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Wednesday, March 18, 2026

THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVITIES

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



Residents lined the streets on Sunday, March 15 for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mayor Michelle Wu (photo right) marched in the parade and stopped often along the way to take some pictures with parade watchers. See Pages 4 and 5 for more photos.



Coletta Zapata holds hearing on drink spiking in Boston

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata held a hearing to review progress and identify further opportunities to address drink spiking and drug-facilitated sexual assault. Coletta Zapata sponsored the hearing to review the City's ongoing efforts on this issue, examine updated data on suspected drink spiking incidents, and assess remaining service gaps in testing, reporting, survivor care, and prevention. The hearing also explored opportunities to align municipal strategies with pending state legislation and national best practices. The discussion was timely particularly in the midst of St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

"Public safety means ensuring people can enjoy our city without worrying that their drink could be tampered with. Boston has taken important steps to address the challenges of drink spiking, but the burden of prevention should never fall on victims. Our focus must be on preventing these incidents

in the first place and ensuring clear pathways to care and support when they do occur," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "By bringing everyone to the table from restaurants and bars to hospitals and community organizations we can strengthen prevention, provide businesses with the tools to protect patrons, and improve the support systems available to survivors. I look forward to continuing this important conversation."

During the hearing, Councilors heard from representatives of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative at the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Police Department, the Boston Licensing Board, and the Office of Nightlife Economy. Boston Police officials highlighted their ongoing work the past three years in addressing drink spiking incidents, sharing they've taken steps to combat the issue through training, tracking, public awareness, and partnerships. They also stressed the need for collaboration among govern-

See HEARING Page 2



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Forum

MASS. SHOULD END SNAP FOR JUNK FOOD

First and foremost, we wish to express our abhorrence that federal SNAP benefits (formerly known as the Food Stamp program) have been eliminated for more than two million Americans thanks to the budget that Congress enacted last year.

America is the richest nation in the history of the earth, yet millions of our fellow citizens suffer from food insecurity on a daily basis, a state of affairs that is nothing less than shameful.

However, we think one aspect of the SNAP program everyone can agree upon is that SNAP benefits should not be used for the purchase of junk food items.

For decades, the junk food industry successfully lobbied federal officials to allow SNAP recipients to use their benefits to buy items such as soft drinks, candy, and other sugar-filled, ultra-processed foods, which are “food” only to the extent that they can be consumed.

Not only do these junk foods lack any nutritional value, but they also are incredibly harmful to human health.

It is estimated that 40 percent of all Americans meet the definition of obesity and another 30 percent are overweight. Thanks to our appetite for sugar-filled junk food products, diabetes has reached epidemic proportions throughout our society.

Even worse, these products are highly-addictive. The food industry’s scientists have designed their formulas both to stimulate the pleasure receptors in the brain and to send signals from the stomach to the brain indicating a lack of satiety.

In other words, almost no matter how much junk food you eat, your stomach never tells your brain that it is “full.”

We ourselves know the addictive nature of these products. Our mother’s grocery list always included packaged cupcakes and similar products in boxes of 12 -- and we (four boys) would attack them like locusts.

As young adults ourselves, our shopping list at the wholesale clubs for our young families included bulk cartons of candy bars. (They were “for the kids,” wink, wink).

When we lost power during Hurricane Irene in 2011, we had to throw out a bunch of food from our downstairs freezer -- which included (no exaggeration) 43 pints of premium ice cream.

In short, we ourselves were lifelong junk-food junkies. And the cumulative result of our decades of a poor diet? A triple bypass because of clogged arteries. Even though we ran marathons and triathlons for our entire lives, we learned first-hand that you can’t outrun an unhealthy diet.

It is ironic that the “N” in SNAP stands for “Nutrition” (the full acronym is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) when almost 25 percent of SNAP benefits reportedly are used to purchase sugary drinks, candy, and snack products. Soda is the top item bought with SNAP benefits.

Studies have shown that reducing consumption of junk food for just three weeks can reset both our palates and our mind-body connection to make healthier foods more appealing.

For too long the federal government has been subsidizing the purchase of foods that are a major contributor to chronic diseases.

