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Wednesday, March 12, 2025

EAST BOSTON YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE



East Boston Youth Basketball League 7-9-year-olds at the Martin Pino Community Center on March 8. Before the exciting match-ups, the League recognized two legendary figures who have been leading the organization for decades as friends and mentors to staff, families, and generations of youth. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

East Boston resident running for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge to raise funds for cancer research

Special to the Times-Free Press

AJ Andreucci of East Boston. Massachusetts is running to defy cancer as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team in the 129th Boston Marathon®.

Andreucci, 33, is an Assistant Dean of Students at Massa-

chusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Originally from Malden, Andreucci moved to East Boston in 2021.

Along with more than 500 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge teammates from across the United States and around the world, they will run Massachusetts' historic marathon

route from Hopkinton to Boston to collectively raise \$8.5 million for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This year marks the 36th annual running of the Dana-Far-Marathon Challenge (DFMC). One hundred percent

See CHALLENGE Page 14

Tree Eastie founder visits **HVNA** and provides updates

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Bill Masterson, the founder of Tree Eastie, a non-profit organization that focuses on planting, maintaining, and educating people about the benefits of trees, joined the Harbor View Neighborhood Association's (HVNA) monthly meeting last week to review their recent work and upcoming plans.

Notably, Masterson indicat-

ed that Tree Eastie planted 190 trees in 2024, which brings the organization's total trees planted to 499. "So we'll be planting our 500th tree this spring, which is pretty cool," he said.

Moreover, Masterson mentioned that Tree Eastie has a program in which it will plant a tree in your yard for free. The

See TREE EASTIE Page 15

Madaro appointed House Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue

Special to the Times-Free Press

State Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston) has been appointed by Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) as the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue, a key legislative committee responsible for reviewing matters related to state and local taxation, revenues, and fiscal policy.

"I am honored to take on this new role as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue," said Representative Madaro. "As Massachusetts continues

See MADARO Page 14



State Rep. Adrian Madaro



East Boston

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Forum

PLEASE: NO PUBLIC OR UNDERAGE DRINKING ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

With the St. Patrick's Day holiday and traditional South Boston parade approaching on Sunday, March 16, we urge our public safety officials to plan for enforcing the laws which prohibit drinking in public, especially by underage drinkers.

A couple of years ago in the aftermath of the South Boston parade, we found ourselves in the unfortunate situation of riding the Red Line to the South Shore. The trains were packed with highly-inebriated, rowdy, under-age drinkers who were drinking openly on the trains and then flinging their empties around the train cars, striking other passengers. The platforms resembled war zones, with large-scale fights and scores of youths who were passed out left-and-right.

We realize that everyone wants to relax and have a good time on St. Patrick's Day, but that is no excuse for our public safety officials turning a blind eye to underage drinking and drinking in public. In addition, for those of us of Irish descent, the perception that being "Irish for a day" means drinking heavily is highly-insulting.

It is all-but-inevitable that with the high degree of public intoxication that is tacitly permitted by our public safety officials, there will be a tragedy. We urge our public officials to take steps ahead of time to stop this annual reign of dangerous mass chaos and drunkenness.

If officials in many Florida communities have been able to curb the rowdiness of spring-breakers, we can do so here on St. Patrick's Day.

THERE'S AN UPSIDE TO OUR LOUSY PRO SPORTS TEAMS

When we were younger (from when we were kids through our 40s), the adrenaline rush from watching one of our local sports teams compete in a big game was something we looked forward to.

But now that we're a "bit" older, the thrill of it all has made us wary of getting too excited, as every long-time diehard Sox, Bruins, Pats, and Celtics fan who has had the urge to throw a shoe at the TV screen can attest.

We thought we were unique in our stressed-out sports-mindedness when our teams lost a big game, but we recently read of a study in the American Journal of Cardiology that found an increase in the rates of cardiovascular deaths (and deaths from all causes) in the Los Angeles area when the Rams lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1980 Super Bowl. The death rates were higher on the day of the Super Bowl and the following two weeks compared with other days.

In a study of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, the incidence of cardiac emergencies in Bavaria was 2.66 times higher on days when the German team played, according to a study in the New England Journal of Medicine. These events were highest in the quarterfinal, when Germany beat Argentina in a penalty shootout

Most of the cardiac events occurred in the first two hours after the start of matches, though the numbers were higher for several hours before and after the contests. It should be noted that about 47% of those who had heart attacks already had been diagnosed with coronary artery disease -- which means older people are more vulnerable to the effects of a big game.

So yes, it's been sad to watch the pathetic play of the Sox and Pats (and now the Bruins) these past few years after their great successes in the era from 2001-2019. But the upside to their string of last-place finishes is that we can watch a game with no hopes and no expectations -- and thus no reason to get stressed-out by the outcome.

To be sure, it is not fun to be on the outside looking in, so to speak, when other teams are competing for world championships. But on the other hand, fewer of us will be taken out on a stretcher to the ER.



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LETTER to the Editor

REPRESENTATIVE PRESSLEY EARNS HIGH MARKS ON **ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD**

To the Editor,

On February 26, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) released the 2024 National Environmental Scorecard, with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, earning a 91% A rating. Our senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey earned 100% A+ scores. Our nation needs more thoughtful leadership on the federal level, and we are lucky to have these three lawmakers representing our district and state.

For 55 years, the Scorecard has analyzed the environmental records of members of Congress. Massachusetts' entire congressional delegation earned A or A+ scores, placing it among the highest-ranking delegations in the country.

Massachusetts' delegation remained dedicated to our collective values, voting against cuts to clean energy investments and a House agenda that catered to corporate polluters. Their continued efforts are critical as we face escalating federal challenges to our nation's climate investments and programs. Our communities, economy, and planet are at stake, and I trust that our delegation will not let up on the fight for a brighter clean energy

LCV and its state affiliate, the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) Action Fund, applaud champions like Representative Pressley, Senator Markey, and Senator Warren, for prioritizing urgent climate action and the health of our communities.

The 2024 National Environmental Scorecard is available at https://scorecard.lcv.org/.

Robert Hart

Edwards named Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary

State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-East Boston) was named Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary for the 194th Mas-sachusetts Legislative Session. As Chair, Senator Edwards will also lead one of the most criti-cal joint committees in the state legislature. The committee for-merly handles all matters con-cerning crimes, penalties and sentencing, criminal offender record information, judiciary, in-cluding the recall of judges, the salaries of judges, court clerks and court officers of the various courts, probation officers, juries and jury duty, parole, registers of deeds. However, many of the constitutional issues, repro-ductive rights, civil rights, the UCC, gun rights have also been referred to the com-

"I am grateful to Senate Pres-ident, Karen Spilka for appoint-ing me to this important role," said Senator Edwards. "The Judiciary Committee plays an important role in drafting poli-cies that affect the lives of every resident in our Commonwealth. As chair, I am committed to advancing justice, equity, and fairness in our legal system, and ensuring that the voices of all communities are heard as we continue to move forward"

The Joint Committee on the Judiciary reviews a wide range of issues including criminal law, civil rights, family law, and ju-dicial appointments. Senator Edwards, before getting elected to the Boston City Council in 2017, has advocated for criminal justice reform, racial justice, immigrant rights, and policies that strengthen the rule of law while ensuring equal treatment for all residents of the Common-wealth of Massachusetts.

Alyson Rozzi named as a 2025 Carson Scholar

Special to the Times-Free Press

olic School (EBCCS) is very excited to announce that Alyson Rozzi has been named as a 2025 Carson Scholar.

The Carson Scholars Fund was founded in 1994 by world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Benjamin S. Carson and his wife to motivate and reward academic excellence in young people.

Recipients must be nominated by several educators. However, only one student may be recommended from an individual school annually. The candidates must epitomize the highest level of academic excellence with a minimum GPA of 3.75 while displaying leadership and humanitarian qualities through community service and social justice efforts.

