solar farm, but quite another to obtain the permits for transmission lines to carry the new energy to population centers because of cumbersome and time-consuming regulations and the opposition of environmental groups by lawsuits.

For example, our region could have had cheap and clean hydropower from Canada almost 10 years ago, but environmental groups in Maine filed lawsuit after lawsuit to stop the transmission lines from going through their state. Each and every suit has been dismissed, but here we are, almost a decade later, and we still do not have hydropower from Canada -- and there is some question as to whether it ever will be accomplished.

Similarly, it took 17 years (that’s not a misprint) for regulatory approval for the construction of the largest wind project in the country in the New Mexico desert so that this clean energy can get to population centers in Arizona.

So it got us to thinking: Perhaps AI, which can accomplish billions of calculations in seconds, can help speed up the regulatory process so we can get these projects on-line ASAP.

Because here’s the problem: Environmentalists are now their own -- and the environment’s -- worst enemy. With the energy industry on-board with developing energy from renewable sources -- even the big oil companies are looking at green and blue hydrogen production -- the problem is that nothing can be built quickly because of the lengthy environmental review processes and laws (that allow lawsuits by the dozens) which can delay clean-energy projects for years and years.

But with each day’s news informing us of impending environmental catastrophe, it is obvious that we do not have time to waste. It also is becoming increasingly clear that we human beings are incapable of saving either ourselves or the natural world.

But perhaps the AI machines can do it for us -- and if so, they will give literal meaning to the metaphorical term, “Deus ex machina.”

## ANOTHER HAPLESS SEASON FOR THE SOX

With the Red Sox set to open their 2024 season this week, it seems all but assured that the Sox are destined for a third-straight last- place finish in the American League East.

For those of us who cherish our copy of the “Impossible Dream” record album, which chronicled the 1967 Red Sox, who improbably won the American League pennant (“The Red Sox win! It’s pandemonium on the field!”), this has been the sorriest stretch by a Sox squad since the early and mid-1960s, when the Red Sox similarly were cellar-dwellers year-in and year-out.

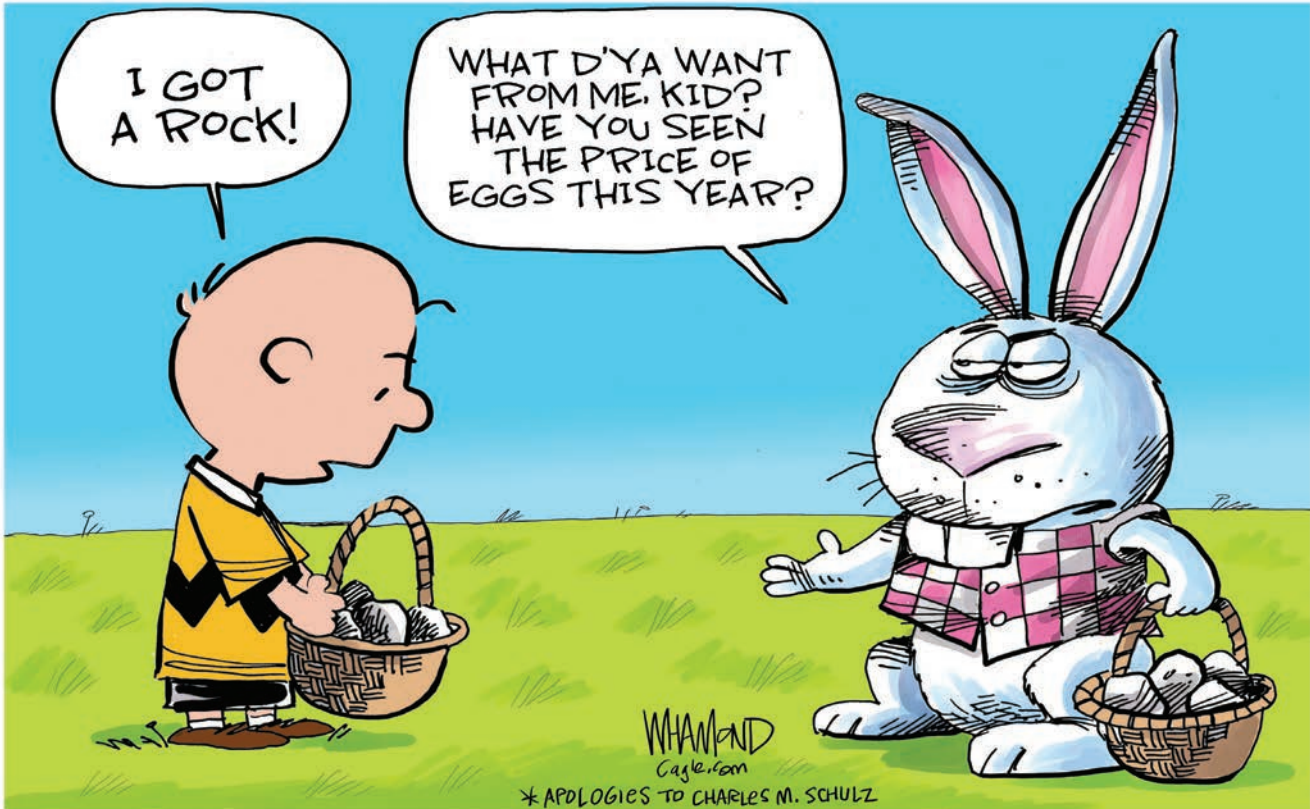
It’s obvious that the Red Sox ownership, which brought us four World Series titles from 2004-2018, basically has checked out and is taking the Fenway Faithful for granted. Sad to say, it looks like 2024 will be another long, hot -- and losing -- summer for Boston baseball fans.