We urge Massachusetts officials to take immediate advantage of a new regulation by the federal government that allows states to eliminate the use of SNAP benefits -- of which about 40% are used for children -- for the purchase of junk food products.

These addictive and unhealthy foods have no place in the diets of any American, especially our children.

Hearing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment agencies, community advocates, and local colleges to improve awareness and ensure individuals know what steps to take if an incident occurs.

Representatives from the Boston Licensing Board and the Office of Nightlife Economy emphasized that their top priority is ensuring members of the public can enjoy Boston’s nightlife safely. The Licensing Board works to reinforce clear expectations for license holders, encouraging them to remain vigilant for suspicious behavior and to actively maintain safe environments within their establishments. The Board also shared that it provides reporting materials and training to help businesses respond appropriately when concerns arise. The Office of Nightlife Economy noted that it has distributed more than 33,000 drink covers to establishments and community members as a preventative measure.

Councilors cautioned that with several major events scheduled across Boston over the next year, concerns about public safety, particularly the potential for increased risks, have emerged. Boston Police officials stated that the department has been actively preparing for the anticipated rise in activity. They emphasized that their focus will remain on maintaining strong public safety protections, pursuing grants to strengthen protective services, and ensuring the department is fully prepared to respond effectively during these events.

Survivors testified and shared their personal experiences of having their drinks drugged while in Boston, describing the lasting impact of these incidents and the challenges of coping with those memories. They also emphasized the need for the City to take stronger action to prevent similar experiences from happening to others.

Since joining the Boston City Council, Coletta Zapata has led conversations focused

on addressing drink spiking in the City of Boston and making meaningful progress to combat contaminated drinks. Her work has included partnering with the Boston Police Department to improve internal reporting systems and strengthen resources to prevent predatory behavior. She also led a successful partnership with the Office of Nightlife to distribute drink covers and help prevent drink spiking, and secured a commitment from the Massachusetts Restaurant Association to train servers to identify perpetrators and support potential victims. Most recently, Councilor Coletta Zapata testified at the State House in support of Senator Paul Feeney’s Bill S.1537, which would ensure accessible, reliable drug testing

in hospitals and ERs across the Commonwealth.

“We must center our survivors in our conversations about-- and our responses to-- drink spiking, drug-facilitated sexual assault, and all forms of sexual violence. We best honor survivors when we prevent and respond to these forms of violence with urgency, and Boston’s efforts must reflect the gravity of these trespasses,” said Councilor At-Large Henry Santana, Chair of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee.

A recording of the hearing can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-V2u-0JlcRY>. This docket will remain in the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee.

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EAST BOSTON CHAMBER NEWS

COFFEE CONNECT NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Please join the East Boston Chamber of Commerce, First Priority Credit Union and Bono Restaurant and Catering for free coffee, breakfast items to eat and networking. This Coffee Connect will be held at the 2nd floor gathering area of First Priority Credit Union at 100 Swift Street here in East Boston.

Friday, March 27, from 8:30 to 10:30 am

2nd Floor Gathering Area of First Priority Credit Union, 100 Swift Street, East Boston

Cámara de Comercio de East Boston con First Priority Credit Union y Bono Restaurant and Catering – Coffee Connect

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Viernes, 27 de marzo de 2026

Mayor's Cup Middle School Basketball Tournament to take place during April school vacation

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department are excited to announce the first-ever Mayor's Cup Middle School Basketball Tournament in partnership with Beantown Slam and Match Charter School during the April Boston Public Schools vacation week.

The Mayor's Cup Middle School Basketball Tournament is a competitive and community-focused event designed to provide young athletes with a positive and energetic playing experience. The tournament will bring together middle school teams from across Boston to compete in an organized, sportsmanship-driven environment that emphasizes skill development, teamwork, and

8:30 a 10:30 am
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100 Swift Street, East Boston

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION FLAG DISPLAY

The East Boston Chamber recognizes International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in anticipation of the March 21 observation with a U.S. flag display.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was established and recognized by the United Nations (UN) in 1966 after the Sharpeville, South Africa tragedy in 1960 which captured worldwide attention. This event involved police opening fire and killing 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid "pass laws" in Sharpeville on March 21, 1960.