Alyson Rozzi was selected as a nominee through a rigorous application process at East Boston Central Catholic in the fall. Qualified students from grades 4-8 were asked to complete an essay explaining why he/she should be named to represent EBCCS. Alyson was chosen by the five-person inner-school panel because of her high academic achievement, integrity, civic and social responsibility.

Moving on the national level becomes extremely competitive. The Carson Scholarship is highly selective open to scholars from across all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Alyson started at East Boston Central Catholic School in

East Boston Central Cath-



preschool and has been an active member of the school community since day one. She actively participates in the school choir and sports clubs, as well as, attends Taekwondo classes outside of school. She currently serves as a captain in Bosco House as part of the EBCCS Middle School House program, where students learn to take on leadership roles, as well as, participate in community building activities in and around the school such as volunteering at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen every month.

Alyson is now the third EB-CCS student to win this prestigious award. Gabrielle Ribeiro won in 2015 and Dante Minacapilli won in 2021.

EBCCS was established in 1974 as the first multi-parish collaborative elementary school in the Archdiocese of Boston. The school currently serves students from Pre-K through Grade 8 from East Boston and the surrounding communities.

EBCCS is committed to guiding our students to become a spiritual person, a whole person, a loving person, a responsible person and a hope-filled person. We provide an education that is formed through faith, sustained by family, and enriched by wisdom. Upon graduation our students are inspired to achieve and empowered to serve.

Enrollment for 2025-26 school year is now open. Please visit the school website at EB-CCS.org to learn more and rediscover excellence for your

Congratulations Aly!



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EAST BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 2025 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Corporation & Voting on Resolution of Members regarding Articles of Organization of the Corporation and its By-Laws.

Date: April 7, 2025

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Office: 80 Border Street, 3rd Floor East Boston, MA 02128

Those members of the corporation entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting are those Class C stockholders of record as of 5:00 p.m. December 31, 2024

Jaramillo Family launches perinatal health foundation

The Cord Foundation to focus on awareness, resources. and advocacy to address perinatal health challenges, outcomes

Special to the Times-Free Press

Crystal Jaramillo, of Revere. and her husband Juan Pablo Jaramillo, announced the launch of The Cord Foundation, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to bring awareness to people who experience severe perinatal health challenges, and to build a network of support and resources for families and improve perinatal outcomes for parents and their children.

In late 2022, Crystal was diagnosed with postpartum psychosis (PPP) following a traumatic birth experience with her son Lucas. Hospitalized and seeking treatment, Crystal faced a severe and complicated diagnosis that is surprisingly common, affecting 1 in every 1,000 births. According to the Cleveland Clinic, PPP is a reversible mental health emergency that affects a person's sense of reality and can be dangerous to the birth parent and the child.

Dr. Leigh Simmons, a primary care provider at Massachusetts General Hospital and board member of The Cord Foundation, added that "pregnancy and childbirth are complex physical, emotional, and social events in a person's life. The Cord's mission to focus on supporting new parents will benefit families greatly during what can be a time of great stress. The best medicine is preventive medicine, and this model applied to pregnancy and postpartum care has great promise for improving health and social outcomes."

Inspired by the Jaramillo's perinatal story, which includes birth trauma, postpartum psychosis and recovery, The Cord Foundation was created with the mission to "bringing awareness to people who experience severe perinatal health challenges, and to build a network of support and resources for families and improve perinatal outcomes for parents and their children" according to its website.

"My perinatal journey is not unique but it often is only spoken about when tragedy strikes. Thousands of birthing parents, like me, feel unheard throughout their maternal and postpartum care and often reflected in their perinatal and postpartum outcomes," said Crystal Jaramillo. "There are long-term structural gaps in our maternal

care system that create barriers to holistic birthing care and postpartum mental health care resources while stigmatizing, in particular, historically marginalized populations. Lucas and I fell through those gaps and were blessed to have the unwavering support of my husband and our family throughout my recovery. The Cord will address the gaps by creating an infrastructure of care centered on birthing parents that removes the barriers to access that put new families at

The Massachusetts Legislature passed a maternal health bill in the fall but language to define conditions like postpartum psychosis offered up Rep. O'Day and Senator Lovely failed to pass during the legislative debate.

State Senator Lydia Edwards a board member of The Cord Foundation said "last session the legislature recommitted to investing and improving perinatal health for all Bay Staters, still, maternal health is complex and historically misunderstood. The Cord's advocacy will help policymakers like myself to reframe the maternal health conversation to the full spectrum of care from conception through the postpartum stage and to bring support and visibility to people who have had severe perinatal outcomes."

The Cord will focus its efforts on three core tenets: Awareness, Resources, and Advocacy.

Awareness - The Cord Foundation amplifies the often-overlooked realities of traumatic perinatal experiences—particularly those shaped by socio-economic and racial disparities by sharing stories like Crystal's, fostering visibility, and advocating for improved maternal and child health outcomes.

Resources – The Cord Foundation will support better perinatal outcomes by connecting parents with holistic birthing support, essential healthcare resources, and long-term postpartum care, while also aiming to provide scholarships, educational workshops, and advocacy to strengthen perinatal care accessibility and equity.

See HEALTH Page 5



Crystal, Lucas, and City Councillor-at-Large Juan Pablo Jaramillo.

La familia Jaramillo lanzó una fundación para la salud perinatal

Special to the Times-Free Press

Crystal Jaramillo, de Revere, y su esposo Juan Pablo Jaramillo, concejal general de Revere, anunciaron el lanzamiento de The Cord Foundation, una organización sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3). Su misión es sensibilizar a las personas que experimentan graves problemas de salud perinatal, y construir una red de apoyo y recursos para las familias y mejorar los resultados perinatales para los padres y sus hijos.

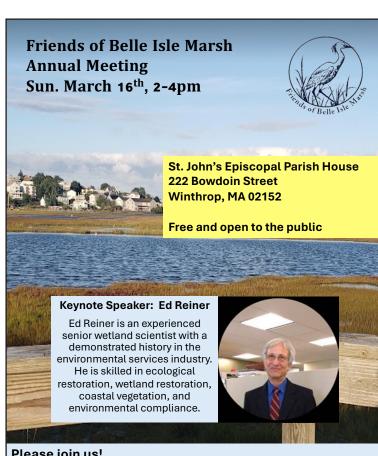
En 2022, Crystal fue diagnosticada de psicosis posparto (PPP) tras una experiencia traumática en el parto de su hijo

Hospitalizada y en busca de tratamiento, Crystal se enfrentó a un diagnóstico grave y complicado que es sorprendentemente común, ya que afecta a 1 de cada 1.000 nacimientos. Según la Clínica Cleveland, la PPP es una emergencia de salud mental reversible que afecta al sentido de la realidad de una persona y puede ser peligrosa para el padre biológico y el niño.

La Dra. Leigh Simmons, médico de atención primaria del Hospital General de Massachusetts y miembro del consejo de la Fundación The Cord, añadió que "el embarazo y el parto son acontecimientos físicos, emocionales y sociales complejos en la vida de una persona. La misión de The Cord de centrarse en el apoyo a los nuevos padres beneficiará enormemente a las familias durante lo que puede ser una época de gran estrés. La mejor medicina es la medicina preventiva, y este modelo aplicado a la atención durante el embarazo y el posparto es muy prometedor para mejorar los resultados sanitarios y sociales."

Inspirada en la historia perinatal de Crystal Jaramillo, que incluye el trauma durante el parto, la psicosis posparto y la recuperación, la The Cord se creó con la misión de "concienciar a las personas que experimentan graves problemas de salud perinatal y crear una red de apoyo y recursos para las familias y mejorar los resultados perinatales para los padres y sus hijos", según su página web.

