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East Boston TIMES-FREE PRESS

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME

Here's your chance to pick up tasty Girl Scout Cookies! First Priority Credit Union welcomes the Bradley School 1st Grade Girl Scout Troop 63615 on Saturday, January 17 from 9 a.m. to

12 p.m. at First Priority Credit Union 100 Swift Street, East Boston.

"We are so excited to partner up with First Priority Credit Union to sell our cookies and

raise money to support the Girl Scouts of the Bradley School", Said Audrey Taylor, Troop leader. "Please stop by anytime between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - buy cookies and show your support!"



Audrey Taylor, Troop Leader with Bradley School Troop 63615 during a Friendship Circle. The Friendship Circle is often formed at the end of meetings or campfires as a closing ceremony. Everyone gathers in a circle and each girl crosses her right arm over her left and holds hands with the person on each side. The leaders start the friendship squeeze by squeezing the hand of the person next to her. One by one, each girl passes on the squeeze until it travels around the full circle.

Eastie Farm, GreenRoots receive Environmental Justice funding dollars

Special to the Times-Free Press

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell recently announced the distribution of \$475,000 to 12 organizations across the Commonwealth to aid in addressing economic, environmental, and health-related burdens.

Included in that funding round were Chelsea-based GreenRoots and Eastie Farm Regional Community Supported Agriculture in East Boston.

The funding represents the first round of disbursements

from the Environmental Justice Fund, established last year in the Commonwealth's FY2025 budget, to support community-based projects that address environmental harms in disadvantaged communities and funded through civil penalties obtained in judgments and settlements in the Attorney General's Office (AGO)'s Environmental Protection Division.

"This funding marks a major milestone for communities around our Commonwealth that have waited far too long for

See AID Page 2

TRASH DELAY

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Forum

REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

For those of a certain age, it is hard to imagine that 2026 will mark 58 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Recalling how we felt when we first heard the news of Dr. King's murder still brings chills and a deep sense of sadness that never has subsided.

For those who are too young to have been alive in that era of American history, there are a few things that everyone should know about Dr. King that should provide inspiration to all of us.

First, Dr. King was fearless. He knew from the inception of his rise to prominence of the Civil Rights movement that he would become a target for those who opposed change. Yet, even though he often told others that he believed his death would be imminent, he did not relent in his fight to continue his work in the civil rights movement.

Second, Dr. King stood for the rights of all Americans, not merely those of color. He was in Memphis because he was working with striking sanitation workers, whose pay and working conditions he was seeking to help improve. He also was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War because he knew it to be an unjust war, not only for poor Americans who could not get a college deferment for the draft, but also for the people of Vietnam, whose homeland was being bombed into oblivion at great profit for the American military-industrial complex.

Third, Dr. King spoke forcefully about the economic inequality that existed in the 1960s -- and that has been exacerbated exponentially today -- making the attainment of the American Dream all but impossible except for a select few.

If Dr. King were alive today, there is no doubt that he would be in the forefront of the protests against the barbaric deportation program by the federal government.

Dr. King's words ring as true today as they did two generations ago. His "I Have A Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches are among the most powerful orations not only in American history, but in all of Western civilization.

All of us should learn from the example set by Dr. King. His life was a testament to the idea that each of us has the power to change the world -- and that each of us has the capacity to inspire others, whether through our words or deeds, whether on a small or large scale, to make the world a better place. Many of our fellow citizens have followed the path set by Dr. King and many more will do so in the years ahead.

Dr. King often would say, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Admittedly, that "bend" often has taken a less-than-direct path in recent years.

But as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day this Monday, let us recall not only his memory and the many things that he accomplished, but let us also resolve never to yield to the forces of intolerance, prejudice, and hate that continue to plague our country and the world today.

Aid // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meaningful investment," said Campbell. "When I proposed the Environmental Justice Fund, along with Representative Fluker-Reid and Senator Gomez, I did so with the conviction that every neighborhood deserves clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment. These funds, which we procured by holding polluters accountable, will help repair historic harms and ensure that these resources flow directly to the communities most in need of our support."

Through the establishment of a regional CSA program, Eastie Farm plans to use the \$25,000 it received to increase the access of fresh and affordable produce in East Boston, a federally recognized food desert. With this funding, Eastie Farm intends to connect two in-need groups by benefiting food insecure residents of East Boston with free and subsidized CSA shares and patronizing small, struggling farmers.

This project is in direct alignment with the New England Food Vision, which calls for the building of a local food system for health, economic, and climate resilience.

"We appreciate the Office of the Attorney General working with community-based organizations toward developing food procurement strategies that address economic and health needs of today while prioritizing environmental goals," said Kannan Thiruvengadam, Executive Director and Alex Graora, Development Manager of Eastie Farm.

GreenRoots received \$25,000 for the Cool Community in Hot EJ Neighborhoods program.

The program has the goal of

advancing climate justice in the frontline community of Chelsea, particularly along the Mill Creek waterfront, GreenRoots will use the funding to support community engagement in waterfront and ecological restoration efforts, the construction of a new permanent open space, and the development of a tree keeper stewardship program to increase Chelsea's tree canopy.

"We are so grateful for the support and partnership of Attorney General Andrea Campbell and her office who have been steadfastly working to ensure environmental justice populations are treated fairly and equitably, particularly in righting the environmental ills of decades of toxic pollution," said Roseann Bon-giovanni, Executive Director of GreenRoots. "These communities, like Chelsea, have faced

disproportionate exposures to toxic pollution for decades which has resulted in poor health outcomes, premature death and more. We're thrilled that Attorney General Campbell is ensuring pollution violation funds are being invested in EJ communities."

State Senator Sal DiDomenico said that environmental justice is one of his top priorities, and that he was excited to see Campbell award critical funding to organizations fighting environmental health disparities in his district.

"Thanks to this investment, GreenRoots, Green Cambridge, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health will be able to promote climate resilience, increase community engagement in restoration efforts, and improve environmental risk identification tools across the state," stated DiDomenico.

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617-567-9600 • 781-485-0588
FAX: 781-485-1403

President

Stephen Quigley
stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

Advertising and Marketing

Debra DiGregorio – deb@reverejournal.com

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella – mdibella@winthroptranscript.com

Senior Sales Associates

Sioux Gerow – charlestownads@hotmail.com

Legal Advertising

legals@eastetimes.com

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors

Cary Shuman – cary@lynnjournal.com

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates – scott@chelsearecord.com

Kane DiMasso-Scott – kdscott@thebostonsun.com

Business

Accounts Executive

Judy Russi

judy.russi@eastetimes.com

Printer – Concord Monitor

For Advertising Rates,
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New Balance Foundation awards \$9.2 million in community grants to nonprofits

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Boston-based New Balance Foundation (NBF) announced \$9.2 million in grants to 52 nonprofit organizations serving the Merrimack Valley and Greater Boston as part of its 2025–2026 grant cycle. In line with its mission to build vibrant communities and brighter futures through sport, the Foundation's funding will support programs that build a culture of health and foster positive youth development through physical activity, education, career readiness and enrichment.

This latest round of funding underscores NBF's long-standing commitment to the social and economic well-being of the communities where New Balance associates live and work.

"In line with our mission,

we're dedicated to supporting the communities our associates call home," said Anne Davis, Managing Trustee of New Balance Foundation. "The children and families in these communities are in our backyard, and we're proud to invest in organizations and initiatives that play a critical role in shaping the lives of young people across the state. This is a true testament to the values on which NBF was founded."

Massachusetts Grant Recipients (2025–2026 Cycle) that included local organizations receiving support: America SCORES New England; Fresh Truck; and Harlem Lacrosse.

Long-Term Commitment to Community Impact

Since 1981, NBF has invested more than \$90 million in local nonprofits serving

Metro Boston, Lawrence, and Methuen. In 2025 alone, the Foundation granted over \$17 million across 12 countries, surpassing \$165 million in philanthropic investments over 40+ years of giving.

In addition to their annual community grants listed above, NBF made contributions towards transformative community projects through its enduring gifts pillar, including:

- A \$100 million commitment to Massachusetts General Hospital to support the construction of the West Tower of the Philip and Susan Ragon Building, which will anchor Mass General Brigham's world-class heart and vascular care to be named The New Balance Foundation Tower

- Completed renovation of Lawrence's O'Connell South

Common Park

The New Balance Foundation (NBF) invests in vibrant communities and bright futures through sport. Since 1981, New Balance Foundation has invested in proven pathways to help young people achieve their goals. Our grantmaking focuses on community-led, outcomes-driven initiatives that promote access to sport, educational support, career readiness, and overall well-being. We have granted over \$165 million USD to date to trailblazing non-profits across the globe. This includes more than \$17 million USD in donations to 95 non-profits in 2025 alone. Learn more about New Balance Foundation at <https://www.newbalance.com/new-balance-foundation/our-mission/>.