The day aims to remind people of racial discrimination's negative consequences. It also encourages people to remember their obligation and deter-

mination to combat racial discrimination.

The UN General Assembly called on the international community to increase its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination when it proclaimed the day as a UN Day of observance. The UN continues its work to fight against all forms of racial intolerance.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston reconoce el Día Internacional para la Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial, en anticipación de la conmemoración del 21 de marzo, con una exhibición de la bandera de los Estados Unidos.

El Día Internacional para la Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial fue establecido y reconocido por las Naciones Unidas (ONU) en 1966 tras la tragedia ocurrida en Sharpeville, Sudáfrica, en 1960, que captó la atención mundial. Este evento involucró a la policía abriendo fuego y matando a 69 personas durante una manifestación pacífica contra las "leyes de pases" del apartheid en Sharpeville el 21 de marzo de 1960.

Este día tiene como objetivo recordar a las personas las consecuencias negativas de la discriminación racial. También



The East Boston Chamber recognizes International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in anticipation of the March 21 observation with a U.S. flag display

anima a las personas a recordar su obligación y determinación de combatir la discriminación racial.

La Asamblea General de la ONU hizo un llamado a la comunidad internacional para que intensifique sus esfuerzos para eliminar todas las formas

de discriminación racial cuando proclamó este día como una jornada de observancia de las Naciones Unidas. La ONU continúa su labor para luchar contra todas las formas de intolerancia racial.

character both on and off the court.

Games will be held Monday, April 21, through Thursday, April 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day at Match Community Day Charter School, located at 110 Poydras Street in Hyde Park.

There will be a boys and girls division and all athletes must currently be in middle school. Pre-registration is required. Coaches interested in registering a team should visit boston.gov/parks-sports or contact Roger Roberts at roberts@boston.gov for additional information and registration details.

The Mayor's Cup Middle School Basketball Tournament expands the City's youth

sports offerings and complements long-standing programs like the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL), the nation's oldest neighborhood basketball league. Held during April School Vacation, this tournament gives middle school athletes the chance to compete for the Mayor's Cup trophy and ultimate bragging rights.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit boston.gov/parks, call (617)-635-4505, join our email list, and follow our social channels at @parks.boston.gov on Bluesky and @bostonparksdept on Facebook and Instagram.

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SCENES FROM THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVITIES

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



For over 100 years, Boston has celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a parade through the streets of South Boston. Up to a million people attend the parade every year.

This year, the parade started at Andrew Square on Sunday, March 15.



SCENES FROM THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVITIES

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



Thousands to gather on Boston Common for 10th annual Winter Walk

Special to the Times-Free Press

This Sunday, March 22, the Boston Common will transform into a hub of advocacy and community as an estimated 4,000 participants gather for the 10th annual Winter Walk Boston. The milestone event, organized by Winter Walk Inc., aims to raise critical funds and awareness for 24 local non-profit organizations dedicated to preventing homelessness and supporting those currently without permanent housing.

The two-mile walk is designed to foster a unique sense of solidarity, bringing together a diverse crowd of students, families, and professionals to



Walkers during last year's event.

walk shoulder-to-shoulder with individuals who have lived experience with homelessness.

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Charles and Beacon Streets, followed

by a speaking program at 10:30 a.m. featuring Mayor Michelle Wu, former Mayor Marty Walsh, and Winter Walk founder Paul English.

“Homelessness will be solved when individuals come together to provide support human to human,” the organization stated, emphasizing that the event’s primary goal is to break down social stigmas while providing financial lifelines to frontline service providers.

Participants will contribute to a broad network of 24 organizational partners, including the Pine Street Inn, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, and St. Francis

House. Beyond the walk itself, the event will feature a pop-up art gallery showcasing works by artists who have faced housing insecurity, as well as the “Why I Walk” tent, where marchers display personal stories and motivations for joining the cause.