"Mi historia perinatal no es única, pero a menudo sólo se habla de historias similares cuando ocurre una tragedia. Miles de padres y madres que dan a luz, como yo, no se sienten escuchados durante su atención materna y posparto, lo que a menudo se refleja en sus resultados perinatales y posparto", dijo Crystal Jaramillo. "Existen lagunas estructurales a largo plazo en nuestro sistema de atención materna que crean barreras a la atención holística antes y durante el parto y a los recursos de salud mental posparto, al tiempo que estigmatizan, en



Please join us!

- **Updates from Board**
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See JARAMILLO Page 5

EDWARDS INTRODUCES MARKEY AT TOWN HALL EVENT





On Saturday, March 8, at Malden High School, Sen. Ed Markey held a town hall event. More than 1,000 people showed up (above left) to hear Markey. Sen. Lydia Edwards (above right) was honored to introduce Markey to the stage. Edwards said, "At a time when chaos and dysfunction dominate the highest levels of government, we need steady, experienced leaders who fight for justice, equity, and working families. Senator Markey has always been that leader—standing up for our communities, protecting our rights, and delivering real results for our communities. I am grateful for his commitment to Massachusetts and proud to stand with him in this fight!"

Jaramillo // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

particular, a las poblaciones históricamente marginadas. Lucas y yo caímos en esas lagunas y tuvimos la suerte de contar con el apoyo inquebrantable de mi esposo y nuestra familia durante mi recuperación. The Cord abordará esas lagunas creando una infraestructura de atención centrada en los padres que dan a luz, que elimine las barreras de acceso que ponen en peligro a las nuevas familias".

El Cordón centrará sus esfuerzos en tres principios básicos: Concienciación, Recursos y Defensa.

Concienciación - La Fundación Cord amplifica las realidades a menudo pasadas por alto de las experiencias perinatales traumáticas, en particular las que están marcadas por disparidades socioeconómicas y raciales, compartiendo historias como la de Crystal, fomentando

la visibilidad y abogando por la mejora de los resultados de la salud materna e infantil.

Recursos - La Fundación Cord apoyará la mejora de los resultados perinatales poniendo en contacto a los padres con apoyo holístico para el parto, recursos sanitarios esenciales y atención posparto a largo plazo, al tiempo que pretende ofrecer becas, talleres educativos y defensa para reforzar la accesibilidad y la equidad de la atención perinatal.

Abogacía - La Fundación Cord abogará por ampliar la atención perinatal y el apoyo posparto, concienciando sobre problemas como la psicosis posparto y los partos traumáticos, al tiempo que presiona para que se tomen medidas legislativas que mejoren la detección precoz y la protección de los padres que dan a luz.

Entre los miembros fundadores de la junta se encuentran: Crystal Jaramillo, así como la Dra. Leigh Simmons, la senadora estatal Lydia Edwards y Niles Welch. La Dra. Simmons es formadora de estudiantes de medicina y dirige las prácticas de medicina interna de los estudiantes de la Facultad de Medicina de Harvard en el Hospital General de Massachusetts. Welch es miembro fundador de Beantown Law Group, LLC y residente en Revere. La senadora

Edwards se ha dedicado a la formulación de políticas desde 2017, cuando fue elegida para el Consejo de la Ciudad de Boston, y luego se unió al Senado Estatal de Massachusetts en 2021.

Para mas informacion visita thecordfoundation.org

Health // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Advocacy – The Cord Foundation will advocate for expanded perinatal care and postpartum support, raising awareness of issues like postpartum psychosis and traumatic births while pushing for legislative action to improve early screening and protections for birthing parents.

The founding board mem-

bers include: Crystal Jaramillo, as well as Dr. Leigh Simmons, State Senator Lydia Edwards, and Niles Welch. Dr. Simmons is a medical student educator and directs the internal medicine clerkship for Harvard Medical School students at Massachusetts General Hospital. Welch is a founding member of

Beantown Law Group, LLC and a Revere resident. Senator Edwards has been a policy maker since 2017 when she was elected to the Boston City Council, then joined the Massachusetts State Senate in 2021.

For more information, please visit thecordfoundation.org.



OBITUARIES

Nicholas J. Coviello

A proud pillar of the East Boston community



Nicholas John Coviello was born in East Boston on September 18, 1934 to Nicholas and Phyler) Coviello. He died 2, 2025, at 90 years

lis (Staffier) Coviello. He died on March 2, 2025, at 90 years old, surrounded by his loving family at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers. He remained a proud pillar of the East Boston community for his entire life.

When he was just 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy. His time in the Navy was a point of immense pride and he often shared stories of his adventures including traveling all around the world and to Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze, where his unit was the first to explore since Admiral Byrd's Expedition. He was so proud of his service and would often insist that he wore glasses because of snow-blindness caused by his journey to Antarctica. He received the National Defense Service Medal for honorable service during the Korean War and the Navy Good Conduct Medal. Honorable service and good conduct would be a hallmark of his entire life.

When he returned to East Boston, he met and married the love of his life, Laura (Henderson) Coviello. Through good times and rough times, they stood by one another, supported one another, and loved one another unconditionally for nearly 66 years of marriage. Laura always told her family that she got the best man there was to be her partner in life. Everyone who knew him agreed that God broke the mold when he made Nick.

He was the proud and always supportive father of Deborah Barker, Sandra Colantonio and her husband, Mark, all of East Boston and was predeceased



by his son, Nicholas, formerly of East Boston. He was the beloved brother of Camille Giacobelli and her husband, Charles of Malden, Robert Coviello and his wife, MaryEllen of Arlington, and was predeceased by his sister, Frances Carpinelli of East Boston. He was the adored grandfather of Amanda Barker-Santiago and her husband, Joseph of Peabody, Alicha Marcalo and her husband, Kenny of North Reading, Laura Pari of Everett, Jaclyn Pari of Salem and Christopher Colantonio of East Boston and the cherished great-grandfather of Alexandria, Jacob, Drayven, Kayson, Scarlett, Nicole, Grace, Nicholas and Jackson. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Papa Nick, as he was affectionately known in East Boston, was a proud member of the Local 6 Pipefitter's Union until he retired. Papa had a way of making everyone around him feel loved, cherished, and important, whether it was with a warm smile, a listening ear, or a playful tease. Even when he called you by the wrong name, he still managed to make you feel like you were top of his mind and the most important person

in the room. Even though he had unending patience, he was the most reliable person you knew, and always seemed to just make the right decisions, he still managed to never make you feel judged, even when every decision you made was objectively the wrong one. His love was quiet, but fierce and so deep. He was slow to anger and quick to forgive. When one of his grandkids won an award, or scored a touchdown, or had a baby, he wore that pride so openly. He kept everyone's secrets and supported everyone's dreams, sometimes publicly and sometimes privately. No one ever had to feel like they didn't have a father, because he was a father to all of us. He showed us what a dedicated family man looked like.

Papa, we will be forever heartbroken that you are gone but know that you are in a better place. We will nurture the memories that we have of you and are so grateful that our children had the time they did with you. We all love you to the moon and back. Though you are no longer here in person, you will live on forever in our memories and guide our choic-

You lived to be 90 years old, yet those around you feel like they were cheated because you died too young. That is proof of a life well-lived. You will be desperately missed until we meet again. How do you say goodbye to the best man you will ever know?

Services to celebrate Nicholas' life were held privately.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

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



Ralph "Buddy" Iannelli, Jr.

A man of unwavering Christian faith and a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend

Ralph "Buddy" Iannelli, went home to be with the Lord on March 3, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, whom he cherished deeply.