The East Boston Times-Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for space, accuracy and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The East Boston Times-Free Press publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The East Boston Times-Free Press.

Text or attachments emailed to editor@eastietimes.com are preferred.



# Forum



### GUEST OP-ED

## MBTA updates and the future of the Ferry

By Senator Lydia Edwards

As we kick off a new ferry season, it’s important to note how far we’ve come and what there is to look forward to. The Healey Administration has made historic investments in water transportation in the past two years. One such example is the hiring of David Perry as the first Director of Commuter Ferry for the MBTA, making him the first person to be solely dedicated to ferry operations.

Another example is starting the ferry season earlier this year. The ferries for East Boston will start on April 1st, and for Winthrop on April 29th. Both will run until November 30th.

“I am so excited to see the continued growth of our ferry system. Also, I would like to say, ‘welcome aboard’ to David Perry, pun intended.” Starting the season earlier is part of a larger effort, spearheaded by Senator

Brendan Crighton, requesting several improvements to the ferry system. Senator Lydia Edwards, Representative Jeff Turco, Representative Adrian Madaro, Chair Aaron Michlewitz, and members of the Quincy and Lynn delegations all signed the letter.

Senator Edwards believes that while we have accomplished a lot, we need to continue to advocate for water transportation. Examples of Senator Edwards’s advocacy include securing state funding for Winthrop’s ferry totaling \$2 million (\$1 million for each year of the tunnel closure), as well as coordinating with fellow senators to pool bonding funding totaling \$28 million for ferry planning, infrastructure, vessel procurement, and accessibility. “As a freshman senator, I organized several of my colleagues to take our bonding allocations and put them together for a waterfront transportation

system from Gloucester to Quincy. I am still grateful to Senator Crighton, Senator Joan Lovely, Senator John Keenan, and Senator Tarr.”

In recent talks with the MBTA, Senator Edwards was excited to learn about big plans for the near future. First, we expect (though cannot promise) that the Blue Line will be free, and the ferry will be subsidized during the tunnel closure this summer. Second, the new Low Income Fare pilot program will apply to M Passes, so qualifying members of the public will receive a reduced rate. This was music to Senator Edwards’s ears, as she is the lead Senate sponsor of low-income fares legislation.

Still, we have a lot to push for to make sure this is a viable system. Senator Edwards will continue to advocate for several things, including: an integrated payment system so that the Charlie Card will work on the ferry, bus, and

T; fare equity to ensure that Winthrop residents pay the same amount as East Boston residents per ride; an additional vessel to increase frequency; and finally, a new navigation plan that connects Quincy to the Hull/Hingham line, thus allowing Winthrop to have stops in East Boston (airport), Seaport, and Long Wharf only.

As we enter budget season, one of the areas Senator Edwards is focused on is ensuring the ferry system is funded. Currently, there is no funding allocated in the budget. “I think that is an oversight. We just talked with the Administration about how cost-effective and environmentally friendly ferries are,” she said. The total projected cost to fund the East Boston, Lynn, and Winthrop ferries is \$5 million.

*Lydia Edwards represents East Boston in the Massachusetts State Senate.*

## LOCAL STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

### MARCHI EARNS A SPOT ON THE DEAN’S LIST AT COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

More than 3,000 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2023 semester, including William Marchi, from East Boston. Students who make the Dean’s List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher (3.25 for freshmen) for the semester.

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, located just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

CCU offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 100 major fields of study. Among the University’s graduate-level programs are 27 master’s degrees, one educational specialist degree, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs

through Coastal Online.

More than 10,800 students from across the country and around the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 180 student clubs and organizations.

### HOLY CROSS ANNOUNCES FALL 2023 DEAN’S LIST

More than 1,600 students were named to the College of the Holy Cross’ Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the Fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year. The following local students made the list:

Eileen Ledesma of East Boston , Class of 2026  
Sara Lopez Alvarez of East Boston , Class of 2027

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross  
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worces-

ter, Mass., is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous,

personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating

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# East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS

## 2024 Easter



## Hunniees



Cousins, Jace & Miles



Happy Easter! From Milo



Zero & the Easter Bunny



Baby's First Easter! ♡



Happy Easter from Jet!



Happy Easter from William & Lucas



Emmalia, Alianora & Noah



Happy Easter, Michael, Lots of love From your Easter Burnie



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EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRESENTS THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) 8th grade class presented the Stations of the Cross on March 22 in honor of Holy Week. They meditated on Christ’s Passion and promise of eternal life during a re-enactment that chronicled Jesus’s condemnation, burdensome climb to Golgotha, death on the cross, and triumphant resurrection. Students prayed that the Lord help guide them on their own paths to lead more devote, compassionate, and selfless lives. They asked God for the courage to persevere, the grace to forgive, and the faith to love and serve the Lord.

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Dishawn Newton, as Pontius Pilate, approaches the assembly who were incited by the Pharisees to demand the release of Barabbas, and crucifixion of Jesus.



The women of Jerusalem, played by Kelsey O'Connor, Adriana Puerta-Oliveras, and Hanna Munoz, pray at Jesus's side when He is taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb.



Jesus, played by Carolos Hincapie, is stripped of His garments and nailed to the cross by soldiers, played by Luisantonio Rivero and Thomas Rozzi.



East Boston Central Catholic School 8th grade class presented Stations of the Cross on March 22.



