



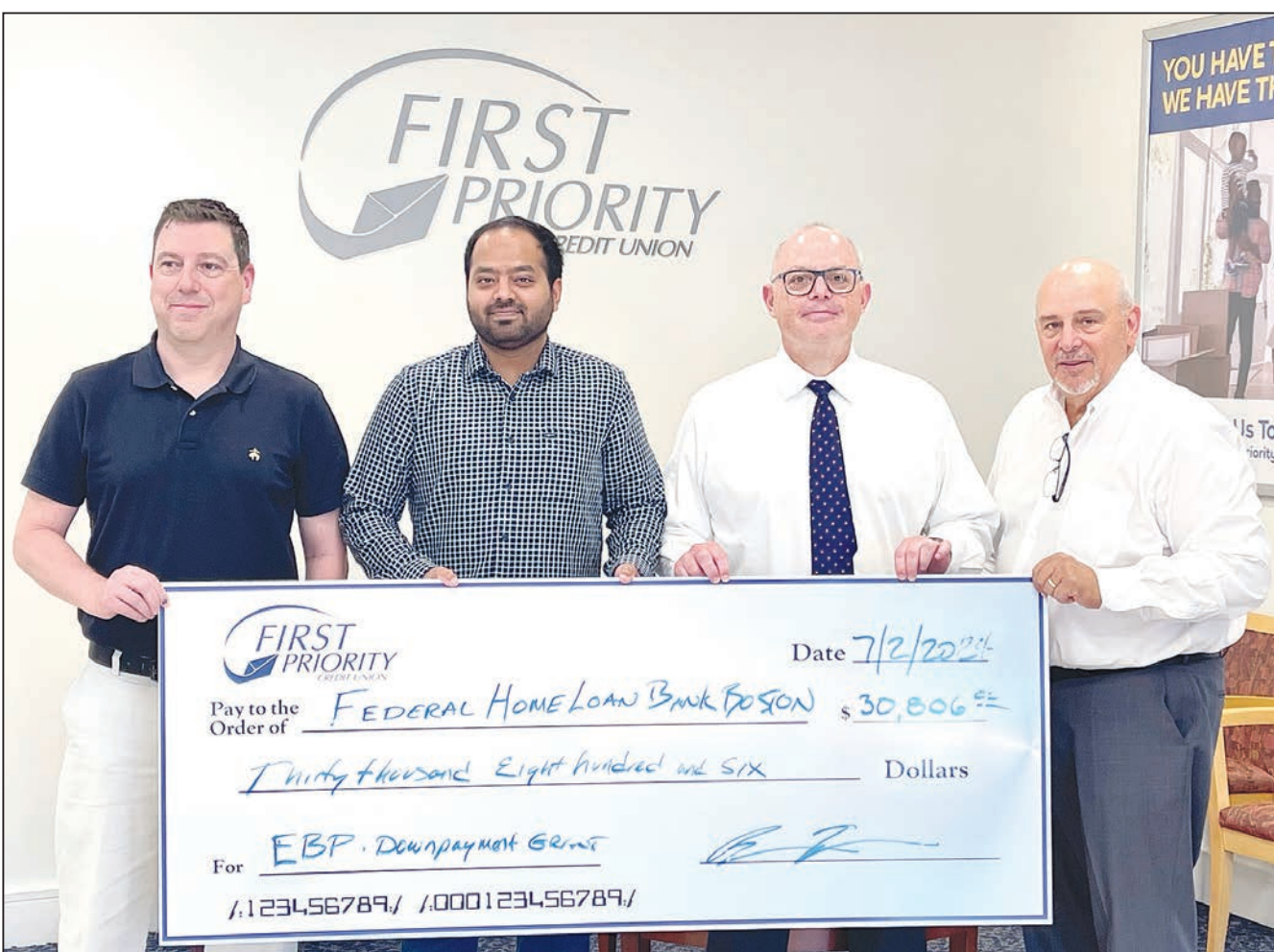
# East Boston

## TIMES-FREE PRESS

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Wednesday, July 10, 2024

THE GO-TO PLACE IN EAST BOSTON



First Priority Credit Union's Vice President and Lending Manager, Steve Borgerson (third from the left) is seen here presenting First Time Home Buyer Safi S. (second from the left) with a check for \$30,806 which was used for down payment and closing cost assistance for the purchase of his new condo in Winthrop. First Priority Credit Union was able to secure the down payment assistance grant through the Credit Union's Partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston. The FHLBB's Equity Builder Program provides grant funds to assist qualified First Time Home Buyers with the purchase of a primary residence. Safi was the second credit union member that they able to secure grant funds for. Said Mr. Borgerson "with affordable housing being such a challenge for the average person the credit union was happy to participate in the Equity Builder Program and make home ownership possible for two of our members". Also seen in the picture is Brian Spehar, Sr. Underwriter at FPCU (first from the left) and attorney Joseph Cattoggio (forth from the left), who facilitated the sale of the property.

## Eastie Week Returns

Celebrate the East Boston community with two weeks of culture, art, wellness, and fun

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston Harbor Now has announced the return of Eastie Week, the annual multi-week event celebrating the community, culture, music, and art of East Boston. This year will mark the 11th anniversary of Eastie Week, which will take place throughout East Boston from July 14 - July 28.

Each year, the team at Boston Harbor Now and a handful of community partners like ZUMIX, East Boston Social Center, Piers Park Sailing Center, Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC), HarborArts, East Boston Main Streets, Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association, East Boston Branch

See EASTIE WEEK Page 3

## Welcome Beachgoers

DCR partners with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to roll out new multilingual beach signage

Special to the Times-Free Press

As part of its ongoing work to ensure the state's 81 waterfronts are safe and welcoming to everyone, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has partnered with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) to roll out new multilingual signage at agency beaches across the state.

Visitors to DCR's inland and coastal beaches will be greeted in nine different languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Mandarin, Traditional Chinese, Cape Verdean Creole, Russian and Arabic. DCR has added new "welcome" decals to visitor signs to the state's 15 metropolitan beaches — Pleasure Bay, City Point, Nantasket, M Street, Carston, Revere, Short, Constitution, Winthrop, Nahant, Wollaston, Savin Hill, Malibu,

See BEACH SIGNS Page 2

## United Way honors Sen. Edwards as Legislative Champion advancing thriving, equitable communities

Special to the Times-Free Press

United Way of Massachusetts Bay recently recognized State Senator Lydia Edwards as one of the organization's seven inaugural Legislative Champions for her exceptional leadership and steadfast commitment to advancing thriving, more equitable communities.

In recognition for her initiatives to further economic justice in the Commonwealth, United Way of Massachusetts Bay honored Senator Lydia Edwards as a Legislative Champion for her advocacy on behalf of housing instability and people experiencing homelessness and an unshakeable courage to challenge existing housing paradigms.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized by United Way of Massachusetts Bay and our community partners for our collective efforts in pursuing economic justice and amplifying community voices," said Senator Edwards. "This award is a testament



United Way of Massachusetts Bay Board Chair Tom Samoluk presents Sen. Lydia Edwards her award.

to the power of collaboration and the tireless work of so many dedicated individuals and organizations. Together, we are making significant strides toward a more equitable and just Commonwealth."

"United Way of Massachusetts Bay is proud to recognize Senator Edwards for her leadership building a Massachusetts where everyone has access to financial wellbeing and

prosperity is shared across race and ethnicity," said Tom Samoluk, U.S. General Counsel & Head of U.S. Government Relations at John Hancock. "Senator Edwards is a changemaker, a 'good trouble' maker and a policymaker who is blazing trails for communities across the Commonwealth."

Also honored were Sen-

See EDWARDS Page 3

ator Brendan Crighton, Senator Pavel Payano, Senator Jason Lewis, Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Representative Andy Vargas, and Representative Joan Meschino.

United Way of Massachusetts Bay briefed lawmakers and other stakeholders on the organization's new strategic direction embracing a new approach to philanthropy to unlock opportunities and amplify community voices, and the role policy can play in creating change statewide.

"Just as legislators bring forward some of the best ideas for change from their constituents and their stories, we also believe that creative, innovative solutions are rooted in the lived experiences of people who have faced - and overcome - the systemic, entrenched barriers that held them back," said Karley Ausiello, Chief of Community Impact.

As part of its new approach to philanthropy and advancing equity, United Way of Massachu-

## NSCS promotes Lemoine to Chief Executive Officer

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Board of Directors of North Suffolk Community Services, a nonprofit behavioral health and human services provider, today announced that Judi Lemoine has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization.