Buddy was the son of the late Ralph Iannelli and Elaine Kitchell of East Boston.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Gina Iannelli, with whom he shared nearly 45 years of marriage. Together, they built a life filled with love, faith and family. He

leaves behind his daughters, Tanya Doherty and Tara Iannelli, both of Lynn and his cherished grandchildren: Jayla Barton, CJ Barton and Isabella Doherty. Buddy is also survived by his brother, John Iannelli, and his brother-inlaw, Daniel Brennan and his wife, Corrine of Andover. He was the brother-in-law of Joni Dimarzo and Mike Beamer of East Boston and father-in-law to Richard Doherty of Lynn. He also leaves behind many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. He was predeceased by his sister, Joanne Sacco.

Buddy worked for many years as a painter and wall-paper specialist until his retirement. However, his most meaningful role in life, beyond being an amazing husband and father, was serving the Lord. A man of unwavering Christian faith, Buddy was a dedicated servant and an active member of Crossroad Christian Fellow-



ship Church. He found joy and purpose in sharing the word of God, touching the lives of everyone he met.

Outside of his faith and family, Buddy had a passion for fitness and worked out daily. He also loved playing pool and bocce, even more so when he won, but his greatest

joy came from spending time with his loved ones.

Family and friends gathered for visiting hours on Sunday, March 9 at Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home, 82 Lynn St., Peabody. A Funeral Service was held on Monday, March 10 at the same location.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Buddy's name to Crossroad Christian Church, Inc., c/o 34 Pleasant Street, No. Reading, MA. 01864

Buddy's love, faith, and kindness will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

In Loving Memory of Jennifer M. Casev

2.21.1981- 3.10.2005



We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday
And days before that, too.
We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part.
God has you in our hearts.

We all Love & Miss you Fafa,

Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, April 5 @ 4pm St. John's Church, 320 Winthrop St. , Winthrop, 02152

OBITUARIES

Robert "Robbie" Carrillo

Of East Boston



Robert P. "Robbie" Carrillo of East Boston, passed away on March 7, 2025 at 60 years of age.

Cherished son of the late Salvatore and Clara (Amodeo) Carrillo, he was the devoted father of Robyn Carrillo of East Boston, dear brother of Salvatore "Rudy" Carrillo Jr. of Medford, Ronald Carrillo of Revere, Kim Carrillo of East Boston, and the late Anthony "Tony" Carrillo and John "Jay" Carrillo and the adored Papa of Kayla and K.Jay. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Family and friends will honor Robbie's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, for a memorial visitation on Saturday, March 22nd from 12 to 3 p.m. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Beth Ann Scapicchio

She was a beacon of love and kindness

Beth Ann Scapicchio, a beacon of love and kindness, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2025, in New Hampshire, at the age of 60.

Born in Boston on October 8, 1964, Beth's life was a testament to her selfless nature and her unwavering commitment to those she held dear. Beth's early years in Boston laid the foundation for a life filled with compassion and service to others. Her journey led her to become the assistant director for Prospect House Assisted Living and Memory Care, where her dedication to the well-being of the residents was evident in all she did. Her work was not just a job but a calling, as she poured her heart into ensuring that each individual felt valued and cared for.

She leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion to her beloved husband, Richard Scapicchio, with whom she shared a life full of joy and partnership. Her children, Lindsey McGuinness and her husband. Kenny and Nicholas Altimari, will forever cherish the memories and the unconditional love their mother bestowed upon them. Beth's sister, Sheila Welch, will miss the bond of sisterhood they shared, filled with laughter and support.

Beth's life was marked by her loving, kind and selfless nature. She had an extraordinary ability to touch the hearts of those around her, leaving a lasting impact on family, friends and the many lives she touched through her work. Her spirit and the love she shared will continue to resonate with all who knew her, as her memory lives on as a guiding light of compassion and grace.

Family and friends will honor Beth's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, on Thursday, March 13th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston, for a Funeral Mass celebrating her life at 11 a.m. Services will conclude with Beth being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

In honoring the family's wishes, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, National Headquarters, ATTN: Financial Operations, 733 Third Avenue, Ste. 510, New York, NY 10017. For more information please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Anna (Ann) Belmonte

Full of love, laughter and resilience, she touched the lives of all who knew her

Anna (Ann) M. (Visco) Belmonte of Winthrop passed away comfortably at her home on March 6th, in her 95th year, surrounded by her family.

She was the loving wife of the late Aldo Belmonte, a role she cherished deeply. Ann was the devoted mother of Steven Belmonte and his wife, Eliane, Anita Belmonte and the late Robert Durante, Dianne Belmonte and her partner, Peter Hebert and loving grandmother of Stella DeAlbuquerque-Montalvao, all of Winthrop. She was predeceased by her beloved parents, Filomeno and Assunta Visco, her dear siblings: sister, Florence and her husband, Angelo Serafini and her brothers: Alphonse Visco and Anthony and his wife, Nancy Visco; loving aunt of Gloria and Frank Giammanco of Boston, Dan and Karen Serafini of South Carolina, Anthony Visco of Saugus, Linda Visco of Saugus, and the late Rhonda and Richard Serafini of East Boston; cherished great-aunt of Michelle Sousa and her husband, Virgil, Lisa Giammanco, Jennifer Giangregorio, Melissa Giangregorio, Ralph and Stacey Giangregorio, Laura Visco, Michelle Visco and Tylor Sousa. Ann leaves behind many dear cousins and treasured friends, her extended family, whom she loved dearly.

Ann was a devoted mother who loved raising her family and spending time with her nieces and nephews. She loved people and warmly welcomed everyone to her home. Ann was a terrific cook who enjoyed



hosting many holiday gatherings and the annual 4th of July celebrations with family and friends. Ann had a fondness for old movies, with Now Voyager, An Affair to Remember, and Moonstruck being among her favorites. She held dear spending time on her deck surrounded by family, friends, and her beloved Mr. Buddy.

Full of love, laughter and resilience, she touched the lives of all who knew her. She was a wonderful mother who was there when we needed her most, offering abundant support, wisdom and love. She was our shining star, always a smile on her face and an appreciation for life. Ann will be deeply missed but her love, kindness, and wonderful sense of humor will forever stay in our hearts.

Ann's funeral services have passed. Please go to www. ruggieromh.com for more information. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Ann's name to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105



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EAST BOSTON YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Photos by Marianne Salza

East Boston Youth Basketball League (EBYBL) recognized two legendary figures who have been leading the organization for decades as friends and mentors to staff, families, and generations of youth on March 8, at the Martin Pino Community Center. Vol-

unteer coaches, John Forbes -who is celebrating his 50th year of service -- and Michael Gaeta -- recognized for 40 years -- were presented plaques of appreciation to commemorate their impactful dedication to the community.

"It was a surprise. I was surrounded by friends, family, and my basketball family. It's awesome," said Forbes, EBYBL founder, whose five children and 13 grandchildren have all participated in the program. "It's been a lot of fun watching kids grow into adults over the years. It means a lot. The staff at the Community Center are awesome."



Community Center on March 8.



Terry, Michael, Peter, Billy, John, and Mary Forbes.



Martin Pino Community Center staff: William Marchi, William Allen, Julie DeLeo, Michael Gaeta, John Forbes, Lauren Logan, Joseph Weddleton, Michael Brennan, Tony Gallotto, and John Ortiz.



East Boston Youth Basketball League coaches, Michael Gaeta and John Forbes.



Lauren Logan, Director, Martin Pino Community Center.

EAST BOSTON YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE



Shown are scenes from the East Boston Youth Basketball League 7-9-year-olds at the Martin Pino Community Center on March 8.





East Boston Youth Basketball League families gathering in celebrating of coaches, John Forbes and Michael Gaeta, on March 8







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Boston Parks & Recreation to host Duck Boat Pull to benefit youth sports programming

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is thrilled to announce the first annual Duck Boat Pull, set to take place on Saturday, April 12 at Boston Common. This one-of-a-kind fundraiser, hosted in partnership with Boston Duck Tours, will challenge teams of 10 to race against the clock as they pull a 21,000-pound duck boat across a designated course on Boston Common-all in support of Boston's free youth sports and fitness programs.