Wishing You and Your Families a wonderful Easter



State Senator  
**Lydia Edwards** ★★  
Paid Political Advertisement

Happy Easter



Boston City Councilor  
**Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta**



After Veronica, played by Kayla Gomes, wipes the face of Jesus, she notices the imprint of His face on her veil.




Wishing You a Safe And Healthy Easter

From the staff of...

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East Boston, MA





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*Buona Pasqua*  
**Wishing You Health and wellbeing this Easter**



**617-569-0990 • Visit us at our website: [www.RuggieroMH.com](http://www.RuggieroMH.com)**







ZUMIX AND HOOPLA PRODUCTIONS HOST ‘OPEN YOUR HEART’ PROGRAM

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Zumix and Hoopla Productions, with support from Mayor Wu’s Office of Arts and Culture, presented the premier screening of their collaborative, year-long project, “Open Your Heart: Immigrant Stories from Boston and Beyond,” on March 16 at Boston’s Civic Pavilion.

“When you walk into Zumix, you’re walking into a love puddle where young people’s voices and creativity are honored; where music and the arts are vehicles for creating community, and even family,” said Mindy Fried, Executive Director, Hoopla.

Fried and her non-profit organization create art-based experiences that promote community. She produced the film in hopes of fostering compassion, and exposing disinformation about immigrants and their lives. Fried revealed her concern that some people in power have an agenda that promotes hate and demonizes immigrants in an effort to divide society.

“Our democracy is at risk and we need to do something about that,” Fried asserted. “We believe it’s critical to bring the diversity of immigrant stories into public conversation to build a greater sense of solidarity and connectedness among immigrants and allies.”

Zumix youth and Hoopla focused on deepening their understanding of immigrants in the East Boston neighborhood. The film documents the teens’ journey from interviewing immigrant activists to performing their stories on stage with professional actors at City Hall Plaza.

Katherine Mendez Lopez, from the Office of Immigrant Advancement, attended the screening and expressed her gratitude



Katherine Mendez Lopez and Courtney White, of the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement.



Zumix youth, Kenneth Palacios and Angelica Muñoz, performing “Memories,” by Maroon 5.



Filmmakers Monica Cohen and Jesse Epstein, with Mindy Fried, Executive Director, Hoopla Productions.

for the youths’ dedication. Lopez moved from Colombia to America when she was 15-years-old, full of dreams and fears. She shared that for the first three years, she and her family lived in a small, studio apartment with her grandmother, two aunts, and cousin, in New York City.

“I was unable to express myself. The lan-

guage seemed daunting to learn,” remembered Lopez. “It seems like it was yesterday that I was looking out the window, thinking about the life I left behind, and the person I wanted to become. It was my family, and stories of people like the ones portrayed in the film, that still give me hope; especially on dark days.”



The audience enjoying a musical performance by Angelica Muñoz and Kenneth Palacios.



Friends gathering at the Boston Civic Pavilion on March 16 for the premier of “Open Your Heart: Immigrant Stories from Boston and Beyond.”

MassDOT’s second National Work Zone Awareness Week announced

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the launch of its second National Work Zone Awareness Week billboard design contest, exclusively for Massachusetts college students. The contest aims to raise awareness of work zone safety and encourage drivers to exercise caution when passing through active construction and maintenance projects.

“We’re calling for all great ideas for our second annual National Work Zone Awareness Week billboard contest,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. “Creative designs and advertisement are a powerful way to reach residents and remind them how to keep our construction crews safe.”

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is an annual event that brings attention to work

zone safety and education around preventing crashes and fatalities in these areas. The theme for NWZAW 2024 is “Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever.” The main takeaway is while work zones may be temporary, the choices made by drivers in these areas can have far-reaching effects. Whether it’s excessive speed, distracted driving, or ignoring traffic laws, poor behaviors exhibited behind the wheel can lead to severe injuries, fatalities, and long-lasting trauma for individuals and families.

The contest is open to all students who are currently enrolled in Massachusetts colleges. The winning designs will be selected based on creativity, impact, and relevance to the NWZAW theme. The contest ends on April 19, and the winning designs will be announced on May 1 during the 2024

MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference. The top 3 designs will be displayed on a series of digital billboards along the highways in Massachusetts throughout the 2024 construction season. The winning designs will be awarded a scholarship generously provided by the Massachusetts Aggregate and Asphalt Pavement Association (MAAPA). As staunch advocates for roadway safety, MAAPA recognizes the crucial importance of promoting work zone safety and is dedicated to increasing awareness about driving responsibly near work zones.

1st place: \$500 and 3-month billboard display (June, August, November)  
2nd place: \$300 and 2-month billboard display (July, October)  
3rd place: \$200 and 1-month billboard display (September).



Angelica Muñoz, Kenneth Palacios, Robin Chavez, Brittany Thomas, Director of Creative Media and Technology, Zumix, and Mindy Fried, Executive Director, Hoopla Productions.

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# Suffolk Downs to host annual Daffodil Dash April 13

Looking for a family friendly way to kick-off the Boston Marathon weekend? On Saturday, April 13, The HYM Investment Group LLC (HYM), will host the third annual Marathon Daffodil Dash from 10am-1pm at The Track at Suffolk Downs, in partnership with the Revere Parks and Recreation Department and the Marathon

Daffodil Project. The Marathon Daffodil Project began after the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013 with the yellow daffodil used as a symbol of strength and hope. In commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the Boston Marathon Bombings, The Track at Suffolk Downs will be filled with the “Marathon

Daffodils” that line the streets of Boston leading up to the Boston Marathon finish line. The event will feature three 50-yard dash races for grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8. Following the races, all participants and families are encouraged to hang out in The Paddock and enjoy snacks from local ven-

dors, face painting, flower crowns, and music with DJ Steve Fortes. “We are thrilled to partner with the Marathon Daffodil Project and Revere Parks and Recreation again for our third year hosting the Daffodil Dash,” said Thomas N. O’Brien, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of The HYM In-

vestment Group LLC. “At Suffolk Downs, our family-friendly neighborhood is designed for Greater Boston residents to come together and create lasting memories as part of this vibrant community.” The event is free and open to the public, but registration for the Daffodil Dash is required to participate in the race events.