New Balance, headquartered

in Boston, MA, has the following purpose: Independent since 1906, we empower people through sport and craftsmanship to create positive change in communities around the world. New Balance employs 10,000 associates around the globe, and in 2024 reported worldwide sales of \$7.8 billion. New Balance owns five athletic footwear factories in New England and one in Flimby, U.K. New Balance MADE U.S. footwear contains a domestic value of 70% or more and makes up a limited portion of New Balance's U.S. sales. To learn more about New Balance, please visit www.newbalance.com; for the latest press information visit <http://newbalance.com>; for the latest press information visit <http://newbalance.com>.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BISHOP FENWICK FRESHMAN ISABELLA SANTORO HONORED WITH FENWICK FIRST AWARD

Bishop Fenwick High School is delighted to recognize Isabella Santoro, Class of 2028, of Saugus, as a recipient of this week's Fenwick FIRST award. A graduate of East Boston Central Catholic School, Santoro exemplifies the core values that define the Bishop

Fenwick community: Faith, Integrity, Relationship, Scholarship, and Tradition.

The following is part of her nomination: Isabella's shows integrity by putting in her sincere, best effort in everything she does – in the classroom, on the field, or on stage. She exemplifies tradition through her well-roundedness. She is a member of the softball and mock trial teams, she sings in the chorus, and she performed beautifully and courageously at Fenwick Follies.



Isabella Santoro

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Boston City Council welcomes Councilor Miniard Culpepper

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Boston City Council welcomed Councilor Miniard Culpepper, who began his first term representing District 7 on January 5, following a recent inauguration ceremony.

Councilor Culpepper represents the neighborhood of Roxbury and sections of Dorchester, Fenway, and the South End. Born and raised on Seaver Street in Dorchester, he was shaped by a family legacy rooted in activism, faith, and community leadership. His grandparents were the first Black couple to live on Seaver Street, and his grandfather – a pastor and NAACP leader – marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and helped build



Councilor Miniard Culpepper

one of Boston's first Black-owned nursery schools. That legacy instilled in him a life-long commitment to justice and service.

A graduate of English High

School, Brandeis University, Howard Divinity School, and Suffolk University Law School, Councilor Culpepper's path to public service was deeply influenced by his early work as a lawyer, including a fight to help a friend purchase a boarded-up home in Grove Hall – an experience that shaped his understanding of housing as a cornerstone of dignity and opportunity.

His career in public service spans decades. As New England Regional Counsel for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Councilor Culpepper fought for tenants' rights, fair housing, and reinvestment in underserved neighborhoods. His work included implementing

Boston's first Civil Rights Protection Plan in public housing, exposing racial discrimination at the Boston Housing Authority, and helping secure \$25 million in federal funding to rebuild public housing developments across the city. He also advocated for affordable housing communities such as Academy Homes, A Field Estates, and the Franklin Park Apartments.

In addition to his federal service, Councilor Culpepper has remained deeply engaged at the community level. As Senior Pastor of Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church, he founded the Trotter Peace Program to support mentorship and employment opportunities for young people of color and

led the Six Point Peace Plan to reduce community violence. During the pandemic, he organized grassroots vaccination and food distribution efforts to support his neighbors.

As a member of the Boston City Council, Councilor Culpepper is committed to advancing housing stability, economic opportunity, strong schools, safe and healthy communities, and a city government that is transparent, accountable, and rooted in community voice.

Guided by faith, shaped by lived experience, and grounded in decades of public service, he begins his term ready to partner with residents to deliver results for District 7 and help shape a more just and inclusive Boston.

Healey announces safety reforms following release of the ALR Commission's final report

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Maura Healey announced a comprehensive set of reforms to strengthen safety, transparency and consumer protections in assisted living residences (ALRs) across Massachusetts. This action follows the submission of the ALR Commission's final report to the Legislature, which outlines both regulatory and legislative solutions to improve the safety and well-being of residents.

The ALR Commission was established through the 2024 Act to Improve Quality and Oversight of Long-Term Care and undertook an extensive review of the ALR sector to ensure it continues to meet the needs of an aging population while prioritizing resident health and safety. The Commission was expected to file its final report on August 1, 2025. Following the tragic fire at Gabriel House in Fall River, Governor Healey signed into law an extension passed by the Legislature so that the Commission had additional time to incorporate lessons learned from the fire. The Commission voted unanimously by those in attendance to approve its final report on January 12, 2026.

The Commission's recommendations aim to ensure ALRs continue to meet the evolving needs of older adults while significantly strengthening transparency and oversight, emergency preparedness, staff-

ing, and consumer protections. The Commission met 16 times, held two public hearings, and incorporated direct feedback from residents, families, industry experts, and first responders. Key recommendations include:

Stronger Fire Safety & Emergency Preparedness Standards – enhance inspections and coordination with local fire departments to prevent future tragedies.

Transparent Public Data – create a new statewide online database to provide families with clear access to compliance records, ownership information, and corrective action plans.

Standardize Disclosures – standardize information on services, costs, staffing, and resident rights for easier comparison across ALRs.

Staffing & Nursing Leadership Requirements – ensure every ALR has access to licensed nursing support and leadership training that matches resident needs.

Clear Assessment Practices – ensure consistent evaluations of resident needs with clear notice of any cost or care changes.

Affordability Task Force – create a task force to evaluate new models that expand access for low- and middle-income older adults.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is taking immediate action to begin the implementation of a majority of the reg-

ulatory and administrative recommendations in this report.

"Every older adult deserves a safe home and peace of mind, and every family deserves transparency and accountability," said Governor Maura Healey. "The heartbreaking tragedy at Gabriel House showed us that we cannot wait to strengthen protections for assisted living residents. We are taking immediate action on these recommendations so we can better protect residents, support families and ensure our assisted living system continues to serve people well into the future."

"Massachusetts has a responsibility to protect residents in every single assisted living community, and families are counting on us to get this right," said Aging & Independence Secretary and ALR Commission Chair Robin Lipson. "These changes will strengthen fire safety, clarify standards and practices that impact resident well-being, and make critical information more accessible so families can make informed decisions. We have already begun putting stronger protections in place and will work to ensure that residents across the Commonwealth are safer, better supported, and treated with the dignity they deserve."

The Commission recommends legislative action to further strengthen resident safety and consumer protections, including establishing a

dedicated funding mechanism to expand state oversight and public reporting, amending state law to authorize certified medication aides in assisted living settings, and creating a statewide registry for ALR executive directors. The report also urges the review of ALR building classifications and the modernization of building code requirements. Finally, the Commission recommends forming an ALR Affordability Task Force to look into sustainable models that expand access for low- and middle-income older adults.

"These recommendations are very important. The Gabriel House fire in Fall River increased the urgency of action," said Senator Patricia Jehlen, member of the ALR Commission.

"AGE can implement most of the recommendations about transparency and emergency preparedness without legislation. But it's important to give them the budgetary resources to enforce the rules. The legislature needs to act on the recommended statutory changes, including establishing a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism, supported by certification and recertification fees and fines."

"ALRs are an important pillar of the Commonwealth's continuum of care for our aging population, helping older adults age in place and maintain their independence. The health, safety and well-being of these res-

idents is paramount. This principle guided the Commission's deliberations over the past year, especially following the devastating fire at Gabriel House in Fall River," said Representative Thomas Stanley, member of the ALR Commission. "I am proud of the comprehensive recommendations the Commission produced in this final report and look forward to the work ahead, including establishing the proposed ALR Affordability Task Force. I'd like to thank my fellow commission members for their service on behalf of our older adults in ALRs and their caregivers, and salute Secretary Lipson and her team at AGE for their incredible leadership and engagement throughout this process."

"While there are quality residences across Massachusetts, inadequate regulations have allowed bad actors to persist for far too long," said Senator Mark Montigny, lead legislative sponsor of the ALR Commission. "As the devastating Gabriel House fire showed, vulnerable lives are at stake and we need to continue to demand more action from legislators, regulators, and residence owners. I appreciate the hard work of this commission over the past year to come to a set of actionable recommendations that can be implemented immediately and in the near future to help protect residents and im-

See ALR Page 6

OBITUARIES

Mary O'Connor

Her faith was the cornerstone of her existence, and she served God with grace and humility

Mary J. O'Connor, of Revere, formerly of East Boston, a woman of profound faith, an unwavering servant to her family and community, and a dedicated worker, entered into eternal rest on January 5, 2026, at the age of 79. She was born in Laconia, NH on September 25, 1946, to the late John W. O'Connor and Barbara A. (Sullivan).

Mary was a devoted member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Cross in Boston. Her faith was the cornerstone of her existence, and she served God with grace and humility. She was not only an active member of her church but also served as Chapter President, Eucharistic Minister, and CCD teacher. Mary's faith was not confined to words but was manifested in her actions and her unwavering dedication to serving others.

Mary was an independent, fun-loving, and spunky lady who always enjoyed a good time. She spent her professional life in the air freight industry, contributing her skills as an accountant to both Tiger Air Freight and later Pilot Air Freight. Mary's interests included bowling, knitting, reading, and traveling. She and



her mother spent many annual summer vacations together enjoying the beach on the Cape. She also spent many annual winter weekends at the Mount Washington Hotel. Mary graciously hosted her family for Thanksgiving and Easter dinners in her home. Family members continue to treasure the hand-knitted blankets she lovingly made for them.