"This first-of-its-kind event is a great opportunity for community to come together and

participate in a competition that's so uniquely Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We're grateful to our amazing Parks and Recreation team and partners for constantly innovating in creating family-friendly, engaging activities for our residents.

Teams of 10 participants ages 16 and up will compete to pull one of Boston's iconic duck boats across the finish line in the fastest time. In order to participate, each team is required to make a \$1,000 donation, \$100 per person, which will go directly toward funding Boston Parks and Recreation's free youth sports programs. These

programs include leagues, tournaments, and fitness initiatives that foster healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for young people to stay active. In 2024, these free programs served over 20,000 young people in Boston.

"We're excited to bring the community together for our first ever Duck Boat Pull," said Interim Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner. "Not only will participants have a blast competing in this unforgettable experience, but every pull directly supports vital youth sports programs that keep our kids healthy, active, and engaged in their communities."

Award-winning WCVB Channel 5 sports reporter and producer Alexis Beckett will emcee the Duck Boat Pull. bringing her energy and expertise to the event. Residents can get involved by forming a team, becoming a sponsor, or joining the festivities on April 12 to cheer on the competitors and be part of the excitement.

To register your team, select a Team Captain and visit boston.gov/duck-boat-pull. registration deadline is March 26, 2025 and teams are encouraged to sign up early to guarantee their spot.

Businesses and organizations can also get involved by sponsoring the event. Sponsors who sign up by March 21, 2025, will have their logos prominently displayed in event materials and signage. For more information or sponsorship inquiries, please contact Tiffany Clark at Tiffany.Clark@boston.gov (617) 233-2305.

Don't miss out on this exciting challenge, register today and help support Boston's youth sports community! To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, Instagram, and now Bluesky.

Wu announces expansion of Swim Safe program; applications are now available

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu, the City of Boston's Human Services Cabinet, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) announced applications are now open for the latest round of Swim Safe Boston grants to support non-profit organizations in Boston that provide free swim lessons for youth. The \$250,000 in grant funding continues the City's commitment to ensuring families have access to affordable, beginner-level swim lessons for kids. In 2024, Swim Safe provided lessons to over 6,000 youth, and since its launch under Mayor Wu in summer of 2023 has provided lessons to 8,100 kids. Swim Safe is part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore: Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. The funding to support swim instruction builds off the Mayor's commitment to ensure all Boston youth learn to swim and can safely enjoy our City's coastline and pools.

"Swimming is a great summertime activity in the City of Boston and a critical skill year-round. We're continuing our commitment to affordable swimming lessons through the Swim Safe Program, ensuring that our families have the skills they need to safely enjoy our City's pools and coastline," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I encourage all of our aquatic partners to apply for a Swim how to swim and are at higher Safe grant to continue our dedication to safe summer fun."

Interested Swim Safe grant applicants should carefully review the application materials and fill out this application to be considered for a Swim Safe grant. The application is available through the city's Swim Safe website: boston.gov/ swim-safe. Awardees must be non-profit organizations that either operate aquatics facilities or have a partnership with an aquatics facility that is located in the City of Boston. The grant application will close at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025.

"This latest round of grant funding will help us ramp up availability of free lessons going into the summer months when demand is highest," said Human Services Chief José F. Massó. "Through these lessons and the ones offered by BCYF we are making sure that a whole generation of youth are learning how to be safe around water."

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

The City of Boston is seeking to remedy this disparity by investing in swim lessons, repairing the City's public pools, and recruiting and training lifeguards to staff the city's pools. In summer 2024, Boston Centers for Youth & Families successfully recruited 74 seasonal lifeguards, ensuring that all city pools were able to remain open and safely operated throughout the summer. The grant program announced today will be available to organizations that operate pools in Boston and have experience offering swim lesson programming to the public.

The past fall's grantees included the YMCA of Greater Boston and Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, among others. Other grantees included a group of Boston Public Schools, including Josiah Quincy Elementary School, the Rafael Hernandez K-8 School, and the Hurley K-8 School, all of which are offering lessons either during the school day or as part of after school programming.

"The Swim Safe Grant has allowed the Hurley School to offer free, high-quality swimming lessons to students who might not otherwise have access. Many of the swimmers in our program are new to the water and all are in the early stages of learning water safety and basic strokes," said Emily Pierce, Executive Director of Equitable School Partnerships of Boston. "Confidence in the water should be a right not a privilege but many families struggle to find and pay for swimming lessons in the city. The Swim Safe Grant helps school-based swimming programs remove those barriers."

"In collaboration with our dedicated aquatics partners, Boston Centers for Youth & Families is directing funding to ensure equitable access to swimming and water activities throughout the city," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families. "This partnership strengthens our ability to reach every neighborhood, providing free and inclusive aquatics programming that reflects the diversity of Boston's families."

Mayor Wu is acting with urgency to repair and renovate several city-owned pools, many of which were built in the 1970s. Because of a collaboration between Boston Public Schools, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the Public Facilities Department, and the Property Management Department, investments of City funding, and improved facilities assessment, the City has projects underway at a number of City pools this winter including BCYF Clougherty Pool in Charlestown, BCYF Curtis Hall Community Center Pool in Jamaica Plain, and BCYF Draper Pool in West Roxbury. This fiscal year, Mayor Wu allocated \$54.5 million in the FY25-FY29 capital plan for repairing and renovating the city's pools.

EAST BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2025 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Corporation & Voting on Resolution of Members regarding Articles of Organization of the Corporation and its By-Laws.

Date: April 7, 2025

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Office: 80 Border Street, 3rd Floor East Boston, MA 02128

Those members of the corporation entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting are those Class C stockholders of record as of 5:00 p.m. December 31, 2024

MBTA gears up for South Boston's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade celebration

Special to the Times-Free Press

The MBTA is preparing for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade and festivities in South Boston on Sunday, March 16, 2025. With nearly a million people expected to attend the parade, the MBTA is implementing several measures to accommodate the increased ridership and to remind the riding public what everyone can do to help maintain a safe and family-friendly environment. Riders are encouraged to check out the MBTA's St. Patrick's Day Guide for information on taking the T to the parade, how to pay fares, and more at mbta. com/StPatricksDay.

"The safety of our customers and employees is our top priority," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "We encourage everyone to celebrate the holiday responsibly and remain vigilant—if you see something, say something. We want everyone to enjoy the Saint Patrick's Day festivities while being mindful of fellow travelers and lending a helping hand to those needing directions or assistance."

"The MBTA takes great pride as we continue to improve daily service and increase service options every year so everyone can enjoy St. Patrick's Day and all the festivities," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "Public transit services are essential, allowing everyone alternative ways to safely travel and celebrate. I thank our dedicated employees who ensure that our riders get to their destinations every day. Leave the driving to us and use caution when traversing the system as we all celebrate St. Patrick's Day together."

Additional Service and Bus Route Detours

To manage anticipated peak ridership and minimize platform congestion, the MBTA will strategically position additional personnel throughout the system to manage crowding, assist with passenger flow, and ensure a safe environment. The MBTA encourages all riders to be mindful while using escalators and navigating stairs during periods of heavy foot traffic. Service information is available at mbta.com/StPatricksDay.

Shuttle Bus: The MBTA will provide free shuttle bus service from South Station to South Boston between 9:30 AM and 5 PM on the day of the parade.

Red Line: The Red Line will operate rush hour service from 10 AM to 6 PM. Trains may bypass Broadway during certain times due to heavy crowds.

Bus Detours: Routes 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 47 will be detoured around the parade area. Buses will not stop at Broadway beginning at 9:45 AM or Andrew beginning at 10:15 AM.