The races will kick off at 10:30am. The Track at Suffolk Downs is located at 525 McClellan Highway Boston, MA 02128. Parking is free and available on-site. The Track is also accessible from the MBTA’s Suffolk Downs Blue Line station.

# FBI Boston recovers and returns 22 historic artifacts to Japan

The FBI Boston Division has recovered 22 historic artifacts that were looted following the Battle of Okinawa and has orchestrated their return to the Government of Japan, Okinawa Prefecture. These artifacts had been missing for almost 80 years. A formal repatriation ceremony will be held in Japan at a later date.

The 22 artifacts, some of which date back to the 18th and 19th centuries, represent a significant piece of Okinawan history and include six portraits, (three of which were one piece and appear to have been divided into three pieces), a hand drawn map of Okinawa dating back to the 19th century, and various pieces of pottery and ceramics.

In 2001, the Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, as a result of its

participation in the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program, registered some of these artifacts with the FBI’s National Stolen Art File (NSAF), a database of art and cultural property that have been reported stolen to the FBI by law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

“It’s incredibly gratifying when the FBI is able to recover precious cultural property that has been missing for almost 80 years,” said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. “This case highlights the important role the public plays in recognizing and reporting possible stolen art. We’d like to thank the family from Massachusetts who did the right thing in reaching out to us and relinquishing these

treasures so we could return them to the people of Okinawa.”

Last year, a family (who wishes to remain anonymous) was going through their late father’s personal effects and came across what appeared to be very valuable Asian art. Their father was a World War II veteran, but never served in the Pacific Theater. In an effort to identify the provenance of the artifacts, they checked the National Stolen Art File and determined that at least four of the items were missing 18th century portraits that had been listed in the database. Included with the artifacts was an unsigned, typewritten letter stating these items were collected in Okinawa during the last days of World War II.

The FBI conducted a logical investigation and was able to authenticate

the artworks.

“It’s an exciting moment when you watch the scrolls unfurl in front of you and you just witness history, and you witness something that hasn’t been seen by many people in a very long time,” said Geoffrey Kelly, an FBI Boston Special Agent, and Art Crime Team member. “These artifacts are culturally significant, they’re important pieces of Japan’s identity. These were especially important because they were portraits of Okinawan kings dating back to the 18th, 19th centuries. This case really illustrates part of the work we do on the Art Crime Team. It’s not always about prosecutions and putting someone in jail. A lot of what we do is making sure stolen property gets back to its rightful owners even if it’s many generations down

the road.”

The National Museum of Asian Art at the Smithsonian Institute assisted the FBI in ensuring that the artifacts were properly packaged for transport back to Japan.

“The FBI reached out, asked us for some help making sure they knew how to care for the works and that they had a safe place to store them while they worked out the repatriation details,” said Danielle Bennett, head of collections management at the National Museum of Asian Art at the Smithsonian Institute. “It’s an honor to be able to help the works go back to their home.”

The FBI also thanks the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) 38 G Monuments Men and Women, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and the U.S. Air Force for their assistance in securing and transporting the artifacts to Okinawa Prefecture, Japan.

On Friday, March 15, 2024, Denny Tamaki, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, announced the return of the artifacts to the people of Okinawa, Japan, in a news conference stating “it is very meaningful that the FBI, along with others in the U.S. Government, have cooperated to realize this return.”

## OBITUARIES

### Anna Mae Silvia

Former leader of Brownies and Girl Scouts at St. Lazarus Church

Anna Mae (West) Silvia of East Boston, formerly of Quincy, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 24 at 95 years of age.

Anna was a troop leader of the Brownies and Girl Scouts of Saint Lazarus Church and throughout the community.

The beloved wife of the late Manuel “Sonny” Silvia, she was the loving daughter of the late Harold West and Ann Ford, devoted mother of Michelle Fanning and husband, John of East Boston and Sharon Silvia of Randolph; dear sister of Matthew “Rusty” Kennedy and his wife, Ann and the late Jane Ricupero of Winthrop; adored grandmother of Katelynn Cali and her husband, Brandon, Meghan Paolera and her husband, Thomas, Casey Fanning and her fiancé, Christopher Dellazoppa and beloved great-grandmother of Lucas Cali and Thomas Paolera. She is also survived by her lov-



ing nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Anna’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston on Thursday, March 28th from 9 to 12 Noon. A prayer service will be held in the Serenity Chapel of the funeral home at Noon. Services will conclude with Anna being laid to rest with her beloved husband at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Peabody. May they rest in peace.

For more information visit: [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Open Streets // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jascha Franklin-Hodge, Chief of Streets. “Open Streets bring neighborhoods together to enjoy a safe, fun environment for walking, biking, and recreation.”

“Open Streets events are a wonderful opportunity for Boston residents to support small businesses and enjoy their neighborhoods,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “I appreciate the Mayor and colleagues across the Administration, our partners in the field, and the women- and BIPOC-led businesses helping to grow the number of safe and successful Open Streets events.”