Lemoine, who has been interim CEO since January, has been at NSCS for more than 30 years, most recently serving as Senior Vice President for Clinical Operations and Systems Integration. In that role, she was responsible for all organizational operations, including the January 2023 launch of North Suffolk's community behavioral health center in East Boston.

"Judi has served in many different roles in



Judi Lemoine.

our organization throughout her very long career with North Suffolk and, as a board, we unanimously believe that she is the right person to lead North Suffolk Community Services as president and chief executive officer," said Board Chair Virginia Todd. "As we grow and

See LEMOINE Page 3



# 28th Annual "Taste of Eastie"

JULY 23, 6-9 P.M. AT THE TALL SHIP, 1 PIER DRIVE, BOSTON

Tickets sell out fast - visit [ebmainstreets.com](http://ebmainstreets.com) for prices and details

Free Blue Line or ferry for transportation to and from the event

Live DJ music • 35 local restaurants



# East Boston

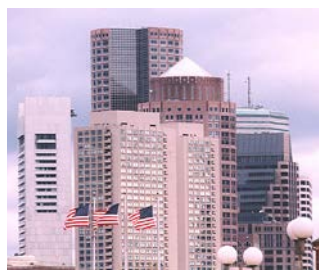
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# Forum

GUEST OP-ED

## Medicare Savings Program, Property Tax Workoff and City Savings for Older Adults

By Boston Mayor Michelle Wu

I'm excited to let you know about two important programs that help our older residents save more money:

The first is the Medicare Savings Program (MSP)—which now offers more savings to more residents. Thanks to changes that went into effect earlier this year, assets are no longer counted against your eligibility for this program, eliminating a major barrier for access. And, on top of that, the amount of money you could save on Medicare-related costs like premiums, copays, and prescriptions has increased as well—from \$2,500 a year to \$3,000.

The second program

I want to tell you about is Age Strong's Property Tax Workoff Program (PTWOP). The PTWOP invites Boston homeowners age 60 and older to volunteer with the City in order to work money off of their property taxes. PTWOP volunteers have the freedom to determine their own schedules and provide support to various City departments from the Boston Public Library and our senior centers, to the Disabilities Commission or the Office of Veterans Services. This year—thanks to advocacy from AgeStrong and our partners in community—older adults can now earn \$2,000 off their property taxes—up from \$1,500. Examples

of past PTWOP projects include helping children with school work at the Leahy Holloran Community Center, directing traffic at the annual Boston Americans with Disabilities Act event, and assisting with the distribution of free air-conditioning units to Boston families.

Applications for PTWOP are now open. For more information, call Age Strong at 617-635-4366 or visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/age-strong-commission/senior-property-tax-work>.

There are also a number of other savings available to Boston residents age 60 or older. Age Strong's trained advocates can help

you find out if you're eligible for savings on transportation, food resources, fuel assistance, water and sewer discounts, and health insurance. Call to schedule an appointment with an advocate at 617-635-4366 or ask an Age Strong advocate the next time you see one at one of our in-person events in your neighborhood.

Our goal is to make Boston a home for everyone—and that means creating every opportunity for our residents of all ages to thrive in our community.

I hope these programs help save you money and make Boston a better home for you and your loved ones.

## HURRICANE BERYL: A HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME?

By now we've all become aware of Hurricane Beryl, which left a trail of death and destruction in its wake during the past week stretching from the Southern Caribbean to Texas as it set records for the strongest-ever hurricane -- a Category 5 -- this early in the season.

Beryl grew -- and maintained -- its ferocity thanks to the warmest-ever sea surface temperatures for June in the Atlantic. Warm ocean waters are the jet fuel for hurricanes and in the case of Beryl, provided the key ingredient for Beryl's rapid intensification and re-intensification as it traveled over thousands of miles of ocean.

Hurricane forecasters in April issued a forecast for an extremely active hurricane season and Beryl's record-setting run appears to be only a prelude to what may be in store for those of us who live along the coast in the coming months.

As we have noted in the past, there is no escape anywhere in the world from the effects of climate change. We can only hope that our little corner of the globe will luck out for another year and we'll escape the wrath of the worst that Mother Nature can throw at us.

## READY TO TURN ON, TUNE IN, DROP OUT

As newspaper people, by necessity we're political junkies, whether at the local, state, or federal levels.

When it comes to national news, we try to read as much as we can from reputable news sources to learn as much as we can about the issues and the candidates.

So it's always been a bit of a surprise when we see polls indicating that public interest in the upcoming election is at an all-time low.

We realize that this is a result of many factors, chief among them that we have two candidates for president who are old enough to be the great-grandfathers of the youngest voters and that neither candidate provides inspiration to any of us. In addition, with their surrogates and spokespersons feeding us the same banal "spin" night after night, trying to convince us not to believe what we see and hear with our own eyes and ears, we all just want to tune out the mind-numbing noise.

We want the truth, but all we get is something far short from both sides.

We were listening to the Classic Rock station on our Sirius Radio the other day and the haunting sound of "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield came on. The song was written in the mid-'60s, but it's as timely today as it was then with lyrics perfectly capturing today's political climate:

There's battle lines being drawn  
Nobody's right if everybody's wrong  
Singing songs and they carrying signs  
Mostly say, "Hooray for our side"

In the wake of the fiasco of the first presidential debate, even we are ready to throw in the towel -- we give up.

Or, to put it another way, in the famous words of advice espoused by Timothy Leary (the Harvard professor-turned-guru of psychedelic drugs) at the same time that For What It's Worth was playing on the airwaves, it just might be time to, "Turn on, tune in, drop out."

## Beach Signs // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tenean, and Kings. These decals will be expanded to the agency's inland and coastal beaches. The new signage, created in partnership with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, is part of the agency's continued effort to promote access and inclusivity to its properties -- especially waterfronts in environmental justice communities. These decals will be expanded to the agency's inland and coastal beaches. The new signage, created in partnership with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, is part of the agency's continued effort to promote access and inclusivity to its properties -- especially waterfronts in environmental justice communities.

"As our summers get hotter, it's critical that all of our residents and families have access to and feel welcome at our waterfronts, and something as simple as signage goes a long way toward that," said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "We want everyone to be able to enjoy our beautiful beaches regardless of their spoken language. I'm thrilled with these new signs that welcome beachgoers and help ensure their safety."

"Multilingual signage at every beach was one of the top recommendations in the Metropolitan Beaches Commission's 2023 'Breaking Barriers' Report," said Save the Harbor Executive Director Chris Mancini. "We feel very lucky to have great partners in Commissioner Arrigo and his team at DCR who share our values and are willing to prioritize and complete a project like this in time for the beach season."

DCR is enhancing beach and pool safety by installing new, easier-to-understand signs outlining the rules for agency beaches and pools. These signs, available in English and Spanish, feature logos re-

mind beachgoers not to engage in certain activities for their safety, including not swimming outside of designated areas as well as not drinking alcohol or bringing dogs on the beach from April 1 through September 15. The beach rules signs will also be available in the eight other languages via a QR code on the sign. DCR is also updating its pool rules signs for the agency's 24 pools and the updated signs will be available at agency pools in English and Spanish and the eight other languages via a QR code.

DCR and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay are promoting the new multilingual signage in a video posted to DCR's social media accounts today.

Additionally, DCR has four existing water safety signs at its beaches -- no swimming, no lifeguard on duty, ring buoys, and water quality -- that can be translated into nine languages via a QR code. Last summer, the agency installed new shorebird protection panels at DCR beaches, explaining that beachgoers share the beaches with piping plovers, which are also available in multiple languages via a QR code.

"The MBC's goal has always been to take an in-depth look to improve our region's beaches," said MBC Co-Chair, Senator Brendan Crighton. "With more people than ever turning to our beaches for health, rest, fun and recreation, it's so important that we take steps to eliminate any barriers to access and equity in these public places."

"Equity, inclusion and diversity are critically important to me and my constituents in East Boston," said MBC Co-Chair, Rep. Adrian Madaro. "Save the Harbor's free programs have improved access for everyone, and being greeted in your native language

when you arrive is essential to reinforcing those feelings of ownership and belonging we should all have for these fantastic beaches."

Lifeguards play a crucial role in public safety at our state parks and beaches. This year, the agency also expanded its efforts to recruit and hire multilingual lifeguards and water safety staff to work at the agency's waterfronts and pools. This spring and summer, DCR ran recruitment PSAs for lifeguards and water safety staff on Spanish and Portuguese radio stations.

DCR is continuing to hire lifeguards at certain properties including Revere Beach, the Vietnam Veterans Pool in Chelsea, the Geisler Memorial Pool and the Lt. Colonel Edward J. Higgins Pool in Lawrence for the summer season. This year, the Healey-Driscoll Administration maintained the competitive hourly rate for lifeguards of \$22 an hour. Lifeguards can still earn up to \$750 in retention bonuses if they commit continuing to work for the department through the end of the season. To learn more about lifeguarding opportunities, please visit the agency's lifeguarding webpage.