Commuter Rail: Commuter Rail trains will run with additional cars to accommodate parade attendees. Additional customer service and management staff will be available at South Station to answer any questions and assist customers. More information about Commuter Rail service on the day of the parade will be available soon on mbta.com/StPatricksDay.

\$10 Weekend Passes are valid for unlimited travel on all Commuter Rail lines in all zones on Saturday and Sunday. Riders are encouraged to buy them in advance with the mTicket app.

"Our MBTA has seen so many improvements over the past year. Let's all enjoy the service, and the City, by celebrating responsibly and discouraging behavior that could damage our property or disrupt the transit system," said Chief Operating Officer Ryan Coholan. "By working together and respecting our shared public spaces, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for all."

"For the St. Patrick's Day parade, our top priority at Keolis is to get passengers to and from the festivities safely and reliably," said Abdellah Chajai, CEO and General Manager of Keolis Commuter Services. "We expect high ridership and encourage our riders to plan ahead and expect longer boarding lines, especially at South Station. I'd like to thank our

crews for their hard work and dedication to delivering for our passengers on March 16 and every day."

Enhanced Security Measures & Safety Tips for Riders

The MBTA Transit Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Kenneth Green, will significantly increase uniformed officer presence throughout the system to deter crime and to respond swiftly to any incidents.

"We will be working closely with our law enforcement partners to ensure a secure environment for everyone who uses our public transit system," said Chief Green. "We want everyone to remember, St. Patrick's Day is a time for celebration, and it's essential to prioritize safety and responsible behavior."

The MBTA urges riders to celebrate responsibly, leave their vehicles at home, take public transportation to festivities, and follow these safety tips:

Alcohol consumption and/ or unruly behavior will not be tolerated on the MBTA.

Secure personal belongings, especially in crowded areas. If wearing a backpack, remove it and hold it at your side or set it between your feet. Leave large items like coolers at home.

Let riders off the trains before you board.

Travel on the T without bikes. Bikes (including folding

bikes) are not allowed on the MBTA at any time the day of the parade.

Report any suspicious activity or individuals in distress to the nearest police officer, call the Transit Police at 617-222-1212, or dial 911.

Download the MBTA See Say App to quickly and discreetly report suspicious activity to Transit Police. Using this app, riders can send Transit Police pictures, text messages, and locations of suspicious activity.

Follow the instructions of MBTA Transit Police officers and staff who are there to ensure everyone's safety.

Take care of yourself and others. Seek medical attention when necessary.

The MBTA is stressing the importance of celebrating responsibly on public transit. Vandalism and disorderly conduct can create safety hazards, delays, and additional cleaning costs, which can divert valuable resources away from essential maintenance services and improvements that benefit all riders.

For more information, visit mbta.com/StPatricksDay or connect with the T on X @ MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @ thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

Lesley University and Bunker Hill Community College announce joint admissions agreement

Special to the Times-Free Press

Lesley University and Bunker Hill Community College are excited to announce the renewal of their Joint Admissions Transfer Program, which has helped hundreds of Boston-area students who opt into the program complete their bachelor's degrees and is expected to help hundreds more.

The Lesley-Bunker Hill Joint Admissions Program, established in 2015, has provided over 350 students with a pathway to degree completion. Students interested in earning a degree in one of Lesley's four pillars of study—education, mental health and wellbeing, art and design, or liberal arts and business—are admitted to both schools as first-year students and earn credits at Bunker Hill that will transfer to Lesley.

Then, these students enter Lesley as juniors, having already established solid relationships with Lesley's faculty and staff, with an understanding of how Lesley works, and knowing what they need to do and how Lesley will help them complete their degree. Lesley University President Janet L. Steinmayer says, "Lesley University is grateful to be able to continue to strengthen opportunities for students interested in careers in education, mental health and the arts, and to be able to help fill the gap in some of these critically need professions."

Bunker Hill Community College President Pam Y. Eddinger says "This joint admissions agreement between Lesley University and Bunker Hill Community College will give students a seamless path from associate to bachelor's degree, with the support they need to be successful every step of the way." She adds, "BHCC and Lesley have a long history of collaboration, and this partnership will pave the way toward professional and economic mobility for our student

Lesley University is proud to be the first private university to partner with Bunker Hill Community College in a Joint Admissions Program, and proud to continue this program for another decade. Learn more about this groundbreaking program here.

Lesley University graduates more mental health professionals than any other college or university in New England. Located just outside of Boston near Harvard and Porter Squares in the vibrant city of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Lesley is renowned for its

unique portfolio of programs focused on Education, Mental Health and Art and Design. The university also offers Liberal Arts and Business Programs that support these key disciplines and a special program, the Threshold Program, for neurodiverse students seeking a college experience to learn independent living and working skills. About two-thirds of Lesley's more than 4,500 students are graduate students; one-third are undergraduate and Threshold students. More at Lesley.edu.

With more than 50 years of academic excellence, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is Massachusetts' largest community college, annually welcoming a diverse community of around 16,000 students. With campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea,

BHCC extends its reach across several locations in Greater Boston. The College offers associate degrees and certificates, early college and dual enrollment, community education, corporate training, and industry-specific training programs. BHCC is celebrated for its diversity, boasting a student body where 65% identify as people of color and more than half are women. The College also embraces a global perspective, with over 600 international students representing 90 countries and conversing in more than 65 languages. Our commitment to diversity is further reflected in BHCC's designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPI-

Mass Poetry's Teen Spoken Word Festival Returns for Second Year

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mass Poetry is thrilled to announce its second annual Teen Spoken Word Festival "Write Here | Write Now | Speak Loud!", set to take place on March 15-16, 2025, at Emerson College. This groundbreaking event will draw teens from across the Commonwealth, while providing a unique platform for them to share their stories, insights, and creativity through poetry.

With the theme of "Sweet Resistance," this year's Teen Spoken Word Festival will feature workshops, poetry slam competitions, performances, and a multitude of activities tailored to inspire and engage teen participants. By providing a welcoming and inclusive environment, Mass Poetry aims to encourage young poets to express themselves freely and interact with like-minded peers. The festival will draw teens from Boston, Lowell, Worcester, and beyond.

"Our aim is to engage and empower the next generation of poets, sparking creativity and fostering a community that values diverse voices," said Daniel Johnson, Executive Director of Mass Poetry. "This event is more than just a competition; it's a platform where young people can confidently express themselves, break down barriers, and engage meaningfully with others."

Throughout the weekend, attendees will have the chance to participate in a series of enriching workshops, engage in open mic sessions, and listen to inspiring performances from both established and emerging voices in the spoken word community. The festival is designed not only to showcase young talent but also to nurture it, offering guidance and mentorship from Boston's most experienced poets and educatorssomething the city sees worthy of investment.

"Boston is an incubator for artistic talent, including the literary arts, and we're thrilled to welcome teen poets from across the state to our City for the Teen Spoken Word Festi-

val," said Kenny Mascary, Boston's Interim Chief of Arts and Culture. "By nurturing young poets' creativity, the Teen Spoken Word Festival will strengthen our community and inspire the next generation to become thoughtful, passionate leaders and storytellers. Thank you, Mass Poetry, for uplifting youth voices by bringing this festival to Boston."

The Teen Spoken Word Festival boasts an impressive lineup of special guests, including both local and nationally-recognized poets such as Porsha Olayiwola, Boston's former Poet Laureate and Emerson College professor, who will be a liaison between Emerson College and Mass Poetry. Crystal Valentine, Mass Poetry's Director of Programming and a former Youth Poet Laureate, alongside Anthony Febo, Mass Poetry's Lead Youth Spoken Word Coordinator and cofounder of FreeVerse!, Lowell's youth poetry slam, will also be present to guide and inspire the participants. Headlining the festival are Hanif Abdurraqib, a 2021 MacArthur Fellow, and Safia Elhillo, a National Book

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Award longlist nominee, both of whom are former slam poets and will bring a wealth of experience and accolades to this celebration of youth voices. Participants of the Festival include Parker-Vincent Alva, the current Boston Youth Poet Laureate and a Mass Poetry SW@ MP member.