She was a caring sister to Thomas C. O'Connor and his late wife, Barbara Ann, of Reading, and to the late John J. O'Connor and his wife, Theresa. She was a beloved aunt to Sean O'Connor and his wife, Gina, and their children: John, Myles and William; Kevin O'Connor and his fiancée, Meghan Lynch, Erin O'Connor and her husband, James

Cohoon, and their children: Michaela, Bronwyn and Sloan; Jayne Tomforde and her husband, Carl, and their children Sydney and Karlie; and Jeffrey O'Connor and his wife, Mimi, and their children, Patrick and Caitlin. She is also survived by many cousins and dear friends.

A visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons Funeral Home, 128 Revere Street, Revere, on Friday, January 16, 2026, from 10 to 10:30 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Revere at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Interment will be at Holy Cross Cemetery.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Mary O'Connor lived a life that truly echoed these words. Her life was a testament to her faith and her love for her family and her community. We invite all who knew and loved Mary to share their memories and upload photos to her memorial page at www.buonfiglio.com.

Donations in Mary's memory may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and/or Sawtelle Family Hospice House in Reading.

Margaret Giambrone

Her legacy of family, tradition, and togetherness will live forever

Margaret (Raimondi) Giambrone, of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully on January 9, surrounded by her loving family. She was 91 years old.

Born on July 20, 1934 in Boston, Margaret was the beloved daughter of the late Peter and Mary Raimondi. She was born and raised in East Boston and was a proud graduate of East Boston High School.

Margaret was the devoted mother of Steven Giambrone of New York, Michael Giambrone of Revere, and Diane Giambrone of Lynn. She was the cherished grandmother of Michael Giambrone Jr. and his wife, Ashley and Alicia Giambrone and her companion, Troy Young, and the adored great-grandmother of Jack Giambrone. She was predeceased by her Raimondi siblings: Murray, Anne, Rose, Vince, Carl, Peter, Joseph, John, Albert, Richard and Virginia. Margaret is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Margaret was truly the matriarch of her family—a devoted family person who kept everyone together and whose home was always filled with love. She found her greatest joy in cooking and caring for her grandchildren, who were the light of her life. A devoted Boston Red Sox fan, Margaret proudly had her own commemorative brick at Fenway Park bearing her name. She also enjoyed playing bocce, visiting



the casino, and was known as an avid gambler with a great sense of fun and spirit.

She was actively involved in organizing events for the Jack Satter House in Revere, where she built many lasting friendships.

Family and friends will honor Margaret's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston, on Thursday, January 15th, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church, East Boston. Margaret will be remembered for her strength, generosity, devotion to family, and the love she shared so freely with all who knew her. Her legacy of family, tradition, and togetherness will live on forever. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Margaret's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

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The Museum of African American History marks a century of Black history commemorations throughout February

Special to the Times-Free Press

In 2026, Black History Week will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The observance was expanded into a monthlong celebration in 1970, reflecting the growing recognition of the importance of Black history and culture. To honor this historic milestone, the Museum of African American History | Boston & Nantucket (MAAH) invites the public to take part in a vibrant series of programs, many offered at no cost, at its 46 Joy Street location on Boston's Beacon Hill. From wellness and music to poetry

and thought-provoking discussions, these events honor Black history, creativity, and community across generations. All programs are open to the public. To RSVP and for additional information please visit www.maah.org/events.

Threads of Legacy: Pop Up Shop

Throughout the month of February, a pop-up shop inside MAAH will feature a limited-edition collection of silk scarves honoring the resilience, and lasting impact of the Black women leaders who lived on Beacon Hill's North

Slope during the 19th century. Developed through a collaboration between MAAH and the Bee Blunt fashion brand, the designs incorporate historic maps, architectural details, and symbolic references to activism. The 25'x 25" scarves are available for \$55 each or \$160 for all three while supplies last.

Jump Into the Past: Teen Takeover

Sunday, Feb. 1, 1-3 p.m.
FREE

MAAH and the Mayor's Office for Youth and Engagement welcome teens to an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment. Young people aged 11 to 18 will take part in a scavenger hunt, connect with friends, explore exhibits a, tour the African Meeting House, and meet Boston's Youth Poet Laureate, and enjoy a performance.

Saturdays with Sheila: Yoga at MAAH

Saturday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
FREE

Join yogi Sheila Thorne of Bous Yoga for an all-levels yoga class which is held on the first Saturday of each month. Arrive early to secure a mat or bring one from home.

Children's Storytime: We Go Slow

Saturday, Feb. 7, 1 – 2 p.m.
FREE

Artist, poet, and author Mariahessa Ekere Tallie will read from her award-winning picture book *We Go Slow*, which follows a young girl and her grandfather as they take a walk through their neighborhood. Ideal for children ages 4-8, this gentle and contemplative story celebrates the quiet joy of slowing down and noticing the world around us. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

A Little History for Kids: An Interactive Workshop Celebrating Black Historical Figures

Sunday, Feb. 8, 1 – 2 p.m.
FREE

Violinist Caden Burston of Castle of Our Skins, a non-profit celebrating Black artistry through music, introduces children to historical figures including author Phillis Wheatley, inventor Garrett Morgan,

and President Barak Obama. Elementary school aged children are encouraged to sing, clap, move, and imagine as they explore the stories of trailblazing figures. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

New Guinea Joy Walking Tour: A Tour Through Boston's Black Heritage

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2-4 p.m.
\$30 for adults, \$15 for youth 18 and under.

Together, MAAH, the West End Museum and Afrimerican Academy trace Boston's earliest Black roots, from the North End's historic New Guinea Settlement to Joy Street on Beacon Hill which by the 1800s was the center of the city's burgeoning Black community. This tour looks at the lives of the free Black Bostonians who shaped history from the colonial era through abolition and beyond.

Flower Arranging With Pilon Fleur

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
FREE

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Wendy Alexis-Janvier, founder of Pilon Fleur, will guide participants as they create colorful bouquets with refreshments provided. The session will cover basic floral design techniques, including flower selection, color balance, and arrangement. Everyone will leave with a one-of-a-kind bouquet, and refreshments will be served. Donations are welcome and encouraged.

From Ideas to Institutions: The Process of Making Black History

Friday, Feb. 13, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
FREE

Discover how Black history is created, preserved, and celebrated. Angela Tate, Chief Curator and Director of Collections at MAAH; Kyera Singleton, public historian and Executive Director of the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford; and educator Jennifer Turner, board director for Comunitas, an organization fostering inclusive and engaged communities in Greater Boston, will share the stories, stra-

gies, and visions behind the institutions that honor Black history.

The program will be followed by a celebration of Frederick Douglass' 208th birthday, featuring music and refreshments.

Digging Deeper into Black Voices of the Revolution

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5-7 p.m.
FREE

Hear the stories that history often overlooks. UMass Boston Professor Dr. Nedra Lee and MAAH's Chief Curator and Director of Collections will discuss the creation of the Museum's newest exhibition, *Black Voices of the Revolution*. From rare artifacts to AI-driven displays, this exhibit invites visitors to engage with history in a new way.

Storytime at the Museum: Joy Takes Root

Thursday, Feb. 19, 10-11 a.m.
FREE

Author Gwendolyn Wallace will share her children's picture book, *Joy Takes Root*, which follows a young girl as she connects with the earth, learns to grow plants, and honors her family's gardening traditions. Reviewers have called *Joy Takes Root* "a beautiful ode to both the natural world and intergenerational cultural wisdom..." Recommended for children ages 3-8. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

MAAH Lunch Club, A Taste of the Diaspora

Saturday, Feb. 21, 12-3 p.m.
\$50 per person

Enjoy Southern hospitality at its best. Savor a flavorful meal created in collaboration with Heritage Market and award-winning chef Larry J of Larry J's BBQ Café followed by a performance and poetry workshop featuring Boston poet Amanda Shea.