DCR is committed to ensuring everyone can safely cool down at its beautiful waterfronts during the hot summer season. The agency opened its 81 waterfronts for the summer season on May 26, and last month, it expanded its lifeguard services to 32 designated swimming areas across the state from approximately 10:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. On June 22, DCR opened its 24 pools and two wading pools across the state for the summer season. DCR pools are open daily from 11:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Wading pools open and close an hour earlier, and spray

decks are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Check DCR's Park Alerts page for any closures of swimming areas due to bacteria and the most up-to-date park hours.

Many DCR coastal and inland beaches have beach wheelchairs and mobility mats that help provide access to the water for people of all abilities.

All DCR swimming pools have outdoor chair lifts to provide access to the water.

Several pools also have ramps into the water or offer zero-depth entry, and select pools and spray decks also have beach wheelchairs for use.

DCR has prioritized making its beaches accessible to people of all backgrounds, spoken languages, incomes and abilities. Each year, DCR and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay partner to provide thousands of dollars in grant funding to organizations focused on breaking down barriers for people of color, people who don't speak English and people with disabilities through the Better Beaches Partnership. This year, the Partnership granted more than \$315,000 to community and youth serving organizations.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Brian Arrigo, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).

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## Your opinions, please

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# East Boston Social Centers' Every Child Shines initiative to hold community convening July 23

The Every Child Shines initiative is hosting their third annual community convening on Tuesday, July 23, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 Boardman St. in East Boston, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This event focuses on how East Boston can best prepare ALL of our neighborhood children for kindergarten. The day will include breakout groups on supporting young children's social emotional development, brainstorming for a Community Hub, and how to collaborate across organizations, family-based care centers, and the Boston Public Schools. This is a unique opportunity where a cross-sector group of over 25 entities including Center-Based and Family Child Care Providers, The Boston Public Schools, NeighborHealth (formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center), The Basics, Early Intervention, Families First, Union Capital, and Friends of Boston

collaboratively towards this long-term vision for Kindergarten readiness.

Every Child Shines is an initiative of the East Boston Social Centers with the long term goal of establishing an ecosystem where all children enter kindergarten joyful, thriving, and ready to learn. These annual Community Convenings offer an opportunity to pull in perspectives and ideas from across sectors which is critical to making this long-term vision a reality. By coming together in person and meeting with different attendees in structured breakout groups throughout the day, participants get to know what services each other specializes in, relate over shared challenges and ideas, and ultimately improve our collective ability to connect families to useful resources.

The East Boston Social Centers, a multi-service agency and community center that cultivates

community, belonging, and joy, has been in the business of changing lives for 106 years, providing East Boston (and Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere) residents with critical high-quality services that support community health, well-being, and joy. The programs offered by the Social Centers are designed to meet people's educational, social, and recreational needs and to build community and strengthen families. As reflected in its motto, "When all give, all gain," the Social Centers seek to create a welcoming and supportive environment, characterized by a spirit of goodwill and caring, in which members of the community are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Learn more about us at [ebsocialcenters.org](http://ebsocialcenters.org)

For inquiries, contact: Carolina Espinoza, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, [cespinoza@ebsoc.org](mailto:cespinoza@ebsoc.org)

## Edwards // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

setts Bay has increased its investments in organizations amplifying community voices in policy and advocacy.

"This increased investment in our public policy portfolio of \$1.2 million shows we are deeply committed through our New Way Forward to working in partnership with the Legislature and community partners who are also invested in creating system change through policy and advocacy," said Christi Staples, Vice President of Policy and Government Relations.

United Way of Massachusetts Bay's public policy partners include Action for Boston Community Development, Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs, Boston After School & Beyond, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association,

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, Inc., Comunidades Enraizadas Community Land Trust, Inc., Essex County Community Organization, Fortaleza, Inc., Harborlight Community Partners, Lawrence CommunityWorks, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Massachusetts After-school Partnership, Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, Inc., Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Inc., Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Inc., Strategies for Children, The Midas Collaborative, Inc., UTEC Inc., Vietnamese American Initiative for Development, Youth Justice and Power Union

(YJPU).

United Way of Massachusetts Bay has played a critical role over the past six months in partnering with the Commonwealth to ensure families with children and pregnant women have access to emergency shelter. To date, UWMB has launched 11 SafetyNet Shelter sites that support an estimated 225 families daily through the \$5M SafetyNet Shelter program. United Way also successfully advocated for \$150M in ARPA funding for permanent supportive housing for individuals, families, youth and young adults, including \$15M for the Massachusetts Alliance of Supportive Housing, which will create 388 new supportive housing opportunities and more.

## Eastie Week // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Library and the ICA Watershed team up to create two weeks of activities centered around bringing communities together to highlight the people, organizations, and diversity of East Boston.

Founded in 2013, Eastie Week has solidified itself as an annual celebration cherished throughout East Boston. This annual event provides an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to appreciate Eastie's unique heritage and rich cultures while encouraging the community to get outside and enjoy a range of activities and festivities. Eastie Week continues to play a significant role in showcasing the diversity and spirit of East Boston.

This year's celebrations will consist of more than 50 programs, ranging from free live music performances and parades to fitness activities, culturally inclusive workshops, outdoor movie nights, and more.

"Eastie Week is not just a celebration but a unique opportunity to experience the vibrant culture and rich history of East Boston," stated Rebecca Smerling, Director of Programs at Boston Harbor Now. "We're proud to partner with many organizations throughout East Boston to foster strong connections amongst neighbors and friends."

Attending Eastie Week will be more convenient than ever this year. From July 5 until August 5, the MBTA Blue Line and East Boston ferry service will be free for all riders. Additionally, the MBTA is providing discounted fares for the commuter rail, as well as discounts on parking at both MBTA and Commuter Rail parking lots and garages.

**Eastie Week Logistics:** Everyone is welcome to celebrate the East Boston community starting July 14 through July 28.

Eastie Week consists of special free and low-cost programming designed by and for the East Boston community. Enjoy family-friendly activities and events ranging from live concerts to fitness and dance classes to kayaking and sailing on the Harbor.

This event is all around East Boston.

Join Boston Harbor Now staff, elected officials, partner organizations, friends, and neighbors in beautiful Piers Park as we celebrate the kickoff of Eastie Week festivities on July 14th.

Eastie Week will conclude on Sunday, July 28th, with a free concert from ZUMIX Summer Concert featuring World Women in Jazz.

To view the full Eastie Week programming schedule and participating partners, visit: <https://eastie-week.org>.

[ieweek.org](http://ieweek.org).

About Boston Harbor Now

In April of 2016, Boston Harbor Now launched as a new nonprofit civic organization with a bold mission: to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for Boston's harbor, waterfront, and islands. Boston Harbor Now works with public and private partners to expand access to open space and recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities harbor-wide, plan for and build an integrated and expanded water transportation system, and to foster economic development and growth that is resilient to sea-level rise and the effects of climate change. Boston Harbor Now plays a unique role as the non-profit partner of the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park raising funds to help the National Park Service, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the City of Boston, and hundreds of youth and community organizations to build visitor amenities and recreational infrastructures like campsites and trail networks, to provide interpretive, educational and cultural programs and volunteer opportunities, and to provide free access for children and families from low-income communities.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Tuesday July 16**  
Revere Fundraiser La-Hacienda. Time: 6 p.m.

### THE PARKS DEPARTMENT SUMMER GOLF COURSE CONCERT SERIES RETURNS

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's live music offerings continue in 2024 with a series of Wednesday evening summer concerts on the patios at the City of Boston's two golf course clubhouses.

Enjoy a variety of musical styling from a lineup of local artists at the George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse at 420 West Street in Hyde Park and the William Devine Golf Course Clubhouse at 1 Circuit Drive in Dorchester.

Held in July and August, the Golf Course Concert Series is part of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's year-round ParkARTS program. This series is sponsored by Bank of America. All shows are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m.

It's a "J" Thing - guitar,

vocal, and violin trio.  
George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse  
Wednesday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Last Call - Funk and R&B group.  
William J. Devine Golf Course Clubhouse  
Wednesday, July 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Madi Ryan - Boston-based singer-songwriter.

George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse  
Wednesday, August 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Albino Mbie - Afro-pop and Mozambican jazz.

William J. Devine Golf Course Clubhouse  
Wednesday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Jon Hollywood- New England-based solo acoustic artist.