“The expansion of Open Streets brings Hyde Park neighbors together to experience joy and unity in their community,” said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. “I am excited to see Hyde Park businesses thrive and see the smiles on residents’ faces that will attend this festive, community-centered event attracting residents throughout our city.”

This year’s Open Streets dates are as follows:

- Sunday, May 5, 2024 - Dorchester
- Saturday, June 22, 2024 - Roxbury
- Sunday, July 21, 2024 - Jamaica Plain
- Sunday, August 11, 2024 - Hyde Park
- Sunday, September 15, 2024 - East Boston
- Sunday, October 20,

2024 - Allston-Brighton

For the inaugural Open Streets Hyde Park route, the pedestrian-only zone will stretch from the intersections of Hyde Park Ave. and River Street to Fairmount Avenue and Davison Street.

“Being a woman owned local business in Hyde Park is exciting and even more so with Open Streets coming to my community,” said Emily Pimentel, owner of Events by Emily, whose Hyde Park business has supported previous years of Open Streets events with balloon installations. “I have been a part of this project since the beginning and feel honored to celebrate this year again!”

Open Streets programming will vary slightly by neighborhood but will include food trucks, face painting, balloon animals, crafts, interactive games, photo installations, exclusive performances and activations, and Pedicabs. New this year, the Boston Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management are partnering to introduce hydrant-fed

misting stations at key locations to help residents stay cool at Open Streets events.

“Open Streets Roxbury provides a great outreach opportunity for non-profits trying to reach an underserved population. There is no charge to set up a table and reach the thousands of people who will be enjoying open streets that day. We welcome small vendors selling food items, arts and crafts, and health and beauty aids like soaps,” said Ed Gaskin, Executive Director, Greater Grove Hall Main Streets. “This one-day event has more shoppers than all but the largest farmers markets or festivals. It also provides a platform for schools such as dance, music, martial arts, and other artists to show the world their skills.”

Open Newbury, a similar event series that closes Newbury Street in the Back Bay to vehicular traffic, will also be returning this year. First piloted in 2016, thousands of people have enjoyed food, shopping, and dining in the street. Dates will be announced

closer to the summer.

Open Streets first started in the summer of 2022 with three neighborhoods. The City is contracting again this year with Shana Bryant Consulting, a Black- and woman-owned small business, to carry out Boston’s Open Streets program.

“Shana Bryant Consulting is thrilled that Open Streets Boston is back! We will have programming for all ages, and we are excited to bring back the kids and music hubs, vendor and resource rows, and of course, food from local restaurants and Pedicabs! After executing 8 successful events in 5 neighborhoods, announcing a new neighborhood means more fun for everyone! We look forward to seeing you from May to October in Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, East Boston, Allston Brighton, and the newest neighborhood Hyde Park with family fun for everyone,” said Shana Bryant. “Be sure to visit the website, subscribe to the newsletter, and add the dates to your family calendar.”



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# Wu announces \$21 million for behavioral health services and programming

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), and Boston Public Schools (BPS) announced \$21 million in transformative funding for mental and behavioral health programs and services to support the City’s youth and families. The investments are part of the City’s response to the urgent need for more mental health supports for young people and to develop a larger and more diverse behavioral health workforce. These investments over five years will serve more than 50,000 students, directly impact 21 BPS schools, support more than 600 people in pursuing behavioral health careers in Boston, grow and diversify BPS’s mental health staff, and provide more than 1,000 people with behavioral health training to better serve youth and families in Boston.

“The past several years have been difficult for all of us, and that’s especially true for our young people,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “That’s why it is so important for us to make life saving investments now, to support Boston families and make sure our youth get the high-quality care they need.”

According to BPHC’s newly released Health of Boston Mental Health Report, there has been a significant increase of sadness, hopelessness and anxiety among Boston’s youth, especially youth of color. Currently, more than 40% of BPS students report feeling persistent sadness and hopelessness, while in 2015, 27% of youth reported feeling this way. An increasing number of our high school students are reporting suicidal thoughts. These data are even more severe for students that are marginalized or identify as female or LGBTQ+. Unfortunately, less than half of BPS high school students report that they received help when they experi-

enced mental health challenges.

“Our young people are in crisis, and it is clear that we need to develop more mental health services, especially those that address the unique needs of Black, Latinx, Asian, LGBTQ+ and other underserved communities,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “We created BPHC’s Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness to find meaningful and strategic ways to reduce behavioral health inequities. This partnership between Mayor Wu, BPS, and the Center demonstrates our commitment to providing culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate services to young people and their families in Boston.”

“I am hopeful and eager to uplift our youth and families by addressing the urgent mental and behavioral health challenges they face,” said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. “These investments and partnerships with educational and youth-focused institutions are vital steps toward strengthening our systems of care, and in doing so, nurturing the emotional well-being and educational development of our students.”

The \$21 million is from federal funding and grants, including the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the U.S. Department of Education, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This funding will add behavioral health specialists to BPS schools, provide behavioral health training to youth-facing workers and community organizations, and invest in career training in communities of color to develop a more diverse workforce to serve youth in Boston. This will increase the number of diverse, highly qualified

mental health staff that work in BPS while also developing the skills of the current mental health staff, creating a better pipeline to retain providers and fill vacancies. In addition, a pilot program between BPHC and BPS will examine policies in BPS to examine trauma, disciplinary issues, racism, stress, and other factors to create safer and more positive environments for students.

“Through this collaboration between Mayor Wu, BPHC, BPS, and our communities, we are investing in a future where every child has access to the care and support they need to flourish,” said Dr. Kevin M. Simon, Chief Behavioral Health Officer of the Boston Public Health Commission. “This commitment is a testament to the power of collective action in supporting the well-being of our children and families.”