"I want my poetry to get across to the world that you aren't who you are, until you try to be yourself," shared Parker Vincent-Alva. "Last year's festival offered a supportive space to share our stories, and I'm grateful for the friendships and inspiration it fostered."

A highlight of the Teen Spoken Word Festival is the Individual Slam Finals on Sunday, March 16th. To earn a spot in the finals, participants must compete in one of three preliminary bouts held across Massachusetts in February and March. These Individual Slam Competitions serve as a qualifying event for the Mass Poetry Youth Slam team, where selected poets will engage in writing, performance, and slam competitions throughout the summer. Mass Poetry will also send

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the team to Brave New Voices (BNV), an national youth poetry slam festival, and is actively seeking funding to make this opportunity possible.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Former team member, Maria Zaki said"I joined Spoken Word at Mass Poetry (SW@ MP) just over a year ago and immediately was greeted with community. Throughout SW@ MP and the Teen Spoken Word Festival, Mass Poetry creates and nurtures connections through poetry by holding space for youth voices. At SW@MP I not only found ways to express myself but also grow with others through examining the world around us and how we can change it. I was honored to join the Mass Poetry team of youth poets going to Brave New Voices! This entailed weeks of practices and coaching that truly shaped me as an individual. After BNV I went off to college but the experiences never left me. I went on to host open mics and lead a few workshops out of state. I saw how writing brings relief and revolution to any space and though I have much to learn, Mass Poetry gave me the knowledge I now bring everywhere I go. I am excited to return for the 2025 Teen Festi-

The Teen Spoken Word Festival held at Emerson College is open to all teens to participate, ages 13 - 19, with a passion for poetry. Additionally, all ages are welcome to attend as audience members to cheer on the youth in their Festival events. Mass Poetry invites young poets and their supporters to join this vibrant celebration of youth creativity and expression. For more information and to register for the Write Here | Write Now | Speak Loud! Teen Spoken Word Festival, visit masspoetry.org/teen-spoken-word-festival.

Launched with the 2008 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Mass Poetry envisions a world where poetry catalyzes connection and understanding. From our in-school poetry residencies to innovative community programs, we aim to build a vibrant, inclusive community that lifts all voices. Mass Poetry now serves as an arts-partner-in-residence at GrubStreet's Center for Creative Writing. Learn more at www.masspoetry.org.



City of Chelsea announces 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Chelsea Creek – SSV Ernestina-Morrissey sails into Chelsea for the celebrations

Special to the Times-Free Press

This Memorial Day Weekend, the Chelsea community and visitors from across the state can experience a once-in-a-lifetime celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Chelsea Creek, the first naval battle of the American Revolution.

'The City of Chelsea is a grateful recipient of a MA250 grant that will directly fund a series of free, all-ages, community events centered around the Battle of Chelsea Creek over Memorial Day Weekend," said City Manager Fidel Maltez. "The Battle of Chelsea Creek is an often-overlooked chapter in our nation's history, and we're excited to use the State's support to deepen our community's understanding of this pivotal event. In collaboration with East Boston and partner organizations, we will present an exciting weekend of cultural programming, including the docking of a historic 1894 schooner, the SSV Ernestina-Morrissey, for the general public to board."

Jonathan Lane of Revolution 250 said it is inspiring to see these communities come togeth-

er for such an important event as the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Chelsea Creek.

"Though these communities' demographics have changed over the past 250 years, the ideals that the Provincial soldiers fought for—liberty, independence, and self-determination—remain a vibrant part of our lives," said Lane.

Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager, said the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Chelsea Creek is an opportunity to honor and illuminate a pivotal yet often overlooked chapter in our nation's history,

"This commemoration allows us to reflect on the resilience and sacrifices of those who fought for our nation's independence while deepening our collective understanding of the Revolutionary War's impact on our region," said Pimentel. "We are proud to support efforts that bring history to life and celebrate the rich heritage of the Chelsea and East Boston communities."

The celebrations will take place in Chelsea and East Boston during the Memorial Day weekend, with a main celebration on Saturday, May 24, from

11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Port Park, 99 Marginal St, Chelsea, that will offer an exciting lineup of historical programming and activities for all ages, including artillery demonstration, Revolutionary-Era Militia Encampment, food vendors, a beer garden, and more.

The SSV Ernestina-Morrissey, an 1894 schooner from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, will be coming back to Chelsea's port after more than two decades for residents and visitors to explore as part of Saturday's events.

Simultaneously occurring with Saturday's Port Park festivities, Governor Bellingham-Cary House Museum will open its doors to the community for free Open Houses where everyone can explore this historical site with special access to the

museum's exhibits and stories from Chelsea's past.

Additional festivities during the Memorial Day weekend include a 90-minute guided boat tour through Mill Creek and Boston bay provided by Boston Harbor Now, in partnership with National Park Services, Green-Roots, and the MysticWater Association. There will be an opportunity to sign up for the boat tour as the celebration nears.

"Sharing the stories and commemoration of the Revolutionary War of America belongs to all of us," said Rebecca Smerling, Director of Programs for Boston Harbor Now. "Boston Harbor and its surrounding communities played an integral role in the War, and Boston Harbor Now is looking forward to animating the commemoration of the Battle of Chelsea Creek with

a harbor cruise, allowing for a new perspective on this battle and providing additional access to Boston Harbor."

GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni said her organization is excited to partner with the City of Chelsea and others on a boat tour commemorating the Battle of the Chelsea Creek.

"The colonists won this historic battle, yet there is little to celebrate that victory or to recognize Chelsea's role in the Revolutionary War. Yet the colonists lost the Battle of Bunker Hill and we have monuments and bridges named for it and a holiday in Boston," she said. "It's time for Chelsea Creek to gain the respect it deserves."

For more information and a full schedule of activities, please visit www.chelseaprospers.org

JETBLUE SHAMROCK SPLASH



Phil Giffee has done The JetBlue Shamrock Splash 5 times. This year, he raised \$920 from 20 donors for our youth-led, summer kayaking experience at Constitution Beach. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay holds this event each year. JetBlue is the corporate sponsor. "It was very chilly this year with the north wind whipping us to the bone. A quick run in, a soaking dash out! All for a worthy cause," said Giffee.



News in Brief

TSA READY FOR BUSY SPRING BREAK TRAVEL SEASON: ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR PASSENGERS

As spring break approaches, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is providing essential tips to help travelers have a smooth experience at security checkpoints across the country. TSA is expecting high passenger volumes during the peak spring break travel period running from March 6-24, when air travel numbers are anticipated to increase by more than 5%.

"Spring break is one of the busiest travel times of the year," said Adam Stahl, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Administrator. "While we are focused on spring break, which is quickly approaching, TSA is also closely tracking and preparing for the summer travel season. With REAL ID's May 7 deadline looming, it's important to prioritize REAL ID registration now. By doing so, travelers can ensure a smooth and secure journey

through the airport for both spring and summer travels."

To help travelers prepare, TSA recommends the following:

- Pack smart: Organize your carry-on bags and comply with TSA regulations. Text 275-872 ("AskTSA") or @AskTSA with any questions.
- Arrive early: Allow plenty of time to get through security, especially during peak hours.
- Have a valid ID: Make sure you have your REAL ID or another acceptable form of identification.
- Pack your patience: Be prepared for busy airports and follow TSA guidelines to expedite the process.

For more details on preparing for airport security screening, visit tsa.gov.