George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse

All ParkARTS performances are free of charge. For more information, please visit

[boston.gov/golf-concert-series](http://boston.gov/golf-concert-series). Stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](http://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails) and following our social channels @ [bostonparksdept](https://twitter.com/bostonparksdept) on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

### SEN. EDWARDS CAMPAIGN EVENTS

This weekend July 13 and 14, Sen. Lydia Edwards is rallying her supporters to join in canvassing neighborhoods, engaging in meaningful conversations, and shaping the future together. There are a few launches happening in the district. Hopefully she can count on you!

Event Details:

#### Saturday July 13

East Boston LoPresti Park with Representative Adrian Madaro and City Councilor Gigi Coletta-Zapata. Time: 10 a.m.

Winthrop Ingleside Park at 12pm with Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Representative Jeff Turco and Sheriff Steve Tompkins. Time: 12 p.m.

Revere Public Library with Mayor Keefe, City Councilor at Large Juan Pablo Jaramillo and City Councilor at Large Marc Silvestri. Time: 1:30 p.m.

Volunteer Reception - The Dubliner with City Councilor Sharon Durkin and Representative Jay Livingstone. Time: 5 p.m.

#### Sunday July 14

East Boston Cunard Tavern with United States Senator Elizabeth Warren. Time: 12 p.m.

## Lemoine // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

evolve to meet the needs of our communities, Judi will ensure that we stay true to our mission of treating everyone with dignity and respect, prioritizing the people we serve and recognizing the value of our employees."

During her career with the organization, she has held multiple leadership positions, including Program Manager of Day Services, Director of Ambulatory Services and Director of Operations. In each of these positions, she developed and expanded programming based on the needs of the clients and the communities served. In 2012, Judi was promoted to Chief Operating Officer, responsible for the overall clinical and rehabilitative operations and related activities of the agency, including management of staff, fiscal, capital and community resources.

Lemoine began her career at North Suffolk as a registered nurse at the Conexions Day Treatment program, where she developed the field placement training for nursing interns in the outpatient clinics and day treatment programs as a Community Preceptor Supervisor for the nursing programs at Simmons University and Northeastern University.

"At North Suffolk Community Services, our workplace culture is rooted in dignity and respect. I have immense admiration for this innovative and compassionate team dedicated to serving our communities," said Lemoine. "It is an honor to lead the agency where I began my career in behavioral health

care and where I have spent nearly my entire professional life."

Lemoine is a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Simmons University. She was recognized with the induction into Sigma Theta Tau as a Nursing Leader for her development of field placements in the outpatient and day treatment programs.

Founded in 1959, North Suffolk Community Services, formerly North Suffolk Mental Health Association, touches the lives of nearly 15,000 people annually in more than 75 programs throughout Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, Charlestown, and Boston. North Suffolk

supports adults, children and families across the lifespan with behavioral health issues, substance use disorders and/or developmental disabilities. The organization employs more than 1,000 talented individuals who provide services in nine languages, including ASL, through a community behavioral health center and three outpatient clinics; mobile crisis response team; 39 residential programs; two Recovery Support Centers and a Recovery Learning Center. It operates a Training Center for employees and the community as well as a 24/7/365 Recovery Support hotline. Visit [northsuffolk.org](http://northsuffolk.org).

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### JAPANESE CULTURAL PERFORMANCES AT SYMPHONY PARK

Kaji Aso Studio celebrated the beloved TANABATA summer festival outside at Symphony Park, on Sunday, July 7. Throughout the afternoon visitors had the opportunity to visit and write wishes to tie to bamboo branches in the Tanabata festival

tradition. Other highlights included a series of performances including koto music by Sumie Kaneko, a Japanese calligraphy demonstration by Michiko Imai, and a performance of Japanese songs by Mikiko Sato. This program was free and open to the public.

It was supported in part by a Berklee Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Grant; and in partnership with Friends of Symphony Park. Special thanks to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

COURTESY PHOTOS.



Soran Bushi Dance Group from Showa Boston at Tanabata.



Sumie Kaneko performs koto music at Kaji Aso Studio Tanabata event at Symphony Park.



Mikiko Sato performs Japanese Songs at Kaji Aso Studio Tanabata event at Symphony Park.



Michiko Imai performs calligraphy at Kaji Aso Studio Tanabata event at Symphony Park.

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# Commonwealth Shakespeare Company announces cast for Shakespeare's 'The Winter's Tale'

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) and Steven Maler, Founding Artistic Director, are pleased to announce the cast of this summer's production of Shakespeare's moving epic, *The Winter's Tale*, on the Boston Common, directed by Associate Artistic Director Bryn Boice.

Performances begin on Tuesday, July 16 and run through Sunday, August 4 at the Parkman Bandstand. The production is presented in partnership with the City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods, and Boston Chief of Arts and Culture, Kara Elliott-Ortega.

King Leontes of Sicilia falsely accuses his wife, Hermione, of infidelity with his best friend, the King of Bohemia. Inflamed by jealousy and convinced that he is right, Leontes banishes his newborn daughter Perdita as his wife dies of heartbreak. Perdita grows up in Bohemia under the care of a shepherd. Sixteen years pass before old wounds can heal, betrayals can be forgotten, and new alliances formed. Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* is a captivating parable of betrayals, renewed hope, and the transformative power of time.

The principal cast members include an all-star group of New England-area talent including: Nael Nacer (*Macbeth*, *The Tempest* at CSC, *A Prayer for the French Republic* at the Huntington and Broadway) as Leontes; Marianna Bassham (*Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Twelfth Night* at CSC, *People Places and Things* at *Speakeasy Stage*) as Hermione; Omar Robinson (*Macbeth* at CSC, *King Hedley II* at Actors Shakespeare Project) as Polixenes; Paula Plum (multi-Elliott Norton



Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's production of "The Winter's Tale" begins July 16.

Award-winner, founding member of Actors' Shakespeare Project) as Paulina/Time; Tony Estrella (*Cymbeline* at CSC, *A Prayer for the French Republic* at the Huntington, Artistic Director at Gamm Theatre) as Camillo; Richard Snee (*The Taming of the Shrew* at CSC, *The Minutes at Umbrella Stage* as *The Shepherd*; Robert Walsh (*Coriolanus*, *Macbeth*, *Henry V* at CSC, founding member of Actors Shakespeare Project) as Antigonus; Ryan Winkles (*Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle and Here We Go* at CSC, *Joy and Pandemic* at the Huntington, "Boston Strangler") as Autolycus; Joshua Olumide (*A Raisin in the Sun* at New Rep, the Oscar-winning film "American Fiction") as Florizel; and Nettie Chickering (*Much Ado about Nothing* for CSC) as Emilia.

The cast also includes the CSC2 company with Clara Hevia as Perdita, Cleveland Nicoll as Clown, John Blair as First Lord, Bella Grace Harris as Gaoler/Bohemian Servant, Ednilson Tavares as Second Lord, Ryan Richard Doyle as Cleomenes,

Dyce Stephens as Dion, Chloe Boyan as First Lady/Dorcas, Rilyn Gardner as Second Lady/Mopsa, and Anne Borzner as Doctor/First Gentleman, with youth artist Eviva Rose (*Macbeth* for CSC) as Mamillius.

Scenic design is by James J. Fenton, Costume Design by Rachel Padula-Shufelt, Lighting Design by Max Grano de Oro, Music Composed by Mackenzie Adamik, and Sound Design by David Remedios, with Movement and Choreography by Victoria Awkward.

Director Bryn Boice is an award-winning director, educator, actor, and producer, as well as CSC's Associate Artistic Director and Director of Education & Training. For CSC Bryn helmed *Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle & Here*

*We Go* – two Caryl Churchill one-acts – which garnered her the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director, Large Theatre. Other recent Boston-area credits include: *The Sound Inside* and *The Children* (both Elliott Norton nominated for Outstanding Production, *Speakeasy Stage*); *The Book of Will*, *Into the Breeches!* (Elliott Norton nom. for Direction and Production, Hub Theatre Company); *Tall Tales from Blackburn Tavern*, *Gloria* (Gloucester Stage); *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* (The Nora Company); *Admissions* (The Gamm Theatre); *Last Night at Bowl-Mor Lanes* (Greater Boston Stage Company); an all-female production of *Julius Caesar* for Actors' Shakespeare Project;

and a number of Apprentice Repertory Company and Stage2 productions for CSC. New York, regional and other Boston credits as an actor and/or director include work with Asolo Repertory Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Anthem Theatre Company, Okoboji Theatre, InProximity Theatre, Theatre Row, Martha's Vineyard PAC, Monomoy Theatre, Caroline's on Broadway, and Manhattan Theatre Club. Before turning full-time to CSC, she taught at Salem State University, where her wide-ranging experience allowed her to teach Voice for Performance, Applied Stage Movement, Public Speaking, Directing, Acting III (Early Realism), Dramatic Theory & Criticism, and Dialects, among others. MFA in Directing, Boston University. MFA in Acting, Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training (FSU). Member AEA. For more information visit [www.brynboice.com](http://www.brynboice.com)

*The Winter's Tale* is supported by our generous sponsors and partners including The Liberty Mutual Foundation, the Klarman Family Foundation, the Daymarc Foundation, the Paul and Edith Babson Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Ovation TV, Xfinity, the City of Boston, the Theater League of Kansas City, GBH, EDGE Media Network, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Downtown Boston

BID, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston Parks and Recreation, Suffolk University, The Newbury Boston, Barton and Guestier, and Boston Common Magazine.