Black Wellness Retreat

Sunday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
\$40 per person

This half-day retreat invites

East Boston Times-Free Press Drop-Off Locations

Orient Height Food Market	1016 Bennington St.	Meridian Market	357 Meridian St.
Angelos	1012 Bennington St.	Mobil Gas Station	Meridian St.
Butcher	1008 Bennington St.	Shaw's	240 Border St.
Tobacco	1006 Bennington St.	Kappy's Liquors	216 Border St.
Sunny	1000 Bennington St.	CVS	210 Border St.
Renegades	1004 Bennington St.	McDonalds	Central Square
Metro PCS	982 Saratoga St.	East Boston Social Center	68 Central St.
Catering Deli	978 Saratoga St.	Walgreens	1 Central Sq 100 St.
Kiosco Restaurant Bar	974 Saratoga St.	Americano Express Bar	Meridian St.
Rite Aid	971 Bennington St.	Shell Gas Station	52 Meridian St.
Luna's Italian	945 Saratoga St.	Police Station	49 Meridian St.
Neptune Laundromat	Saratoga St.	Post Office	50 Meridian St.
Subway	948 Saratoga St.	East Boston Saving Bank	10 Meridian St.
Burger King	948 Saratoga St.	East Boston APAC	17 Meridian St.
Saratoga Market	16 Trident St.	Bella's Market	67 Maverick St.
Royal Famous Roast Beef	752 Bennington St.	Bank of America	Maverick St.
Lanzillis Gas Station	931 Bennington St.	Smoke Shop	Maverick St.
Lissot Hair Salon	730 Bennington St.	PLS Check	19 Maverick St.
Century 21 Realty	620 Bennington St.	Meridian Market	121 Meridian St.
7-Eleven	120 Byron St.	Clipper Wine and Spirit	Maverick St.
Salesian Boys and Girls Club	150 Byron and Bennington St.	Station Grocery	Maverick St.
Carlos Catering	567 Bennington and Moore St.	Dunkin' Donut	Maverick St.
The Corner Mini Market	517 Bennington and Harmony St.	Tedeschi	Maverick St.
The UPS	2 Neptune Rd.	Heritage Apts	209 Sumner St.
Neptune Liquors	1 Neptune Rd.	Cross Roads Shelter	56 Havre St.
Neptune Convenience	3 Neptune Rd.	Maverick Landing	31 Liverpool St.
Neptune Laundromat	489 Saratoga St.	San Miguel Arguel	317 Sumner St.
Mellos Coffee	476 Saratoga St.	Adela's Bakery	319 Sumner St.
DA. Copas Pizza	474 Saratoga St.	Mehak Halal	Sumner St.
Laundromat	470 Saratoga St.	Wine and Barley	326 Sumner St.
Mobil Gas Station	398 Chelsea St.	Al Bar	330 Sumner St.
Spinellis	282 Bennington St.	Italian Express Pizza	336 Sumner St.
Daycare Liquors	286 Bennington St.	Family Brothers Market	339 Sumner St.
Jewel's Restaurant	Chelsea and Day Square	Alvaro Laundromat	341 Sumner St.
Tiny Bubbles	200 Bennington St.	Sumner Market	345 Sumner St.
Lolly's Bakery	158 Bennington St.	Maverick St Market	211 Maverick St.
Sava's Market	150 Bennington and Brooks St.	Wash and Dry	209 Maverick St.
Kelly's Pub	84 Bennington St.	Laundromat	72 Chelsea St.
East Boston Corner Market	233 Marion St.	Santarios	111 Chelsea St.
Peach's and Cream	73 Bennington St.	Old Factory Condo	156 Porter St.
East Boston Saving Bank	1 Bennington St.	Spotless	24 Porter St.
Citizens Bank	Meridian St.	East Boston YMCA	215 Bremen St.
Dunkin' Donut	Meridian St.	Boston Library	365 Bremen St.
Castello Liquors	Meridian St.	Woody's Liquors	1035 Bennington St.
The Soap Box Laundromat	299 Meridian St.	Don Orion Nursing Home	111 Orient Ave.
Angela's Coffee	131 Lexington St.	Glastone Market	3 Glastone St.
Food Market	353 Meridian St.	Continental Dry Cleaners	15 Breed St.
		Martin Community Ctr	86 Boardman St.
		Starbucks	430 McClellan Highway

State Fire Marshal reminds bars and clubs of sparkler hazard

Special to the Times-Free Press

State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine sent a notice to Massachusetts bars and restaurants regarding the fire hazard posed by sparklers, which are believed to have contributed to the tragic New Year's Eve fire that claimed dozens of lives in a Switzerland bar.

"Please be advised that sparklers and other pyrotechnic devices, including so-called 'cold spark' pyrotechnics, are illegal for possession, sale, and

use in Massachusetts without professional licensing, certification, and permitting," State Fire Marshal Davine wrote in a notice to proprietors of restaurants, nightclubs, bars, and discotheques. "This includes small sparklers that have been sold as novelties or party favors to accompany champagne bottles, which are believed to have caused the New Year's Eve fire that claimed 40 lives and injured more than 100 people in Crans-Montana, Switzerland."

The Marshal thanked the

Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, which has provided the notice to local licensing officials for distribution to licensed establishments, and the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, which is distributing the notice to its members.

Separately, the Department of Fire Services issued a notice to a Hialeah, Florida, business that markets sparklers online. This business, King of Sparklers LLC, reportedly sold and shipped sparklers that were lat-

er recovered by Fall River Fire Department inspectors at a local establishment.

"The shipment of prohibited fireworks products into the Commonwealth constitutes a violation of Massachusetts General Law and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Code and presents a significant public safety concern," the notice stated.

State Fire Marshal Davine said that sparklers burn at temperatures of over 1,800° Fahrenheit and cast sparks that can easily ignite furnishings, decorations, and other flammable materials. They can remain hot enough to start a fire even after they've been extinguished, as happened in 2022, when the

unsafe disposal of illegal sparklers caused a three-alarm fire in Dracut that displaced nine people. They are classified as fireworks in Massachusetts and their possession, sale, and use require professional licensing and certification.

"The tragic fire in Switzerland has a chilling similarity to the Station Nightclub fire in Rhode Island, which led to numerous safety reforms in Massachusetts bars and clubs," State Fire Marshal Davine said, noting the sprinkler regulations, inspection schedules, and crowd manager requirements that are now in place in Massachusetts. "We just want to help these businesses keep their patrons and staff safe."

History // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

adults 18 and up to focus on rest, creativity, and connection. Through movement, storytelling, and shared meals, participants will explore ways to nurture themselves and build community. The Haus of Glitter, a dance company and performance lab, offers a space to refresh, recharge, and engage with others in meaningful ways.

US Premiere: In Search of Phyllis Wheatley Peters
Thursday, Feb. 26, 6-8 p.m.
FREE
Executive Producer and Di-

rector Leslie Askew, founder of Askew Films, and Executive Producer Turlough White, the company's head of production, will host the premiere of their new documentary *In Search of Phyllis Wheatley Peters*. The filmmakers will examine the remarkable life of Wheatley Peters, the first African American woman—and only the third American woman—to publish a book of poetry. Enslaved in Boston and later emancipated, she mastered English, Greek, and Latin, composing elegant verse on religion, freedom, and historic figures.

Suite for a Minor Meeting, Live Performance

Feb. 28, 5-7 p.m.

FREE

Join Tufts University Art Galleries and MAAH for *Suite for a Minor Meeting*, a new site-specific performance by Jonathan González, a Magical Thinking of Systems and Belief-commissioned artist who works at the intersections of choreography, sculpture, text, and media. This special presentation, featuring Ogechi Okoye and Valentine Umeh, takes place at the African Meeting House on the MAAH campus.

ALR // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

prove the overall assisted living model in the Commonwealth."

"I would like to thank the commission for their thoughtful review of existing policies and procedures and for the recommendations outlined in this report that will provide for important enhanced safety measures for all residents of assisted living centers throughout the state in the aftermath of the tragic Gabriel House fire," said Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan.

"I am gratified to see the

ALR Commission release its report detailing a number of comprehensive reforms that will strengthen safety and increase transparency for ALRs all across the Commonwealth. The extensive reviews following the tragic fire at the Gabriel House will ensure that our seniors will not only have the latest in health and safety protocols in place, but that ALR staff will be equipped with the highest training and certifications standards in the industry."

"The ALR Commission Report and recommendations delivers achievable goals. Legislative action is needed to ensure uniformity and compliance," said Representative Alan Silvia (D-Fall River).

"After our community experienced the tragic and deadly fire at Gabriel House last year, we have been evaluating necessary remedies and changes to prevent catastrophes like this," said Representative Carole Fiola (D-Fall River). "Thanks

to the work of this Commission, we are seeing important changes to help improve safety, affordability, and care. Thank you to Secretary Lipson and my colleague Chair Stanley for their tireless dedication to this issue."

"I thank the ALR Commission for the work and report, it brings attention to needed improvements. I applaud the state's commitment to promptly addressing the issues and listening to concerns brought forward," said Representative Steven J. Ouellette (D-Westport). "I strongly support efforts to avoid serious incidents, particularly those that help our seniors and those ability hindered."

The Commission's report contains a comprehensive set of reforms that will significantly improve resident safety and ensure families have the information they need to make informed decisions.

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LADY JETS FALL TO FENWAY PANTHERS 43-23

BOB MARRA PHOTOS



Jalyses Urbaez (12) tries to get between Fenway defenders Yari Arias (12) and Jada Reed (34).



Valeria Waya (20) leads an East Boston offensive charge.



Madison Santos (4) dribbles past Fenway's Yari Arias (12) during first half action of the Jets' 43-23 loss to Fenway at East Boston High Monday. Santos scored eight points for the Jets.



Above, Arianna Hernandez (10) fends off a pair of Fenway defenders to hold on to a rebound.



Right, Kimberly Anaya (2) plays keep-away from Fenway's Ebony Arroyo (15)

ON BEHALF OF THE EAST BOSTON HOLIDAY LIGHT COMMITTEE,
WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM!

Special thanks to the **East Boston Foundation**. Thank you to **Boston Public Works, Electrical Department – Mike Donaghy**.