“Consistent with UMass Boston’s anti-racist, health-promoting ethos, our grant will prepare cohorts of culturally, linguistically, and racially diverse Fellows to become human service and mental health providers,” said UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. “We share the Mayor and Commission and BPS’s goals to advance racial justice, health equity, and more accessible behavioral health services so we can address the growing need for mental health resources among minoritized and marginalized youth.”

“As one of the largest providers of pediatric behavioral health services in Boston, we have seen the need for behavioral health services grow exponentially, especially in underserved communities,” said Joseph Mitchell, MD, President of Franciscan Children’s. “We are thrilled to receive this grant so we can continue to meet the rising needs of children and youth in Boston through our school-

based and other mental health programs, train the next generation of behavioral health professionals, and create a more diverse workforce that is representative of the communities we serve.”

In addition to these programs and services that serve youth, a BPHC program will support families with Black and Latinx children under four years old in need of early childhood mental health and care.

The full breakdown of investments is detailed below:

- Boston Public Health Commission**
- \$2.5M (ARPA) - Grant to UMass Boston for “Transforming Boston Access to Mental Health” focuses on preparing diverse, youth-facing practitioners to serve Boston communities. Fellows will receive education, training, and fieldwork and commit to practicing in Boston. Across three years, 185 students will be trained to serve 1,750 clients, with over 850 being youth. To date, 39 students are enrolled and 34 youth and 44 non-youth have been served.
  - \$2.5M (ARPA) - Grant to Franciscan Children’s to expand the “Children’s Wellness Initiative,” which provides mental health clinicians and psychiatry services in BPS schools. The grant will enable Franciscan to expand to an additional 10 BPS sites for a total of 22 BPS sites over three years. The grant will also grow recruitment efforts and provide at least 180 people advanced training in behavioral health. To date, nine clinicians have been placed across nine schools, serving 200 BPS students.
  - The additional schools are: Blackstone Elementary School; Jeremiah E. Burke High School; Joseph Lee K-8 School; Rafael Hernandez School; Dr. William W. Henderson K-12 Inclusion School;

Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School; and another four schools are to be announced.

- \$2.3M (ARPA) - BPHC and BPS will pilot a “Trauma-informed School System Transformation” at 10 BPS schools, reaching up to 3,500 students and 750 staff. Starting in April 2024, Flourish Agenda will use trauma-informed methodologies to examine and improve BPS policies and systems of care.
- The 10 BPS schools are: BCLA-McCormack 7-12 Pilot School; Ellis Elementary School; Excel High School; Joseph Lee K-8 School; Madison Park Technical Vocational High School; Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School; Richard J. Murphy K-8; TechBoston Academy; Dr. William W. Henderson K-12 Inclusion School; Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School
- \$1.3M(ARPA)-Funds will go towards BIPOC youth-focused, public awareness campaigns and other resources, including BPHC’s Cope Code Club and creative arts projects with The Family Van.
- \$1M (ARPA) - BPHC just released a RFP for vendors to provide behavioral health training for community-based organizations that serve youth of color in Boston.
- \$1M (ARPA) - BPHC’s Boston Area Health Education Center helps train youth in careers in health education, particularly from BIPOC populations underrepresented in health. This funding will go towards after school and summer programs focused on behavioral health careers and will train 400 students over three years. To date, 25 students are enrolled in an afterschool program.
- \$700K (ARPA) - BPHC’s “Capacity Building and Training Initiative” will provide trauma and equity training for City employees who serve

youth and families. Training will reach about 600 staff over three years.

- \$4M (SAMHSA) - BPHC’s “Boston Children’s Mental Health Initiative” will work with Children’s Services of Roxbury to support Black and Latinx children under four years old who are connected to the state child welfare system or BPHC family support services and in need of early social and emotional development. Over the next four years, this includes training at least 37 family partners, nurses, social workers and case workers; providing services for 275 children; screening 1,800 families for social and emotional wellness; providing more behavioral health services; and increasing awareness of early childhood mental health.

**Boston Public Schools**

- \$5.8M (Dept. of Education) - BPS, in partnership with UMass Boston, Boston University, Brown University, and community partners will launch “Project PROVIDE,” which prepares 200 school psychology, school counseling, and social work students to serve Boston youth over five years, serving more than 46,000 students. The goal is to increase the number of diverse, highly qualified mental health staff that work in BPS while also improving technical and supervisory skills of the current mental health workforce that works in BPS or with BPS students. This grant will enable BPS to more effectively convert trainees into employees in order to fill vacancies and support the retention of mental health providers.

For more information about behavioral health resources or other needs, call the BPS Helpline at 617-635-8873 or visit BPHC’s website.

## News Briefs

### HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on April 1, at 6pm. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed

via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street

or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs. Since we are indoors, masks are optional for those in attendance.

La proxima reunion de Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en primero de abril a las 6pm.

La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Pueda usar la entrada principal por la calle Byron o la entrada en calle de Wordsworth. La entrada de calle Wordsworth no tiene escaleras por personas con discapacidades. El cubre bocas sera opcional pues-to que estaremos adentro.

Agenda  
Welcome/Introduction (5min)  
ONS Manuela (Mela) Villa Gomez (5min)  
Neighborhood announcements.  
Announcements (5min)  
Greenway Council, Tree Eastie, Love Your Block, Saturday April 20, 2024. 9:30-12, Neighborhood Clean-up. Climb for a Cause, Sunday April 21, 2024 at Fenway Park. Fundraiser for Homelessness, Jobs, Housing. Sale-

sian Boys and Girls Club 15th Annual Summer Camp Scholarship Auction Fundraiser, June 20, 2024 at 6pm.