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC), best known for its annual free performances on Boston Common, is a non-profit theater organization founded in 1996, dedicated to artistic excellence, accessibility, and education. CSC's Free Shakespeare on the Common has served over one million audience members over its 27-year history and has become a beloved summer tradition enjoyed by more than 50,000 people annually. Most recently, CSC presented *Macbeth* (with Faran Tahir and Joanne Kelly), directed by Steven Maler in 2023, *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Megan Sandberg-Zakian in 2022, and *The Tempest* (with John Douglas Thompson as Prospero) to great acclaim in 2021.

In addition to its live theatre productions, CSC also provides robust Education and Training programs, including our Apprentice Training Program and CSC2 company for early-career actors, and Stage2 programming for middle and high school students and educators. For more information, visit [commshakes.org](http://commshakes.org).

## WINTHROP MARKETPLACE 25TH ANNIVERSARY WINNERS

Congratulations to our Winthrop Marketplace 25th Anniversary winners:

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Michelle Stimpson - Hong Kong

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Mark Bakersmith - Bellino's

Judi Auerback - The Winthrop Arms

Ariana Sullivan - The Winthrop Marketplace

## CARRYING ON THE CAPURSO SPORTS TRADITION



Former Dom Savio High School sports star athlete and coach Paul Capurso and his wife, Michelle Capurso, are pictured with their son, Paulie Capurso, a member of the Peabody West Little League 12-year-old All-Star team following the team's victory over Winthrop Sunday at MacArthur Park in Peabody.

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# Project Bread secures \$10,000 grant to bolster anti-hunger efforts across the Northeast

Special to the Journal

Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts, is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), the nation's leading anti-hunger advocacy organization. This grant will bolster Project Bread's pivotal role in advancing the Northeast Regional Anti-Hunger Network (NERAHN), a coalition dedicated to eradicating hunger in the seven-state Northeast region. States include Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The grant is made possible by the Walmart Foundation.

"We are grateful to FRAC for their support, which will enable us to strengthen NERAHN and drive meaningful progress in the fight against hunger

across the Northeast," said Leran Minc, Assistant Director of Policy at Project Bread, leading convener of NERAHN. "In our regional coalition, we are leading on national hunger policy – we have three of the eight states nationwide providing free school meals to all students (MA, ME, and VT). Together with our coalition partners, we aim to ensure everyone across the region has access to the nutrition they need to thrive through the continued expansion of resources and system change for families and individuals."

Using funding from this grant, Project Bread will re-convene NERAHN following a 4-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The efforts began with a gathering of member organizations during the FRAC Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in June. This fall, Project Bread will host a convening with all 14 member organizations to



NERAHN gathering at the FRAC Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. held from June 3 - 5.

align regional efforts, to bolster policymaking decisions on a federal and state by state scale, and to amplify the role of federal nutrition programs as a solution to food insecurity, targeting USDA's Northeast Regional Office and our respective Congressional delegations.

Federal nutrition pro-

grams are among our nation's most important, proven, and cost-effective solutions for reducing hunger, poverty, and health. These programs include:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as the nation's first line of defense against hunger by provid-

ing financial resources to help millions of people afford to put food on the table.

- The School Nutrition Programs fuel children's health and learning and combat childhood hunger.

- The Afterschool Nutrition Programs provide nutritious meals and snacks to children at educational

and enrichment programming after the school day ends.

- Summer Nutrition Programs offer nutritious meals to low-income children, replacing school breakfasts and lunches served during the school year.

- The Special Supple

# MBTA achieves historic labor agreements with entire workforce

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has reached a landmark achievement by successfully negotiating agreements with all 28 of its affiliated labor unions, representing 16 collective bargaining agreements. This accomplishment, the first of its kind since 2009, was realized within 18 months of the Healey-Driscoll Administration taking office and under the leadership of MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng.

"The success of the MBTA depends on a well-trained, motivated and empowered workforce. That's why, from day one, our administration has been committed to partnering with labor to efficiently secure agreements that ensure workers receive competitive wages and benefits and strengthen our efforts to recruit and retain the best talent. I'm grateful to General Manager Eng and his team for their leadership, to our labor unions for their partnership, and to the men and women who keep the T moving forward for their hard work," said Governor Maura Healey.

Key Highlights: All agreements finalized within one year of negotiations, a significant improvement from previous multi-year processes.

Four-year terms for all 16 contracts, ensuring the longest period of labor

stability since the 1980s. Enhanced wages and incentives to boost recruitment and retention efforts.

Built upon the historic pension agreement with the Carmen's Union (March 2023) and similar agreement with the Transit Police Association (Fall 2023).

The final agreement, ratified with the MBTA Plumbers in June 2024, completes a series of contracts modeled after the August 2023 agreement with the Boston Carmen's Union, ATU Local 589.

These agreements address long-standing labor concerns and aim to stabilize and expand the MBTA workforce.

"This is a significant step forward in creating the infrastructure and support that is needed for our workforce to implement the current and future work of the MBTA. I am deeply grateful to everyone who worked to make this a reality and to ensure that our frontline workers have everything they need to provide quality services to residents and travelers," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration understood from the beginning that rebuilding our workforce was paramount to restoring the reliability of safe public transit. I'm thankful for the efforts

across our organization that negotiated and settled these contracts with our labor partners in record time. These contracts provide a level of stability we haven't seen in decades," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "Union workers and the new hires we're eager to bring on are on the frontline of providing reliable safe service for many communities. I'm so proud to stand side by side with the MBTA workforce."

"It's awesome to hear that all the Union contracts at the MBTA are under agreement. It is a historical accomplishment and emphasizes how progress can be made when labor and management work together. We are very thankful for the Governor and her team," said MBTA Board Director Robert Butler. Butler is also the President of the Northeast Regional Council of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART). He has served over 20 years as a Journeyman in Local 17, giving him a strong understanding of the needs of trade employees that he uses to advocate for worker's rights.

Workforce Development Initiatives:

Over 1,900 new hires since the beginning of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, including more

than 1,600 in 2023 alone.

\$20 million investment from a supplemental budget to support hiring efforts and the Local 589 Agreement.

Comprehensive approach focusing on recruitment, retention, skills training, and leadership development.

Restructuring of senior leadership and improvement of frontline teams, safety protocols, engineering, and planning.

"Making these frontline MBTA jobs competitive like was done in the recent Local 589 contract and others that followed is important not just because many of these jobs can provide a pathway to the middle class, but because the system absolutely needs to attract and retain experienced frontline workers in order to improve. We give the administration and the general manager credit for engaging with the frontline workforce through collective bargaining in a manner that is positive, productive, and respectful," said Carmen's Union Local 589 President Jim Evers.

"Under the new general manager and the Healey-Driscoll administration, a lot of trust has been restored among the workforce and we absolutely give them credit for making essential investments in the frontline workforce through a professional and

respectful collective bargaining approach," said IAM District 15 Assistant Directing Business Representative and Chairperson of the MBTA Coalition of Unions Mike Vartabedian.

"The Massachusetts AFL-CIO represents thousands of union members who work at the MBTA, as well as thousands of union members who rely on the MBTA to get to work. We appreciate that the Healey-Driscoll Administration understands the critical role that public transportation plays in the lives of working people, and how important it is to respect and listen to the hardworking union members who make our public transportation system run," said MA AFL-CIO President Chrissy Lynch.

These agreements and workforce initiatives mark a turning point for the MBTA, setting the stage for improved service reliability and system modernization. As the MBTA moves forward with a stabilized workforce, it is now better positioned than ever before to meet the evolving transportation needs of the Greater Boston area.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the larg-

est public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, commuter rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on, while supporting the region's economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program and the Bus Network Redesign and Rail Vision, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders' daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, customers are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact mmeeddiiaarreellaattioonnss@mmmbtttaa.ccoomm. For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit MBTA.com or follow @MBTA on social media.