Massport and MassDot for their enhanced Holiday displays at Bremen Park and Sumner Tunnel. **MBTA** for creating MBTA's "Santa Express" experience on the Blue Line from Airport to Maverick Station. **Hilton Garden Inn Boston Logan Airport** for hosting a Children's Christmas Party - for East Boston children, including their volunteered employees.

East Boston Main Streets funding to enhance the Maverick Square Holiday Lights. **State Representative Adrian Madaro and Staff** for their continued unfettered dedication and support. **Cappuccio Construction** and **Cora Operations** for purchasing wreaths for the squares.

Thank you to **Boston Police District A-7 East Boston**.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2026 AND WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SINCERELY,
LISA CAPOGRECO-CAPPUCCIO & LUKE FANUELE (CO CHAIRS)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: YESENIA CARDENAS MARTINEZ, BIANCA DI ANGELIS, GINA GUANGE, CHRISTINE MAZZARELLA DOHERTY, BRIDGET HEIGLEMAN, SAMANTHA WU – TOPOLSKI, SULEIMA CHAN, DIANA MUNERA, SHIRLEY FABBO – EAST BOSTON CHAMBER.

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Kimberly Anaya (2) avoids Fenway's Aliany Santiago (4) and drives through the lane.



Noelle Haddad (5) tries to get around a Fenway defender at the baseline.



Ashley Hernandez (32) looks for space as she is guarded by Fenway's Isadora Lee (3)

EAST BOSTON HOLIDAY LIGHTS
THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR PURCHASING A
WREATH IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE.

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Anthony Iacominio	Lisa Gallotto
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Domenic and Lucille Gambardella	Joanne Fitzgerald
Domenico Capogreco	Vincenzo Capogreco & Family
Dr. Domenic G. Amara	Pirandello Lyceum
Eddie Manzi	David Manzi
Fr. Gregory Mercurio	Libby Scimemi & Family
Frank & Virginia Tortorici	Elisa Tortorici
Frank Coccimiglio	Maria Coccimiglio
Frank Diano	Diano Family
Gaetano and Lucia Gambardella	Joanne Fitzgerald
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Gilberto Cardenas	Yesenia Martinez
Giuseppe Mercurio	Libby Scimemi & Family
James Deulin	Jim and Anna Deulin
Jean Auallone	Anthony Auallone
Jimmy Sartori	Patty Sartori
Joe and Josie Wardell	Joanne Fitzgerald
Joseph and Marie Deneumoustier	Colette Deneumoustier & Family
Lina Capogreco	Your husband and Children
Lucy & George Aceto	Michelle Aceto - Amanouz
Mario Scimemi	Libby Scimemi
Mary and Peter Bruno	Barbie Puopolo
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Rosemarie D'Amelio-Perry	With love, your daughters Kelly & Deena
Sandra and Al Gambale	Barbie Puopolo
Tony Galbiati	Galbiati Family
	Candreua Law Office

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Progresso Soups	2/¢6.00
New England Bagged Coffee	¢7.99
Capri Sun Drinks	2/¢7.00
Juicy Juice 64 oz	2/¢7.00
Post Honey Bunches of Oats Cereal	2/¢6.00
Kellogg's Eggo Waffles	2/¢5.00
(ex: thick & fluffy variety)	
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Steak Urms 9 oz	2/¢9.00

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

JIMENEZ-RIVERA NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2026

CHELSEA - City Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Rivera was sworn in as the new Council President for 2026 at Monday night's inaugural event for the council and the school committee.

District 3 Councilor Norieliz DeJesus, who has served as council president for the past two years, was the pick to serve as vice president.

In his remarks to open the new council year, Jimenez-Rivera thanked his wife, Dr. Sarah Neville, who was also inaugurated earlier in the evening for a new term on the school committee.

"I am a better leader for Chelsea because of her, and her leadership, both on and off the school committee, makes Chelsea a better place," he said.

Jimenez-Rivera said his story was not unique, but was the story of many in Chelsea.

"For over 100 years, Chelsea has been a gateway city, the first stop for migrants seeking better opportunities, seeking a community where people care for one another, and seeking a place where they can start or grow their families further," said Jimenez-Rivera. "Black Americans, Irish, Italians, Poles, Jews, Puerto Ricans, Central Americans, African Muslims, and so many more peoples have made Chelsea home because we share dreams and we share values."

Being a gateway city is not just about welcoming people at the door, he added, but taking care of residents after they arrive.

"It's about making sure that our services, our policies, and our public spaces reflect our values," Jimenez-Rivera said. "It is about making sure all our residents feel protected, valued, and heard no matter where they come from, how much they earn, or how long they have been here."

He noted that during the Covid pandemic, the city came together to feed and vaccinate people.

"Over the last year, we had to come together again to protect our residents from being terrorized by ICE agents who would rather use them as puppets for political theater than treat them with the dignity that

we all deserve as human beings," Jimenez-Rivera said. "I am proud to live and to lead in a city that sees the best in people, that will keep working until everyone has their basic needs met, and at its core, knows that no human being is illegal."

The new council president said the issues faced by Chelsea's residents extend beyond the city's boundaries.

"Our residents are afraid, they are afraid that they will not be able to put enough food on the table; they are afraid that regardless of their immigration status, they are going to be targeted by ICE just for the color of their skin," Jimenez-Rivera said. "They are afraid that after decades of hard work, their children will be worse off than them. As council president and as a human being, I will not stand for that."

Jimenez-Rivera said he wants Chelsea not just to survive, but to thrive, and that it will require a sense of urgency.

"Urgency is necessary not because Chelsea is broken, Chelsea is strong, look at all of us here," he said. "Urgency is necessary because delay has consequences and the choices we make today are going to determine whether Chelsea remains a place where opportunity is real and where dignity is not negotiable. Our residents have waited for things to get better, and that wait has only grown longer and heavier."

He said Chelsea's leaders must be bold and act quickly to tackle the issues faced by residents, including affordability for young families and senior citizens.

"We must reform our policies, our zoning, our long-term planning if we are going to make sure that Chelsea can retain its character of a multi-cultural community of working families," Jimenez-Rivera said. "I invite my colleagues to join me in working with urgency for Chelsea. We won't achieve it all, and we might even fail at times, but we can't let anybody say that we didn't try and that we didn't give it our best."

Also sworn into the council on Monday night were District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor, District 2 Councilor Deron Hines, District 5 Councilor Lisa Santagata, District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero, District 7 Councilor Manuel Teshe,

District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown, and at-large Councilors Leo Robinson and Kelly Garcia.

District 4 Councilor Taniari Garcia was unable to attend the meeting because she was in Puerto Rico and flights to the United States over the Caribbean were canceled due to the recent actions in Venezuela. She will be sworn in when she returns.

Hines was the one new councilor sworn in for 2026, and he was joined in the audience by a large contingent of friends and family.

VAN CAMPEN INAUGURATED AS MAYOR OF EVERETT

EVERETT - Robert Van Campen was inaugurated as Mayor of the City of Everett at an impressive ceremony Monday night in the Everett High School Performing Arts Center.

With his wife, Lisa Van Campen, and their children, Lily Van Campen and John Van Campen, by his side on stage, Van Campen took the oath of office as mayor from City Clerk Sergio Cornelio. The large audience gave Van Campen a standing ovation as he begins what he has called "a new chapter" for Everett and its residents.

Gov. Maura Healey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley attended the inauguration ceremony in a prodigious display of prestige and respect for Van Campen and the city. Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Rep. Joseph McGonagle, Middlesex County DA Marian Ryan, and Clerk of Courts Michael Sullivan were other dignitaries in attendance.

Members of the Everett City Council and Everett School Committee were inaugurated for their new two-year terms.

Van Campen delivered an inaugural address that can be described best as brilliant, uplifting, and optimistic about the city's future.

Van Campen said, "This moment belongs not to one person, but to an entire city - a city built by generations of hardworking families."

He noted the historical significance of this point in Everett's political history, stating, "To our female elected officials, I am deeply proud to begin my tenure in office while working with a City Council and School

Committee that will - for the first time in our City's history - be represented by a majority of women."

In one of the more heartfelt moments in his address, Van Campen said to his children, "I may hold a new title tonight, but being your father is the greatest title I will ever have. Thank you for the privilege of being your dad."

Van Campen said he will strive with Supt. of Schools William Hart, the City Council, and the School Committee "to make a great school system into an urban model of excellence."

Van Campen reached out for unity across the city.

"To those who supported me, thank you for your trust and confidence. To those who did not, I promise to be a mayor for all of Everett. Let us begin tonight to write our next great chapter together," concluded Van Campen.

Mayor Robert Van Campen's inaugural address

"Good evening.

Governor Healy, Representative Pressley, District Attorney Ryan, Clerk of Courts Sullivan, members of the state delegation, members of the City Council, members of the School Committee, former Mayors, Reverend Clergy, Lisa, Lily and John, mom, to my sisters, family and friends, my fellow citizens.

I am deeply honored to stand before you as Mayor of the City of Everett. I do so with a great sense of humility, a clear understanding of the challenges ahead, and a commitment to put every single person in this community at the center of each decision I will make during the next four years.