Station 7 Police Report (15min) Captain Bickerton, Sgt. Cintolo, Officers Mosley, Alvarez and Figueroa.

66 Homer Street (30min) 2nd Presentation and VOTE by Attorney Richard Lynds for new owner/developer Joseph Trichilo. The proposal is to raze the existing single-family home and erect a three story five-unit residential dwelling with 5 parking spaces. Variances: Use, Parking, FAR, Stories, Height, Side yard and Rear yard.

117 Addison Street (30min) 2nd Presentation and VOTE by Attorney Richard Lynds for owner/developer Claudio Gomes. The proposal is to raze the existing dwelling and erect a 6-unit residential dwelling.

Brooke Charter School (15min) Informational Presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds and Mark Loring on recent purchase of 609-611 Bennington Street.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on May 6, 2024. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna> or check our website at [harborvieweastboston.com](http://harborvieweastboston.com) or [board@harborviewna.org](mailto:board@harborviewna.org)

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Bhattacharya, Kaushik	181 Coleridge St LLC	181 Coleridge St #F	\$1,135,000
Devlin, Peter P	181 Coleridge St LLC	181 Coleridge St #I	\$1,149,000
Sinha, Diptanshu	East Eagle St CBC LLC	211 E Eagle St #4	\$680,000
Sudenfield, Daneil	East Eagle St CBC LLC	211 E Eagle St #3	\$675,000
Total Mortgage Svcs LLC	Joseph, Christian A	27 Eutaw St	\$489,710
Daniel, Rachel J	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #502	\$280,700
Hussain, Myer	Borger Development LLC	301 Border St #204	\$840,000
More, Apurva P	Borger Development LLC	301 Border St #406	\$615,000
Navarro, Marla	Borger Development LLC	301 Border St #312	\$565,000
Yu, Shann S	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #407	\$977,000
Wang, Xiaoguang	Hammond Pond Realy LLC	306 Sumner St	\$1,062,500
Sultan, Joseph	Zheng, Chen J	45 Lewis St #604	\$900,000
Mchugh, Alison E	Dilibero Ft	71 Lubec St #4	\$415,000
Perkins, Christopher	93 Cowper LLC	93 Cowper St #3	\$529,000

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# Public artists enhance spatial justice across Massachusetts

The New England Foundation for the Arts announces the 15 recipients of the Public Art for Spatial Justice grant. A total of \$435,000 was awarded in this round to create public art that fosters more just, vibrant, and welcoming public spaces across Massachusetts.

NEFA's Public Art for Spatial Justice (PASJ) grant supports public art-making in Massachusetts that helps communities see, feel, experience, and imagine spatial justice now, while on a journey towards realizing more just futures for public spaces and public culture. NEFA's Public Art pro-

gram launched the Spatial Justice grants in 2020 in response to the challenges of COVID-19 and the perpetuation of systemic racism across the nation.

"We are honored to support this year's PASJ recipients and know they will have great impacts within their local communities and beyond," says NEFA executive director Harold Steward. "We prioritized BIPOC and community-led projects responding to imminent displacement and strong community needs right now. Some of the themes that emerged were food security, trauma-healing, and racial justice. With a

record number of applications this year, it's clear that this work resonates with artists and communities across the Commonwealth."

Awards range from \$20,000-\$30,000 and represent diverse communities, artistic disciplines, and intergenerational collaboration across Massachusetts. "The 15 Public Art for Spatial Justice projects take on many shapes and sizes. From an exploration of the Black history of millinery in Amherst to a youth-driven Hip Hop mural and commemoration program in Lynn to community-led urban gardening as forms

of placemaking in Boston, each project fosters community engaged conversations about how we imagine the histories and futures of public space," said interim program manager Jessica Wong Camhi.

Below is the complete list of local PASJ grant recipients:

- **Eastie Farm, Boston**
- **Veronica Robles Cultural Center, Boston**

NEFA's Public Art for Spatial Justice grant is made possible with funding from the Barr Foundation.

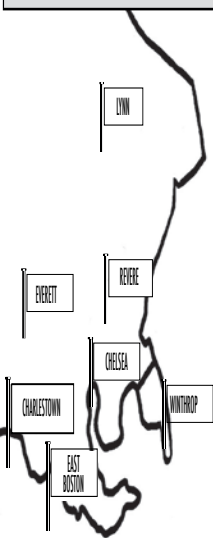
"Arts can drive the change that makes public spaces in Massachusetts more welcoming and in-

clusive," said Giles Li, Barr Foundation's senior program officer for Arts & Creativity. "We are proud to support NEFA's Public Art for Spatial Justice program to connect artists and fund collaborative projects that make more just spaces for all."

Inclusive of this round of awards, NEFA has awarded over \$1.5 million through 96 Spatial Justice grants to Massachusetts artists and collaborators. NEFA is committed to continuing to support public art for spatial justice; the application for the next round of Public Art for Spatial Justice Grants will open in Fall 2024. Learn more about NEFA's Public Art program.

The New England Foundation for the Arts invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape in New England and the nation. NEFA accomplishes this by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions. NEFA serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England's state arts agencies, and private foundations. Learn more at [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org).