# BLO brings free orchestral music to Boston Neighborhoods this Summer

Boston Landmarks Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director Christopher Wilkins, is gearing up to offer another season of enchanting musical experiences under the stars in Boston. From the iconic DCR Hatch Memorial Shell to Boston neighborhood venues, the ensemble brings the joy of live orchestral music to audiences of all ages. With a diverse lineup that highlights community, inclusivity, and accessibility, these free concerts promise to be a source of delight and inspiration for all who attend. Landmarks Orchestra invites everyone to join us for an unforgettable summer filled with beautiful music and shared moments of connection.

Music Director Christopher Wilkins says, "It's

always a happy occasion to have the orchestra back together again. There's nothing like making music on a beautiful summer evening along the banks of the Charles. Our special aim is to connect with people of all backgrounds, Bostonians from a variety of cultural traditions."

Board Chair Emmett G. Price III adds, "We are tremendously grateful and excited for this substantial commitment from our long-standing partner, Free For All Concert Fund, in bringing exceptional LIVE music to Boston's historic Hatch Shell. Free for All has signaled our value and our importance to the arts and culture fabric of Greater Boston and we are hopeful that others will join the cause and aid us in accomplishing our courageous and timely





mission."

Regarding the Free for All Concert Fund's major grant to Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond, Chair of the Free for All Concert Fund board, said "Free for All is proud to support the great work of Boston Landmarks Orchestra as it continues to advance the legacy of our mutual founder, the late Maestro Charles Ansbacher. This two-year grant of up to \$1.275M allows Landmarks to pursue our shared mission of bringing great music to all the people of Boston for free. We look forward to another memorable summer of beautiful music on the Esplanade."

For the full season of performances, program notes, and more, visit landmarksorchestra.org.

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# Healey proclaims 'Hurricane Preparedness Week' in Massachusetts

Governor Maura Healey signed a proclamation declaring the week of July 7 to July 13, 2024, as "Hurricane Preparedness Week," to emphasize the importance of planning and preparing for hurricanes and other tropical systems, which most often impact Massachusetts during the months of August and September.

During the week-long initiative, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will focus on hurricane preparedness messaging and offer informational resources to individuals and municipalities on what can be done before, during, and after a tropical system impacts Massachusetts to protect life and property.

"During Hurricane Preparedness Week, I urge all residents to take stock of their emergency supplies and to plan and prepare ahead of peak hurricane season," said Governor Healey. "Near-record warm ocean temperatures are expected to fuel more frequent and intense tropical storms, meaning there may be increased likelihood for us in Massachusetts to experience a hurricane."

Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. This year, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center antic-

ipate an above-normal 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season with 17 to 25 named storms.

"While areas along the coast are more likely to sustain damage from hurricane hazards such as high winds and storm surge, we know from experience that tropical storms can impact areas across the state, both on the coast and inland," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll.

"If you live or work within an evacuation zone, now is the time to plan where you would go and how you would get there if a tropical system were to impact Massachusetts," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "Our state and local emergency management agencies regularly plan and train to respond to hurricanes and other severe weather hazards, and I encourage all residents and visitors in Massachusetts to do the same."

In advance of peak hurricane season, MEMA developed and published on-line hurricane safety tips and resources and distributed a multilingual hurricane preparedness toolkit to Emergency Management Directors throughout the Commonwealth to reach all individuals, including underserved and vulnerable populations. MEMA has also partnered with MassDOT and several regional transit au-

thorities to place hurricane preparedness messaging on digital billboards and buses. MEMA continues to address hurricane preparedness, response, and recovery efforts through numerous coordination meetings, trainings and exercises, including annual training for local officials on Hurrevac – an online tool that assists emergency managers with evacuation timing, decision, and technical support.

"We were fortunate last September when Hurricane Lee tracked offshore as it approached Massachusetts, but this once again highlighted the need for us to be prepared," said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley. "Every household should have an emergency kit and a plan inclusive of all members' needs and abilities."

How residents and visi-

tors can prepare:

**Know Your Evacuation Zone** – Visit [www.mass.gov/knowyourzone](http://www.mass.gov/knowyourzone) to learn if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone. If you live in an area that may flood and may need assistance evacuating, plan with family, neighbors, and friends who may be able to assist, and contact your local public safety officials to make them aware of your needs.

**Make an Emergency Plan** – A plan should address how your family would communicate, evacuate, and shelter in place if needed. Be sure to account for the needs of all your family members, including seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and pets: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>. If you receive

medical treatment or home health care services, work with your medical provider to determine how to maintain care and service if you are unable to leave your home or have to evacuate.

**Build an Emergency Kit** – Build an emergency kit that will sustain your household for three to five days without power. For tips on what to include, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>

**Stay Informed** – Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts and is encouraged to reach out to their local officials for preparedness and emergency information specific to their community, including available local emergency notification systems. The Commonwealth's 2-1-1 hotline

is available 24x7 for non-emergency assistance and is available with translation in more than 150 languages and can be accessed via video relay services. To learn more about additional ways to receive alerts and information, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, and social and traditional news media, visit: [www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts)

MEMA will share preparedness and safety information throughout hurricane season. For more information, including interactive evacuation zone maps, multi-lingual social media toolkits and flyers, preparedness tips, videos, and more, visit MEMA's Hurricane Season Preparedness webpage.

## OBITUARIES

### Rita Amodeo

A very holy, caring woman who saw the best in everyone

Rita A. (Casaletto) Amodeo of Saugus, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 4 at 96 years of age, surrounded by her loving family.

Rita was a devoted contributor every month to St. Jude, St. Anthony and the Blessed Mother Charities. A very holy, caring woman who saw the best in everyone and gave with all her heart and wanted nothing in return. She had a huge love for animals and donated to animal shelters and would feed every animal in the neighborhood. Everyone who knew her, LOVED her! She always had a big smile on her face even when her health was failing.

The last few years her health started fading and her daughter, Doreen, took her to live with her. This is where she LOVED to be, always surrounded by her grandchildren and always playing and singing with her great grandchildren, Gabriella and Christopher, she truly cherished those moments, and these children adored their "NONI". She will live on in their hearts forever. At the end of her days, she would say "Pray to me in Heaven and I will hear you and help you." We all are praying.

She was the loving daughter of the late Frank and Lena (Gallo) Casaletto, beloved wife of the late Nicholas Amodeo; devoted mother of Doreen Milito and her husband, John of Saugus, Frank Amodeo and his wife, Jacqueline of Brockton,



Nicholas Amodeo of East Boston, Sandra Lavigueur and her husband, Robert of Winthrop and the late Dennis and John (Jack) Amodeo; cherished sister of the late Dorothy Beddia and Joseph Casaletto; adored grandmother of Lauren, Lindsey, John, Danielle, Brooke, Erin, Jackie, Jamie, Joy, Jill, Nicholas and Christopher. She is also survived by many loving great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Rita's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, today, Wednesday, July 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to the Most Holy Redeemer Parish, East Boston, for a Funeral Mass celebrating her life at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Rita being laid to rest with her beloved husband, Nicholas, at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. May they rest in peace.

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

### Joseph Ventresca

He was the living embodiment of the American Dream

Joseph Ventresca, 74, passed away on May 19, 2024, in San Clemente, California. He was born on February 8, 1950 in Torre dei Nolfi, Italy. Joe emigrated to the United States with his mother, Elisa in 1956. They were reunited with his father, Mario, and the Ventresca family in East Boston. Joe would later relocate and find his forever home in California, where he would also meet the love of his life, Marlene Jaynes.

Joe was a living embodiment of the American dream, finding success, joy and happiness in the United States, while never losing touch with his family and where he came from. He attended Curtis Guild School and went on to Boston Latin School, where he excelled. He was the first member of his family to graduate from university.

Joe was predeceased by his incredible life-partner, Marlene Jaynes, and survived by his loving stepchildren. Joe and Marlene's life together would create a loving family. Joe is remembered as a truly incredible stepfather who enriched their lives from an early age.

He is also survived by his sister, Joanne, brother-in-law, William, nephew, Desmond, and his cousins: Laura, Ginger, Joseph and Anthony. Joe is also survived by aunts, cousins and relatives in Canada and Italy.

One cannot forget to mention the love and joy Joe had for his pets, of which there were many.



He is also survived by his beloved cats, Spanky and Darla.

In his career, Joe excelled in finance, earning his CPA, and working at prestigious accounting firms before becoming the owner of his own business in California. He was a dedicated professional who left a lasting impact on those who knew him.

Above all his accomplishments, there was none greater than his love for his family and the memories shared.