HOW TO HELP WHEN SOMEONE WITH ALZHEIMER'S WANDERS FROM SAFETY

"Police are asking for the public's help in finding a miss-

ing person with Alzheimer's disease." Stories like this occur frequently nationwide, because wandering is a common behavior among individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementia-related illnesses. When you need to run this type of story in your area, here are tips from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America that individuals who encounter someone who is wandering can use to help them (after contacting first responders):

- Approach the person slowly and calmly from the front with your hands down.
- Introduce yourself in a soft, caring tone and explain you are there to help and listen. Offer your hand, make eye contact, and speak slowly.
- Check whether the person is injured.
- Don't attempt to correct the person if they are unaware of their environment. Listen and be supportive.

Wandering prevention tips for family caregivers are also available through the Alzheimer's Foundation of America

Challenge // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the money raised by the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team benefits Dana-Farber's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, which supports promising science research in its earliest stages. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$132 million for the Barr Program to date.

In 1990, Dana-Farber was among the first charity organizations to be recognized by the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A), which organizes the Boston Marathon. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team offers its members extensive fundraising support, training guidance from 1976 Boston Marathon Men's Open Division Champion Jack Fultz, and team training runs. Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners who are not time-qualified for the Boston Marathon receive an invitational entry into the race.

Runners include cancer survivors and patients, and family and friends of those who have been affected by cancer. Each team member must fulfill a basic fundraising commitment:

• Invitational runners - runners who receive their entry



East Boston resident AJ Andreucci will be running for the Dana Farber Marathon Challenge Team in the 129th Boston Marathon.

from Dana-Farber have a minimum fundraising commitment of \$10.000.

• Own entry runners - runners who have joined the DFMC after obtaining their own race entry have a fundraising commitment of \$4,000.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, visit RunDFMC.org or contact the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge office at (617) 632-1970 or dfmc@dfci.harvard.edu. Follow DFMC on Facebook: www.facebook/marathonchallenge. On Twitter: #RunDFMC.

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Fuller Maverick LLC	200 Maverick St LLC	200 Maverick St	\$2,930,000
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Madaro // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to navigate economic challenges and opportunities, I look forward to working collaboratively with my colleagues to advance policies that promote fiscal responsibility, economic growth, and equity in our tax system. I am grateful to Speaker Ron Mariano for entrusting me with this responsibility."

Representative Madaro has served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 2015, representing the 1st Suffolk District, which encompasses East Boston. Throughout his tenure, he has been a strong advocate for working families, environmental justice, and transportation infrastructure. His leadership in these areas has prepared him to take on the important task of ensuring Massachusetts maintains a fair and sustainable revenue

system.

The Joint Committee on Revenue oversees legislation related to tax laws, municipal finance, and other revenue-generating measures. As House Chair, Representative Madaro will lead efforts to evaluate and advance policies that strengthen the state's financial foundation while ensuring that the tax system remains equitable and transparent for all residents.

Representative Madaro served as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery for the past four years. During this time, he was proud to lead the Legislature's work to pass two major bills on mental and behavioral health, including substance use treatment.

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Tree Eastie // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

non-profit planted 83 trees on private property last year.

Other achievements for Tree Eastie last year included watering 200 trees and recruiting 70 new volunteers, including high school and college students. "We had a program this past year with BU (Boston University); the students came out, and they provided a lot of support for our organization," said Masterson.

Finally, Masterson mentioned that the non-profit was able to plant 26 trees at Constitution Beach, and there are plans to plant at least 40 there this year.

"We've been trying to plant trees at Constitution Beach unsuccessfully for the past four years, but we finally found the right person at DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation)," he said.

After reviewing the highlights of 2024, Masterson spoke a bit about the organization's street tree program.

"We have worked out with the city- if you want a tree planted in front of your house, you've got to call 311. Sometimes that takes a year to 18 months to get that tree planted," said Masterson.

"We're short-circuiting or short-cutting the process now by collecting signatures from people that want a tree planted in front of their house. We submit this to the city, the city will come out, and they'll mark the sidewalks."

Masterson indicated that in addition to the 499 trees planted by Tree Eastie, the city has planted 124 street trees in front

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of people's houses.

He also said planting trees in front of churches and properties owned by NOAH (Neighborhood of Affordable Housing) had been successful, and there are plans to plant on properties owned by the East Boston

Tree Eastie is also working with developers to get trees planted as part of their projects. 'We'll work with them to figure out ways to be able to and encourage them to make a tree pit part of their plan—for them, it's a rounding error," said Masterson.

Masterson discussed the organization's plans for this year, specifically maintenance. He said Tree Eastie would fertilize and mulch trees regardless of whether the organization planted them.

There are also plans to maintain park trees, and Masterson mentioned that they spent money last month on maintenance at the Bennington Street Cem-

Tree Eastie plans to educate residents about the benefits of trees and work with more organizations.

Further, Tree Eastie will, as previously mentioned, plant 40 trees at Constitution Beach, 10 at Bennington Street Cemetery, 5-7 in Central Square, 20 along the walking path through Memorial Park that leads to Airport Station, and at least 50 on private properties.

Visit Tree Eastie's website at https://www.treeeastie.org/ for more information and to get involved. The next HVNA meeting is scheduled for April 7.

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Fresh and Local

Dial it in!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Recipes are not infallible. If you spend a lot of time cooking from or brainstorming with recipes, you'll find a few reliable sources and many that are not as trustworthy. However, even recipe developers who produce well-measured, fully-explained, and reliable recipes can't consider a few essential factors.

Where to Start Adapting

As a cook, you should dial in a recipe, accounting for allergies, aversions, taste, and even what you have on hand. A recipe is a starting point or a guideline. You'll find variations in different recipes for the same dish. Read through a few and choose to begin with the one most appealing to you.

More experienced cooks may adjust the ingredients or measurements immediately. We usually reduce the added salt depending on the other salty ingredients called for in the original. We are a no-mayo household. When an interesting recipe calls for mayo, Penny begins by considering whether yogurt, crème fraîche, sour

cream, or a vinaigrette can substitute. Ed has a mango allergy; therefore, another tropical fruit will replace mango in a dish.

If you're cooking for someone gluten-free, vegetarian, or vegan or with a special medical diet or cultural restrictions, we suggest you begin with recipes designed for those needs. Today, we are fortunate that special foods are widely available, making accommodating these diets easier.

Taste and Adjust

When ingredients like raw proteins are safe to taste, begin working with your tasting spoon. There are sanitary ways to do this. You can keep a cup of tasting spoons nearby and use a new one each time. You can use the cooking spoon to drip some of the food onto your tasting spoon. As your skills grow, you can drip a bit on the back of your hand and taste it.

Be as mindful as possible as you taste, and consider the primary flavors and their balance. We've learned much about this balance from cooking and eating Thai food, where chefs work to harmonize salty, sweet, sour, spicy, and creamy flavors.



Taste and sniff to adjust a recipe to make it your own.

We add umami to that grouping

If you find one flavor note dominating or missing, put some food in a small bowl and experiment. If sour is dominant, add a dash of sweet. If you want a creamier texture, add a thickener or more of any creamy ingredient, such as coconut milk. Once you're happy

with the flavor, adjust the rest.

Use all your senses to make the food pleasing to your palate. Remember, flavor is a combination of aroma and taste. Chefs often pull the steam above a pot closer to their noses with an open hand to test the aroma.

Texture is also a factor in food enjoyment. A typical example in our culture is the vegetable okra, which is a bit slimy when cooked in specific ways. Some people love it, and others say, "No thanks."

One of the final adjustments Penny will make to any dish is adding a bit of an acid. Consider what a squeeze of lemon will do for a piece of fish or a teaspoon of vinegar for a cabbage

Family Recipes

Many families have recipes passed down through generations, which are now meaningful traditions. However, Grandma and Aunt Sally may make slightly different versions. You can decide which you like and then make it your own. Your version may become the favorite, causing the next generation to continue the tradition.

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