I am also honored to be Mayor of a community that boasts such incredibly talented young people. Would you please join me in recognizing our great student ambassadors who made sure we were where we needed to be tonight, and our incredible musicians in the band and choir whose talents are on full display tonight. Thank you.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to Mayor Carlo DeMaria for his years of dedicated service to our community. His leadership and commitment have helped guide this city through

challenges and opportunities - always with a clear focus on moving our city forward. On behalf of the people of Everett, I thank him for his stewardship these past 18 years and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his life.

I also want to thank my family for their constant support - particularly my wife Lisa - Everett's new First Lady - for completing the person you see before you this evening. Like me, the people of Everett will fall in love with your combination of grace, spunk and an unassuming way.

To my children, Lily and John, I may hold a new title tonight, but being your father is the greatest title I will ever have. Thank you for the privilege of being your dad.

I also want to particularly thank Father James Barry for opening our Inaugural Exercises with prayer this evening. You married Lisa and I, and baptized Lily and John. You have been there during some of the happiest and saddest moments for my family. Your presence means a great deal to us - and I wanted to publicly thank you for that.

While I assume office today, this moment belongs not to one person, but to an entire city - a city built by generations of hardworking families.

To the parents who emigrated here with nothing but hope for a better life for their children.

To the small business owners who unlock their doors before sunrise and close after sunset, humbly keeping our neighborhoods alive.

To the union workers who fight for fair wages and teach us what solidarity - something near and dear to me - really looks like.

To the fire fighters, police officers, teachers and city workers who show up on weekends, holidays, and in the hardest moments, never for recognition, but because this city depends on them. This is your moment too.

To our female elected officials, I am deeply proud to begin my tenure in office while working with a City Council and School Committee that will - for the first time in our City's history - be represented

Region//

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

by a majority of women. As the youngest of five children – three of whom are women – I have been made to master the art of navigating this dynamic effectively throughout my life, feel very much at home being outnumbered and look forward to our shared work on behalf of the people of Everett. Ladies this is your moment too.

We are a city with an incredible history and unlimited potential. Tonight, the people of Everett – a community defined by a proud industrial past that shaped the United States of America in the 20th Century and gave thousands of Everett families for generations their chance at the American Dream – are ready to write a new chapter.

While I may hold the pen to write that new chapter, that story will be told by the people of Everett from our Woodlawn section to West Everett, from the Line to North Everett – and everywhere in between.

It will be told by every student – young and old – who dreams of greatness; and by every hardworking educator who helps those dreams come true. YOU will help write this next chapter.

To our incredible business community, our partners in creating a thriving local economy – YOU will help write this next chapter.

To all of our dedicated public servants who have devoted their professional lives to improving and protecting our community – YOU will help write this next chapter.

This chapter will be written within the walls of our houses of worship; by our many community volunteers and our network of incredible community organizations; by young parents taking their children to our parks and playgrounds; by our seniors and our cherished veterans; and by people new to Everett and those who have been here for generations.

All are respected, all are valued and all are welcomed to come together as one community to form an incredible tapestry in celebration of our rich diversity – our greatest strength. To the people of Everett – this is our time to write a new chapter.

But make no mistake, I will not stop honoring our history. I mean, where else can you get

a papusa, pichana and homemade pasta all within a block?

Today, our city stands at an important crossroads. As we grow and change, we face both a profound responsibility and an historic opportunity to move Everett forward with integrity, fairness and accountability.

We must rebuild trust in government at a time when – at the federal, state and local level – trust is lacking; we must ensure that every tax dollar is spent with clear purpose, full transparency, and public oversight; we must tackle the crisis-level challenge of school overcrowding so our children have the classrooms they deserve and need in which to receive a world class education; we must guide smart, equitable development that benefits our neighborhoods, eases traffic and congestion, while preserving affordability for working families; and we must thoughtfully steward major initiatives like the proposed professional soccer stadium on lower Broadway so growth truly serves the people of Everett, and not just special interests.

As mayor, my commitment

to each of you is grounded in three principles.

First, service to the people of Everett. City government must be accessible, responsive, and fair. Every resident – regardless of background, neighborhood, or length of time in Everett – deserves to be heard and respected.

Second, unity and collaboration. Our city has always been at its strongest when we work together. I will seek partnership with the City Council, School Committee, our federal and state delegations, city employees, community organizations, and residents. We may disagree at times – and I assure you we will – but we will always move forward with respect and a shared commitment to the common good. Tonight, I ask that you join me in ushering in a new era of civility here at home. While we may not be able to control what happens beyond our borders, let's show our children that we can disagree without disparagement, name calling or personal attack. Let's start that new era of civility tonight right here in Everett.

Third, responsible progress with accountability. We will pursue smart economic development that creates jobs, supports local businesses, and strengthens and grows our tax base – while also protecting our quality of life. We will invest in public safety, infrastructure, schools, and city services, and we will be transparent and accountable in how decisions are made.

And I turn with all of the authority of my office to Superintendent Hart, and my colleagues on the City Council and School Committee, and every stakeholder in this community, and ask that you join me in finding the right solution to address our current school overcrowding crisis.

Together we can make a great school system into an urban model of excellence and success, where teachers aren't overwhelmed by packed classrooms and children get the attention they deserve.

My administration will focus on keeping Everett safe, fiscally sound, and welcoming. We will work to ensure our streets are secure, our city services are

responsive and reliable, our schools are supported, and our neighborhoods remain places where families can thrive.

But government alone cannot do this work. Everett's strength has always come from its people – neighbors looking out for one another, volunteers giving their time, and residents who care deeply about this city. I invite every resident to stay engaged, speak up, and be part of shaping Everett's future as we write this next chapter.

To those who supported me, thank you for your trust and confidence. To those who did not, I promise to be a mayor for all of Everett. To the people of Everett, I will listen to you, I will learn from you, and I will lead with fairness and integrity.

Let us move forward together – honoring Everett's proud past, meeting today's challenges head-on, and building a future that reflects the hopes of all who are privileged to call this city home. Let us begin tonight to write our next great chapter together.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the City of Everett."

LEGAL NOTICE

Submit notices to legals@eastertimes.com

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION
NOTICE

Docket No. SU25P2555EA
Estate of: June Ellen Roberts
Date of Death: August 18, 2025
To all persons interested in the
above captioned estate, by Petition
of Petitioner Maria J. Roberto of
Danvers, MA.
A will has been admitted to informal
probate.
Maria J. Roberto of Danvers, MA has
been informally appointed as the
Personal Representative of the Estate
to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered
under informal procedure by the
Personal Representative under the
Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code

without supervision by the Court.
Inventory and accounts are not
required to be filed with the Court,
but interested parties are entitled to
notice regarding the administration
from the Personal Representative and
can petition the Court in any matter
relating to the estate, including
distribution of assets and expenses of
administration.

Interested parties are entitled to
petition the Court to institute formal
proceedings and to obtain orders ter-
minating or restricting the powers of
Personal Representatives appointed
under informal procedure.
A copy of the Petition and Will,
if any, can be obtained from the
Petitioner.

01/14/2026
EB

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL

ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU25P2876EA

Estate of:
Paul L. Dillon

Date of Death:
01/25/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication
of Intestacy and Appointment of
Personal Representative has been
filed by

Joseph E. Dillon of Weymouth MA
requesting that the Court enter a
formal Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested in the

Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:
Joseph E. Dillon of Weymouth MA
be appointed as Personal Representa-
tive(s) of said estate to serve Without
Surety on the bond in unsupervised
administration

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy
of the Petition from the Petitioner
or at the Court. You have a right
to object to this proceeding. To do
so, you or your attorney must file a
written appearance and objection at
this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of
02/10/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a
deadline by which you must file a
written appearance and objection if
you object to
this proceeding. If you fail to file
a timely written appearance and
objection followed by an affidavit of
objections within thirty (30) days of
the return day, action may be taken

without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UN-
DER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed
under the MUPC in an unsupervised
administration is not required to
file an inventory or annual accounts
with the Court. Persons interested
in the estate are entitled to notice
regarding the administration directly
from the Personal Representative and
may petition the Court in any matter
relating to the estate, including the
distribution of assets and expenses of
administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: December 29, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

1/14/26
EB

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Significant drought conditions declared in central and northeast regions

Drought conditions worsen in the Southeast Region, Nantucket County and Millers Basin, while conditions have improved in Dukes County

Special to the Times-Free Press

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper has declared the Central and Northeast Regions have worsened to a Level 2—Significant Drought. Conditions also declined in nearly all other regions, moving the Southeast Region to a Level 1—Mild Drought and the Millers River Basin to a Level 3—Critical Drought. In the Islands Region, Dukes County has returned to Normal Conditions, and Nantucket County has moved to a Level 3—Critical Drought. Conditions remain unchanged in the Western, Connecticut River Valley, and Cape Cod Regions.

Drought is a look back at conditions over a period of time. The Drought Management Task Force (DMTF) collected and analyzed data from August 2024 through December 2025. Despite minor improvements at a few locations, drought conditions have continued in most of Massachusetts.