Joe enjoyed cooking, traveling, music, horse racing and trying exotic foods. His hobbies reflected his adventurous spirit and love for creating lasting memories with those around him. Joe was known for his generosity and fun-loving nature. He cherished his time with family and friends, making those memories around dinner tables, restaurants, and bars. Joe's warm personality, knack for storytelling, and zest for life touched all who knew him.

A celebration of life to honor Joe will be held at a later date. May his memory live on in the hearts of all who had the pleasure of knowing and loving him.

## LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT  
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§5-304  
Docket No.  
SU24P1392GD  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
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RESPONDENT Alleged  
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To the named Respondent  
and all other interested  
persons, a petition has  
been filed by Advocate  
Healthcare Of East Boston  
of East Boston, MA in  
the above captioned  
matter alleging that  
Natalie Heffelfinger is in

need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.  
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.  
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 08/01/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you.

In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 03, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett  
Register of Probate  
07/10/24  
EB

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# Tips for preparing your child now for back-to-school bullies

Many parents are already considering what they need to do to prepare their children for the new school year that is just around the corner. While what they will wear and do after school is essential, ensuring they know what to do about back-to-school bullies should be at the top of every parent's priority list. Bullies will head back to school as well, and they will be ready to start picking on kids from day one.

"Summer is a great time to get kids ready for the new school year, including with how to win against bullies," says Kirk Smalley, co-founder of Stand for the Silent. "Addressing it now will ensure the school year will be smooth and bully-free."

Over the summer, parents can do a lot to raise awareness about bullying in their home and community. Making it a priority may help reduce the incidents of bullying in school and in the community. Proactive communities can make people more

aware of the issue, which can help reduce the incidents.

According to the National Institutes of Health, a few risk factors may make people more vulnerable to being bullied. These include a kid being seen as different from their peers, being seen as weak or unable to defend themselves, having low self-esteem, being less popular, not socializing well with others, and suffering from disabilities.

Here are tips for preparing kids now for back-to-school bullies:

**Discuss bullying now.** Discuss bullying, including what it is and what to do about it. Talk about the different types of bullying, how to address it, and what to do if they see someone else being bullied.

**Role-play.** Act out some bullying scenes with the kids so they can practice responding to them. This will help put them more at ease if the real situation ever comes up.

Get others involved.

Parents can start anti-bullying groups now, which will get more kids involved in helping to keep bullying out of the school. Kids can get together to discuss the issue and ways to respond.

Contact the school. Most schools have staff working over the summer. Contact the child's school to inquire about having an anti-bullying campaign kick off when school starts. Help them bring in a speaker, such as Stand for the Silent, and get together a group of kids for the anti-bullying task force.

**Teach self-defense.** It's never a good idea to encourage your child to fight, but there are some self-defense moves that they can learn to protect themselves should it get physical. Bullies tend to pick on those they feel won't stand up for themselves. Teach kids self-defense over the summer, such as enrolling them in karate. When kids are confident, they are more likely to stand up to a bully, and

then the bully loses interest in that person.

"This school year, we are going to be rewarding students who help with anti-bullying at their school," added Smalley. "We want to encourage students to set the example and help create a kinder, more accepting school atmosphere."

Stand for the Silent is launching a program called Student Stand Out this school year. Teachers can nominate students who they feel stand out by being kind, addressing bullying, being a positive role model, having good leadership, having respect and integrity, and demonstrating actions that show initiative to end bullying at the school. Each week through the school year, one nominee will be chosen to receive a \$50 Visa gift card, and at the end of each semester, one person will be selected to win a \$100 gift card. The nomination period runs from August 1 to December 1 and then from January 1

to April 1. For more information about the program, visit the site at: <https://standforthesilent.org/schools/standout>

Stand for the Silent travels the country, providing seminars and talks for communities and schools. They also offer helpful materials online to help people with bullying issues. Each year, they also give scholarships to students who help address bullying at their schools. To get more information on how to have the organization do a presentation or how to start a local chapter, visit the site at: <https://standforthesilent.org/>

Smalley and his wife, Laura, started the organization following their 11-year-old son, ending his own life due to bullying. They turned their pain and loss into a mission of helping others. He travels the country giving presentations about bullying to schools, providing bullying prevention, giving out scholarships, offering intervention strategies, and

more. Those interested in getting involved can start a chapter of the group in their area, obtain a free K-2 bullying prevention curriculum or cyberbullying handbook for parents, host a presentation at their school, introduce the How All Started video, and donate to help support the cause. To get more information, visit the site at: <https://standforthesilent.org/>

Started in 2010, Stand for the Silent is an organization on a mission to help eliminate bullying nationwide. Kirk and Laura Smalley founded the group after their child took his own life due to bullying. They offer free resources for parents and educators and travel to schools to host presentations. They have been to over 6,025 schools and spoken with more than 4.15 million students. To get more information, visit the site at: <https://standforthesilent.org/>

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# MWRA annual report confirms high quality of region's water

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which supplies drinking water to fifty-three area municipalities including Boston, is mailing its Annual Water Quality Report to every household within its service area. Sourced from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, local drinking water undergoes hundreds of thousands of tests annually, is constantly being monitored and this year once again meets or surpasses every federal and state safe drinking water standard. MWRA drinking water is considered among the nation's best.

Executive Director Henry Vitale of Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), which partners with MWRA to provide

Boston's award-winning drinking water, noted that the focus on quality is imperative every step of the way from "the reservoir to the tap." In that spirit, he said, BWSC is continuing its aggressive campaign to remove all private lead service pipes remaining in Boston. "We want everyone in Boston to enjoy our high-quality drinking water safely," said Vitale. "If people have a lead pipe supplying water into their residence, suspect they have lead or are unsure, please call Boston Water and Sewer Commission right away."

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has directed the Commission to provide both free inspections to determine if pipes are lead or not, and for the lead replacement program it-

self to be cost free. Boston property owners who would like to take advantage of the no-cost private lead service pipe removal program are urged to call the BWSC Lead Hotline for assistance on this or any other lead related issues at (617) 989-7888. Customers may also visit the Commission's Lead Service Map at: <https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/map-room/lead-service-map> to look up information the Commission may have on the status of their property.

While both MWRA's and BWSC's public distribution mains are lead free, thousands of older Boston properties may still have a private lead service line. Replacement of private lead service lines is an important public health issue because excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects, especially for young children and pregnant women. Again, call our Lead Hotline at 617-989-7888 for more information.

### MWRA Water Quality Report

Boston is home to New England's oldest and largest water, sewer and storm water systems, which are owned, maintained and operated by Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC). Established in 1977, BWSC provides portable water and sewer services to more than one million people per day. BWSC is also the leading organizer of We Are All Connected, a campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving Boston's waterways. For more information please visit: [www.bwsc.org](http://www.bwsc.org).

## LOCAL STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

### BLINMAN IN EMERSON STAGE PRODUCTION OF SECOND STAR TO THE RIGHT

Emerson College student Nel Blinman of East Boston, participated in the theater performance of Second Star to the Right, a NewFest 2024: Rod Parker Playwriting Fellowship Production this past spring from March 27-30 at the Greene Theatre in Boston. Written by Olivia Lindquist '27 and directed by Joe Antoun, the play is a spin on Peter Pan's tale.

Blinman is majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies and is a member of the Class of 2027.

Emerson Stage and the Department of Performing Arts are where the next generation of actors, designers, stage managers, technicians, administrators, and educators work alongside distinguished faculty, professional staff, and visiting artists to bring skills learned in the classroom to vibrant life on stage.

### HANNAH NILSSON NAMED A NEW MEMBER OF PURPLE KEY LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

Emerson College student Hannah Nilsson from East Boston, is a new member of the Purple Key Leadership Society, honored this past semester.

Thirty-seven seniors were inducted into the Purple Key Leadership Society for the 2023-2024 academic year during the ERA (Emerson Recognition & Achievement) Awards ceremony on April 12. Purple Key recipients demonstrate exceptional leadership and service, a strong commitment to civic engagement, and solid academic achievement.

Nilsson is majoring in Theatre Edu and Performance and is a member of the Class of 2024.

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 communi-

cation and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 4,161 undergraduates 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.

### AREA RESIDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES FROM CLARK UNIVERSITY

Clark University awarded 1,376 degrees (503 bachelor's, 847 master's, 26 doctoral degrees) to the Class of 2024 and conferred four honorary degrees during the University's 120th Commencement exercises on Monday, May 20. The graduates included 653 international students representing 39 countries.

Following is a list of area residents who received degrees:

Denise M. Smith, from East Boston,, graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts.

Steve Kirk, from East Boston,, graduated with a Master of Arts.