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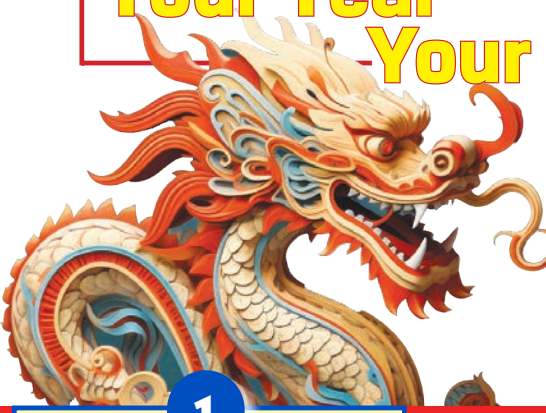
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# Center for Disease Control and Prevention updated COVID recommendations

Following the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) release of updated recommendations for how people can protect themselves and their communities from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) wants to remind Boston residents to stay up to date on vaccines, especially those who are 65 and older or immunocompromised, and to wear a mask in public when sick to protect others.

The updated recommendations to reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza (flu), and RSV are to stay home until your symptoms improve and it has

been 24-hours since you have had a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication. Once returning to normal activities, people should continue to take additional precautions for the next five days, including wearing a well-fitted mask.

These updates come following a decrease in rates of hospitalization and death associated with respiratory illness, and more specifically COVID-19.

“Respiratory viral illnesses remain a public health threat, but we have tools to protect against severe illness,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “The most important is vaccination

against COVID-19, flu, and RSV which is the best way to prevent hospitalization, protect ourselves and our communities, and to ensure that our health care resources won’t become overwhelmed as they have in the past.”

Using DPH data, BPHC found from July 2023 to now, only 20% of people in Boston have received an updated COVID-19 vaccine. The data also show only 40% of people in Boston have received a flu vaccine. It is particularly important for people aged 65 and older or immunocompromised to receive updated vaccine doses this spring. They should get vaccinated if it’s been more than four months since their last vaccination or three months after hav-

ing COVID-19.

Residents are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider, visit a local pharmacy, or visit the CDC’s Vaccine Finder to find an accessible vaccine clinic. The City-run COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics will close for the spring on Friday, April 12.

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building – 2300 Washington St., Roxbury  
Open Thursdays – Saturdays from 12-6 pm  
Boston City Hall – 1 City Hall Square, Room 115  
Open Mondays from 7am – 1pm and Wednesdays from 12 – 5 pm

It is important to keep in mind that people can still spread viruses even when feeling better. Taking en-

hanced precautions, including wearing a mask in public when sick, are especially important for protecting those who are most at risk, including adults aged 60 and older, children younger than 5 years old, pregnant people, and people with chronic medical conditions. Enhanced precautions include:

Wear a mask:  
For five days after being sick.  
If you must leave the house while sick.  
If you are at high risk of severe illness.

Have COVID-19 rapid test kits available at home to test if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

Free test kits and walk-in and by-appointment test sites are still available throughout the City.

Seek treatment from a trusted healthcare provider if you test positive for COVID-19 or flu and are at high risk for severe disease and/or illness.

Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Regularly disinfect and clean high touch surfaces.

Increase indoor ventilation and air circulation, even cracking open a window helps increase air flow.

BPHC has health education materials with safety and prevention tips on COVID-19, flu, and RSV are available in 12 languages. Visit [boston.gov/bphc-infectiousdisease](https://boston.gov/bphc-infectiousdisease) to learn more.

## Students // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

### EAST BOSTON RESIDENT NAMED TO CLARK UNIVERSITY’S DEAN’S LIST

Denise M. Smith, of East Boston, was named to first honors on the Clark University Dean’s List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2023 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow’s most

daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. With more than 45 undergraduate majors and major tracks, more than 30 advanced degree programs, a growing number of professional certificate programs and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark University fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

### DEAN’S LIST HONORS ANNOUNCED AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Tufts University recently announced the dean’s list for the Fall 2023 semester. Dean’s list honors

at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Mathew Mabington of East Boston Class of 2027  
Victor Portillo of East Boston , Class of 2025  
Miguel Rincon of East Boston , Class of 2025  
Jace Wai of East Boston), Class of 2026

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the

faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university’s schools is widely encouraged.

### LOCAL EMERSON COLLEGE STUDENTS EARN DEAN’S LIST

The following students are named to Emerson College’s Dean’s List for the Fall 2023 semester. The requirement to make Dean’s List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Hannah Nilsson of East Boston, is majoring in Theatre Edu and Performance and is a member of the Class of 2024.

Sara Alvarez Echavaria of East Boston is majoring in Journalism and is a member of the Class of

2024.

Samantha Boutureira of East Boston is majoring in Acting and is a member of the Class of 2024.

Sara Kelley of East Boston is majoring in Acting and is a member of the Class of 2025.

Junhao Huang of East Boston, is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2026.

About Emerson College  
Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 4,161 un-

dergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, DC, London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. The College has an active network of 51,000+ alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts.



## ATTENTION BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION CUSTOMERS

You may have noticed some changes in your most recent bill from Boston Water and Sewer Commission. As of April 1, 2024 BWSC customers will now see three separate line-item charges on their bill, for water, sewer, and stormwater. Now, paying for stormwater separately will lower the sewer rate while showing the charges attributed to stormwater activities for the property. This is a more equitable way to fund improvements for the stormwater system because everyone pays for the service they use. Here are key highlights of the bill:

- Stormwater charge will be \$8.98 per month for each Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) attributed to the property.
- All property owners with more than 400 square feet of impervious area will be billed.
- 60% of residential households will see a reduction in their overall bill.
- The 30% discount extended to seniors and disabled residents will automatically apply to the new stormwater fee.
- Credits and grants are available for customers who implement green infrastructure measures on their property.



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