“Continued snow and rainfall are needed to alleviate the drought that many regions in our state are experiencing this winter,” said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “Groundwater

levels still need to recover, so as we get closer to the growing season, we encourage everyone to continue to follow state guidance and local water restrictions. This will help ensure we have enough water available for our essential needs.”

During December, Massachusetts received rainfall ranging from 3 to 4 inches, but the month ended with totals at 1-2 inches below normal. However, when looking back over the past 3 to 6 months, precipitation deficits persist.

The current drought, which began in 2024, has had significant impacts on the natural environment, including the drying of streams in nearly all regions, lower water levels in lakes and ponds, resulting in exposed banks, and impeding fish passage out to the ocean. Although local water supplies are currently stable, as the drought persists and winter recharge is reduced, it is prudent for all to be very conservative and save water whenever possible.

As outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, continued detailed monitoring of drought conditions must continue. The drought levels also require ongoing coordination among state and federal agencies to implement drought response actions such as water use restrictions. Additionally, engagement with municipalities, including local

Boards of Health (BOH), is essential. This includes providing technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities. Residents are asked to report to their local BOH in case of wells drying up; BOHs are asked to report on the condition of local private wells.

Residents can report dry environmental conditions and submit photos to help monitor the situation on the Massachusetts Water Impact Reporter. Additionally, a FAQ is now available for questions regarding the current drought status and water conservation; and private well owners can go here for information on how the drought may impact them.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to assist communities in managing their water systems. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not experiencing drought conditions.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 1—Mild Drought, Level 2—Significant Drought, Level 3—Critical Drought including those utilizing a private well. Residents and businesses are strongly urged to check with their local water system in case more stringent watering restrictions are in place. Many systems may have other more

severe local conditions and constraints on water supply.

For Regions in Level 3 – Critical Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use
- Follow state water conservation actions and any local water use restrictions
- Monitor total household water use shown on your water bill for sudden increases, which often indicate leaks. Use the MA Home Water Use Calculator tool to evaluate household water use.
- Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately. Check for leaks in homes and businesses regularly by:
- Checking water meters for constant dial movement
- Using dye tabs to check for toilet leaks

• Conducting regular inspections of all pipes and fixtures, including those located in utility rooms, crawlspaces, and other hidden areas

• Use dishwashers rather than handwashing dishes. Run the dishwasher only on a full load

• Aggressively reduce indoor water use by:

• Reducing shower length and consider using a shower timer

• Running washing machines only on a full load

• Not letting water run while brushing and shaving

• Replacing old fixtures and appliances with water-efficient ones. Make sure toilets, faucets, and showerheads are WaterSense labeled

• Stop all non-essential water use

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

• Provide timely information on the drought and on water conservation tips to local residents and businesses taking advantage of the state’s library of outreach materials

• Enforce water use restrictions with increasingly stringent penalties

• Strongly discourage or prohibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing

• Establish or enhance water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state’s library of outreach materials
- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates
- Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections for water supply
- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan

For Regions in Level 2 – Significant Drought

Residents and Businesses:

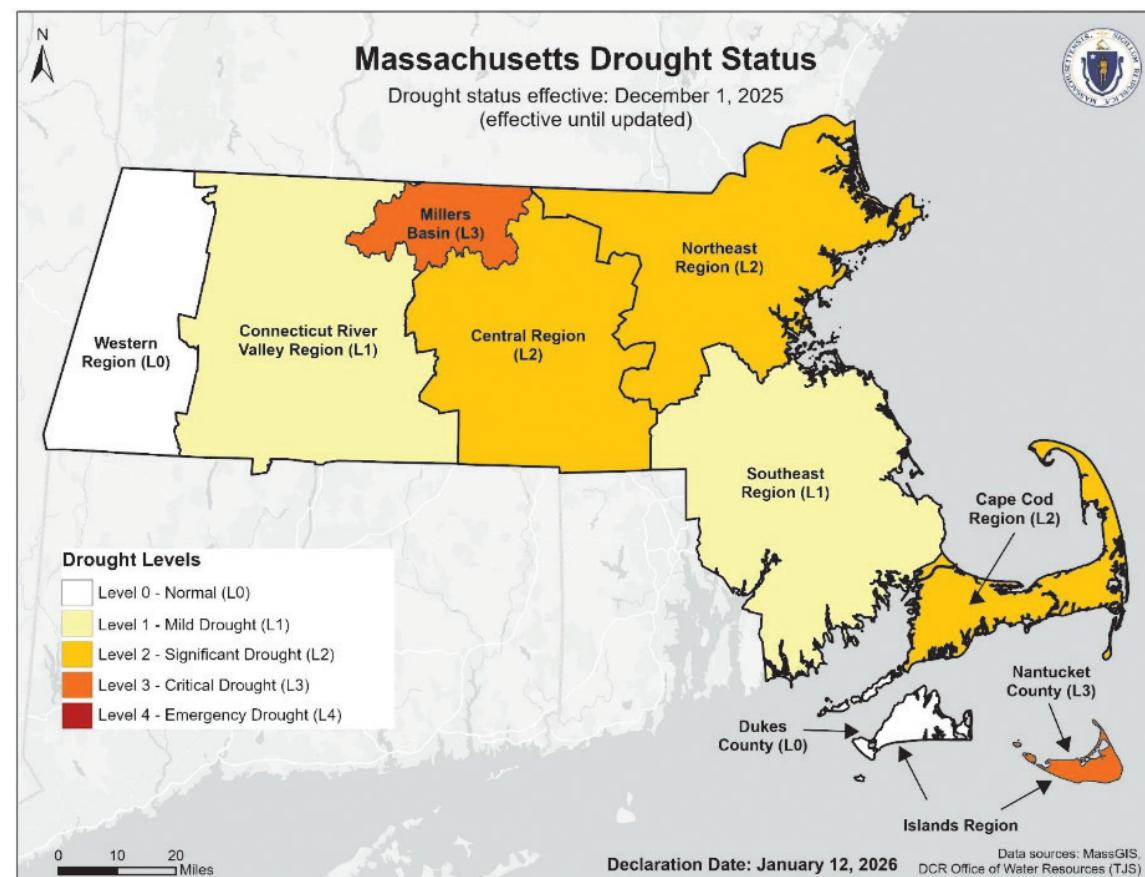
- Minimize overall water use;
- Follow local water use restrictions;
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use; and,
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Limit or prohibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; and,
- Establish water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state’s library of outreach materials;
- Provide timely information to local residents and businesses;
- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates;
- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,



BPLF hosts free estate planning webinar for same-sex couples and non-traditional families

The Boston Public Library Fund (BPLF) is proud to announce that it will host an online Zoom free webinar on Wednesday, February 4, 12:30-1:30 p.m., featuring Scott E. Squillace, Esq., for an in-depth program exploring the unique estate planning considerations affecting same-sex couples and non-traditional families.

In the wake of shifting federal administrations, LGBTQ+ individuals have faced evolving questions about marriage rights, legal protections, and long-term planning. This program will trace the history of LGBTQ+ rights and the development of key case law, examining how these legal changes impact estate planning today. Attendees will gain insight into the advantages and disadvantages of marriage from tax and estate perspectives, as well as the specialized planning strat-

egies available to same-sex couples. Mr. Squillace will also discuss emerging risks in the current political climate and outline proactive steps attorneys and clients can take to safeguard their interests.

This free webinar is essential for same-sex couples considering marriage and for professionals advising them on estate planning strategies. Following the presentation, Mr. Squillace will answer questions from the audience. Register here: www.bplfund.org/events.

The mission of the BPLF is to provide financial support to the Boston Public Library, ensuring that it remains viable, engaging, accessible, and free to all. The fund fulfills this mission by working in partnership with the library, donors, and other funders in supporting BPL programs and special initiatives. Support from the Fund

supplements, but does not supplement, other BPL resources, including City of Boston funding.

With over 38 years of legal experience and a career dedicated to serving the LGBTQ+ community, Scott E. Squillace, Esq. brings extensive knowledge and practical guidance to this important topic. He is the author of *Whether-to-Wed: A Legal and Tax Guide for Gay and Lesbian Couples* and has spoken nationally on LGBTQ+ estate planning. He is the founder of Squillace & Associates, P.C., a boutique law firm located in Boston's historic Back Bay. His practice focuses on estate and business planning, with a special emphasis on tax and philanthropic planning for high-net-worth individuals and families.

Scott holds a bachelor's degree from Fordham University, studied at the Sorbonne Uni-

versity in Paris, and earned his J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington,

D.C. He resides in Boston, MA and Palm Springs, CA, with his husband and their two silver labs.

Drought //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan.

For Regions in Level 1 – Mild Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities;

Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials;
- Provide timely drought and water conservation information to residents and businesses;
- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,
- Develop a local drought management plan (learn more here).

State agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess conditions across the state, coordinate any needed dissemination of information to the public, and help federal, state, and local agencies prepare additional responses that may be needed in the future. The

DMTF will meet again on February 10 at 9:30 AM. For further information on water con-

servation and what residents can do, visit the EEA's drought and water conservation pages.

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Thank you to supporters of our Thanksgiving Day Dinner & 22nd Annual Eastie's Elves!