Geography Professor Rinku Roy Chowdhury read a commencement address from Dr. Robert D. Bullard, "the father of environmental justice" and the Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University, who was unable to attend in person due to an illness.

"Every successful progressive social movement in the United States has had strong, fearless, and dedicated young people and students leading the

way, pushing hard at the front and pressing for justice now, rather than justice delayed," Bullard wrote

Bullard grew up a child of the Jim Crow South, attending all-Black elementary, middle, and high schools and undergraduate college. In a speech that cited a number of environmental justice milestones over the years, Bullard wrote that he was "happy to be able to pass the baton to the up-and-coming generations of environmental justice advocates who will continue with the same resilience that so many involved in the journey have already shown."

In addition to Bullard, honorary degrees were conferred to Sean B. Carroll, Distinguished University Professor and Baló-Simon Chair of Biology at the University of Maryland, who has been called "the greatest science storyteller of our time"; Akiko Iwasaki, Sterling Professor of Immunobiology at the Yale University School of Medicine, who researches the mechanisms of immune defense against viruses at mucosal surfaces; and Michel Nischan, a four-time James Beard Award-winning chef and champion of the farm-to-table concept.

Two members of the Class of 2024 also spoke during the ceremony. Laila El-Samra addressed her fellow undergraduates and said that during the COVID years, "Clark's unique spirit prevailed, fostering resilience and solidarity."

Graduate student speaker Gabe Spindel lauded Clark for providing a diverse learning environment.

"We encompass every corner of the earth," he said. "Celebrating Diwali, Ganesh Chaturthi, and the Chinese New Year has enriched me in a way no classroom ever could."

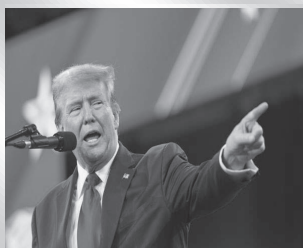
In closing, Clark President David B. Fithian told the graduates, "My greatest hope for you is that you truly relish the never finished business of the project that is you, that you embrace the joy of discovery still ahead, and that you seize the opportunities to learn even more about the world, yourself, and what fulfills you."

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# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts President & CEO Mark O'Donnell is New England Revolution's Hero of the Match

Special to the Times-Free Press

On July 3, the New England Revolution honored Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts President & CEO Mark O'Donnell as the game's Hero of the Match. O'Donnell joins a roster of local first responders, members of the armed forces and individuals making a difference in the community celebrated by the team during home games this season.

In 2024, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM) celebrates 75 years of service across the region. The largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in New England partners with families to provide children with one-to-one relationships with caring adult mentors who help them reach their fullest potential. With research and proven outcomes at its core, BBBSEM creates Big-Little matches based on shared interests, geography and personality and serves as a consistent resource for Bigs, Littles and their families. Children are paired with mentors across Eastern Massachusetts from the Merrimack Valley to Cape Cod and the Islands.

For the past 13 years, O'Donnell has been a



STEPHEN SPENCER, COURTESY OF NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts President and CEO Mark O'Donnell is shown at the ceremony.

BIG part of the nonprofit's success. He took the reins at the onset of COVID as President and CEO in July of 2020. Previously, he served nine years as the nonprofit's Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer. During his tenure, he has touched the lives of thousands of youths, their volunteer mentors, his staff, members of the board and the agency's corporate and community partners

along the way, leading the organization through two periods of unprecedented growth and impact through an equity lens. Today, BBBSEM serves nearly 4,000 children and teens annually in over 150 communities from the Merrimack Valley to Cape Cod and the Islands.

"It's an honor to be recognized for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts' 75 years of dedication and work to

support youth physically, socially, academically, and emotionally," says O'Donnell. "I am grateful to the New England Revolution team for their help to shine a light on the importance of youth mentoring and the ripple effect mentoring a young person has beyond the individual to positively impact families and communities at large."

O'Donnell walks his talk. As a two-time Big

Brother, he has seen firsthand the positive impact that BBBSEM's programs have on youth. Both times, the Little and his family moved away. In the moments of saying their goodbyes, he knew just how much he meant to those kids and just how much of an impact he had truly made in their lives. Mentors make a real difference in everyone's lives, especially for children, and we need more of them.

"It's not work when you love what you do," says O'Donnell. "We are creating a generation of kids who have formed relationships with people who are different from them, often times racially, culturally, and socio-economically, so that they can form an understanding that will help to heal our communities. It is the smile on a child's face when they believe in themselves and the impact mentoring on one child can have on families, school cultures and communities at large that make it all worth it."

In its 75 years, BBBSEM has supported more than 25,000 youth. By 2028, the nonprofit aims to expand its reach to serve 10,000 youth in 150 communities statewide. For more information about

BBBSEM, to become a volunteer or to register your children, visit: [www.emassbigs.org](http://www.emassbigs.org).

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is an innovative, energetic organization that is making a real difference in the lives of nearly 4,000 youth annually by providing them with an invested, caring adult mentor in long-term, professionally supported relationships. With research and proven outcomes at its core, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is working to defend the potential of children facing adversity and ensure every child has the support from caring adults that they need for healthy development and success in life. The organization's vision is to inspire, engage and transform communities in Eastern Massachusetts by helping youth achieve their full potential, contributing to healthier families, better schools, more confident futures and stronger communities. Throughout its 75 years, the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in New England has created and served more than 25,000 youth. For more information about the agency and its mission, visit [www.emassbigs.org](http://www.emassbigs.org).

## Take the MBTA Ferry East Boston ↔ Long Wharf

One-way fare \$2.40 | Children 11 and under ride free.  
No fares July 5 - August 5 during the Sumner Tunnel closure.

### EAST BOSTON FERRY

Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston — Long Wharf, Boston



Boston Harbor citycruises

#### Weekday Schedule

To Long Wharf, Boston		To Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:15 AM	7:25 AM
7:30 AM	7:40 AM	7:45 AM	7:55 AM
8:00 AM	8:10 AM	8:15 AM	8:25 AM
8:30 AM	8:40 AM	8:45 AM	8:55 AM
9:00 AM	9:10 AM	9:15 AM	9:25 AM
9:30 AM	9:40 AM	9:45 AM	9:55 AM
10:00 AM	10:10 AM	10:15 AM	10:25 AM
10:30 AM	10:40 AM	10:45 AM	10:55 AM
11:00 AM	11:10 AM	11:15 AM	11:25 AM
11:30 AM	11:40 AM	11:45 AM	11:55 AM
12:00 PM	12:10 PM		
		2:15 PM	2:25 PM
2:30 PM	2:40 PM	2:45 PM	2:55 PM
3:00 PM	3:10 PM	3:15 PM	3:25 PM
3:30 PM	3:40 PM	3:45 PM	3:55 PM
4:00 PM	4:10 PM	4:15 PM	4:25 PM
4:30 PM	4:40 PM	4:45 PM	4:55 PM
5:00 PM	5:10 PM	5:15 PM	5:25 PM
5:30 PM	5:40 PM	5:45 PM	5:55 PM
6:00 PM	6:10 PM	6:15 PM	6:25 PM
6:30 PM	6:40 PM	6:45 PM	6:55 PM
7:00 PM	7:10 PM	7:15 PM	7:25 PM
7:30 PM	7:40 PM	7:45 PM	7:55 PM

#### Weekend Schedule

To Long Wharf, Boston		To Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
9:00 AM	9:10 AM	9:15 AM	9:25 AM
9:30 AM	9:40 AM	9:45 AM	9:55 AM
10:00 AM	10:10 AM	10:15 AM	10:25 AM
10:30 AM	10:40 AM	10:45 AM	10:55 AM
11:00 AM	11:10 AM	11:15 AM	11:25 AM
11:30 AM	11:40 AM	11:45 AM	11:55 AM
12:00 PM	12:10 PM	12:15 PM	12:25 PM
		3:15 PM	3:25 PM
3:30 PM	3:40 PM	3:45 PM	3:55 PM
4:00 PM	4:10 PM	4:15 PM	4:25 PM
4:30 PM	4:40 PM	4:45 PM	4:55 PM
5:00 PM	5:10 PM	5:15 PM	5:25 PM
5:30 PM	5:40 PM	5:45 PM	5:55 PM
6:00 PM	6:10 PM	6:15 PM	6:25 PM
6:30 PM	6:40 PM	6:45 PM	6:55 PM
7:00 PM	7:10 PM	7:15 PM	7:25 PM
7:30 PM	7:40 PM	7:45 PM	7:55 PM
8:00 PM	8:10 PM	8:15 PM	8:25 PM
8:30 PM	8:40 PM	8:45 PM	8:55 PM

Tickets available on the mTicket App.