This year, the Madaro Family Community Fund was able to spread joy and provide to thousands of families, which would not be possible without the generosity of our community members and donors. Through our annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner, we donated **250 turkeys** and served **750 Thanksgiving meals**.

Our 22nd annual Eastie's Elves toy collection and holiday celebration provided over **3,000 holiday toys** and nearly **700 gift cards** to families in East Boston, Winthrop, and Revere.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

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Councilor Ira Novoselsky	Paris Street Community Center
Duck Boat Tours	Salesian Boys and Girls Club
East Boston High School Key Club	Sammy Carlo's/Carlo's Catering
Globos y Fiestas	Shaw's - East Boston
Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor	Soundz Unique
IAM 1726	Thanksgiving Day Dinner Volunteers
JetBlue	Veronica Robles Cultural Center
Marty Walsh	Winthrop Book Depot
Massport	Zoo New England

Happy New Year from  MADARO FAMILY Community Fund Committee Members:

Brianna Pereira	Donnie Todd	Pizzicarella Family
Carlo Basile	Liana LaMattina	Rita Lombardi
DelVento Family	Meredith Lerner Moghimi	State Rep. Jessica Giannino
	Nancy LoConte	

Healey-Driscoll administration awards over \$2 million for salt marsh restoration

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced more than \$2 million in new funding to restore and monitor salt marshes along the Massachusetts' coastline. Salt marshes protect communities from flooding, prevent damage from storms and rising seas, serve as habitat for fisheries and wildlife, and absorb carbon that would otherwise contribute to climate change.

"Salt marshes are a defining feature of the iconic Massachusetts coastline, which is why we made expediting these projects a core provision of the Mass Ready Act," said Energy

and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "Salt marshes are powerful natural defenses—absorbing floodwaters, reducing storm surge, and protecting our communities during extreme weather events. Preserving and restoring these vital ecosystems is essential to building a more resilient Massachusetts."

"The actions we take today to protect our salt marshes will affect our climate resilience for generations," said Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer. "These restoration and monitoring efforts will create a stronger, living ecosystem that will defend our communities against harsh storms and flooding.

This funding goes a long way toward protecting natural resources and addressing climate change."

The Salt Marsh Restoration and Monitoring grants, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), will support seven projects to restore and monitor degraded salt marsh ecosystems. The resulting data will help identify particularly effective restoration techniques, and combinations of techniques, to inform future restoration efforts and investment.

"Salt marshes play a vital role in filtering pollutants, improving water quality, and

protecting the health of our ecosystems and communities," said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. "We're grateful to the many partners who have long prioritized protection and restoration of these unique ecosystems and look forward to ongoing work together to ensure salt marshes can perform these critical functions for generations to come."

The following grant proposals were selected for funding:

Permitting of Salt Marsh Restoration at Belle Isle Marsh
Mystic River Watershed Association (Boston) – \$40,000

These grants are the latest step in the Healey-Driscoll Administration's work to promote

resilience and support ecological restoration projects. Other recent initiatives have included streamlined provisions for permitting restoration projects in the Mass Ready Act, and MassDEP's issuance of guidance documents to promote salt marsh restoration. Additionally, these projects support the Massachusetts Biodiversity Goals, which name salt marsh restoration as a priority, and the Department of Fish & Game's Blue Carbon Program, which is exploring financial incentives to drive protection of these critical habitats to help the state meet its net-zero goals.

MCCA Board appoints John Barros Interim Executive Director

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) Board of Directors voted unanimously to appoint John Barros as Interim Executive Director of the Authority, with a start date of January 14, 2026.

Barros brings more than 25 years of leadership experience across the public, private, and

nonprofit sectors, with a dedicated career focused on economic development, equitable growth, and community impact. From 2014 to 2021, he served as Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston, where he led the creation of a newly consolidated Economic Development Cabinet focused on equity and inclusion, and advanced initia-

tives to create jobs, strengthen tourism, train the workforce, and revitalize neighborhoods.

Most recently, Barros served as Managing Principal at Civitas Builders, a Boston-based firm focused on improving communities through responsive real estate development and strategic project execution.

"As Massachusetts prepares for an extraordinary, nation-leading year ahead for events, tourism and economic development, the MCCA is going to play a pivotal role," said Governor Maura Healey. "I'm confident that under John's experienced and strategic leadership, the Authority will continue fulfilling its mission to boost our economy and competitiveness, and I thank the MCCA Board for its work to ensure stability at this vital organization."

Earlier in his career, Barros spent 14 years as Executive Director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), leading the nation's largest urban community land trust and helping establish it as a national model for community-driven development and equitable neighborhood revitalization.

"John will bring dynamic leadership to this important role at a consequential moment for Boston and the Commonwealth," said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. "His economic development experience, knowledge of the city, and dedication to community will steer the MCCA to greater collabora-

tion and success. I look forward to working with him on making Boston the leading destination and hub—starting with preparing for a big summer as we host the 250th commemorations, Tall Ships, and the World Cup."

As chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston under Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Barros co-chaired the development of Imagine Boston, the city's first citywide comprehensive plan, and oversaw initiatives focused on access to capital, local wealth creation, job connections, and neighborhood-centered growth. Under his leadership, Boston added 140,000 new jobs and significantly expanded public investment in workforce development and community-centered economic strategies.

"I am honored to step into this role at such a critical moment for the MCCA and grateful to the Board for their support and confidence," said John Barros. "As a world-class cultural and economic engine, what happens here impacts not just Boston, but the entire Commonwealth. I am looking forward to working with the team and ensuring we continue to deliver on our mission of driving economic impact, fostering a fair and equitable workplace, and event excellence."

As Interim Executive Director, Barros will oversee the MCCA's venue portfolio and operations, including the Thomas M. Menino Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center, and the Lawn on D, while advancing the Authority's mission to drive economic impact through events and tourism.



John Barros

memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center, and the Lawn on D, while advancing the Authority's mission to drive economic impact through events and tourism.

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Thomas M. Menino Convention & Exhibition Center (MCEC), the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center, Convention Center Carpark & The Landing in Springfield, MA, the Boston Common Parking Garage, The Lawn On D and The Lot On D. The MCCA's mission is to deliver world-class event experiences that drive statewide economic growth, foster innovation, and exceed customer expectations all while cultivating a workplace culture that values excellence, inclusivity, and employee well-being.

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2026

January 25 - January 31

#CSW26

National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. CSW runs from the last Sunday in January through the following Saturday. The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church's evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community.

While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.

Publishing January 21 & 22

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Deadline: Friday, January 16th

Email your rep. or call 781-485-0588
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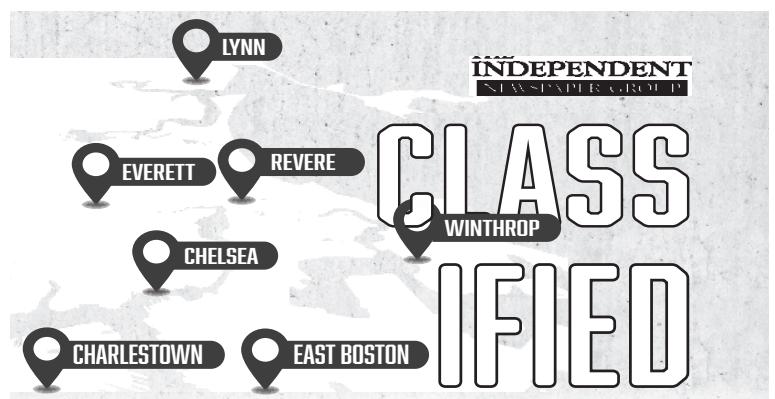
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On the 28th of August, 1963, a century following Abraham Lincoln's historic Emancipation Proclamation that liberated the slaves, a young Martin Luther King ascended the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. There, he shared his dream for America. Over 200,000 individuals, both black and white, gathered to hear him. The vision shared on the steps of the Memorial that day became the aspiration of an entire generation. Below, please find the full text of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon of hope to millions of slaves, who had been seared in the flames of whithering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, the colored America is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the colored American is still sadly crippled by the manacle of segregation and the chains of discrimination.

One hundred years later, the colored American lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later,

the colored American is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we have come to our Nation's Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our great republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given its colored people a bad check, a

check that has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice.

We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is not time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.

Now it is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

Now it is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

Now is the time to make justice a reality to all of God's children.

I would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of its colored citizens. This sweltering summer of the colored people's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end but a beginning. Those who hope that the colored Americans needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the colored citizen is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.

We cannot be satisfied as long as the colored person's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one.

We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for white only."

We cannot be satisfied as long as a colored person in Mississippi cannot vote and a colored person in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

No, no we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of your trials and tribulations. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by storms of persecutions and staggered by the winds of police brutality.

You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our modern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you, my friends, we have the difficulties of today and tomorrow.

I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with

thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!

And if America is to be a great nation, this must be come true. So let freedom ring from the hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that, let freedom, ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi and every mountainside.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

Commitment to justice and equality shapes our community's tomorrow.

Honoring & Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

from the staff of
Channel Fish
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"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"
– Martin Luther King Jr.



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