Since its inception, the Winter Walk has grown into a national movement, though its roots remain firmly planted in the Boston community. All proceeds from Sunday’s event will remain local, supporting a wide spectrum of services ranging from emergency shelter and medical care to youth-focused programs like Y2Y Harvard Square and Breaktime.

Healey demands \$1,745 refund for Massachusetts residents harmed by President Trump’s tariffs

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Maura Healey sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Bessent demanding a \$1,745 refund to every Massachusetts household for the financial harm caused by President Trump’s unconstitutional tar-

iffs. Data from the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee estimates that the Trump Administration’s tariff actions cost American consumers approximately \$1,745 per household between February 2025 and January 2026.

“With approximately 2.8

million households in Massachusetts, my office estimates that \$4,886,000,000 is owed to consumers in our state who shouldered the burden of increased costs. I call on the Trump Administration to immediately formulate a plan to refund tariff proceeds and put

money back in the pockets of the hardworking people of Massachusetts,” wrote Governor Healey. “From groceries and household goods to construction materials and consumer products, Massachusetts residents paid more at the register and businesses absorbed

higher operating costs. Having unlawfully seized over \$100 billion dollars from American people and businesses, the federal government must immediately take steps to pay full restitution.”

See REFUND Page 7



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North Station Commuter Rail service suspended for additional days in March and April

Special to the Times-Free Press

The MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services, the T's operations and maintenance partner for Commuter Rail, announced today that Commuter Rail trains will not service North Station on three upcoming Fridays for planned signal upgrades. Work has been ongoing on the project since January, and was scheduled to continue on weekends in March and April, with a final four day period from Friday, April 24 through Monday, April 27. The additional Friday work has been added to the schedule to make up for lost time during recent winter storms and ensure that the project is able to be completed on time.

This diversion allows for necessary signal improvement work just outside of North Station.

The work will continue on the following dates: Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22; Friday, March 27 through Sun-

day, March 29; Friday, April 10 through Sunday, April 12; and Friday, April 24 through Monday, April 27. Regular service will operate the weekend of the Boston Marathon.

The following changes will be in place on these dates. Schedules are available at mbta.com/cr.

On the Newburyport/Rockport Line, local and express shuttle buses will replace regular train service between North Station and Swampscott. Local buses will service Wonderland for a Blue Line connection. On April 11 and 12 only, busing will be extended to Beverly Depot instead of Swampscott.

On the Haverhill Line, Orange Line service will replace regular train service between North Station and Oak Grove.

On the Lowell Line, local and express shuttle buses will replace regular train service between North Station and Anderson/Woburn Station.

On the Fitchburg Line, Red

Line to Green Line service will replace regular train service between North Station and Porter.

This critical project will modernize the signal system at Tower A, which controls all train movements into and out of North Station. It also prepares for the replacement of the North Station drawbridges in the coming years.

Keolis Commuter Services has operated and maintained the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's commuter rail system, the sixth largest commuter rail operation in North America, for over ten years. KCS is a subsidiary of Keolis North America (KNA), both headquartered in Boston, and employs approximately 2,500 people throughout the region. KCS and KNA are part of Keolis Group, an innovative global leader in transit services with more than a century of passenger transportation experience and operations in 13 countries.

OBITUARIES

Jean Recupero

Avid Red Sox Fan

On March 4, 2026 Jean M. (St. Croix) Recupero passed. Jean was the daughter of the late Henry St. Croix and Ruth (Emerson) St. Croix, sister of Henry St. Croix, Marjorie Roberts, Mary Ann Cardinale, Doris Speranza, Jacqueline Krassnoff, Theresa Leblanc and predeceased by Carole Mason, Ruth Recupero, Janice Mulloy, William, Richard, John and Robert; mother of John A. Recupero and his wife, Denise, Nicholas H. Recupero and his wife, Kathy, Jean M. Matthews and her husband, Michael, Michael W. Recupero and his wife, Kimberley and predeceased by Paul J. Recupero III. She is survived by eleven grandchildren: Erin Arsenault and her husband, William, Paul J. Recupero IV and his wife, Jessica, Marguerite Recupero, Olivia Recupero, Lex Recupero, Joshua Recupero, Jeremy Recupero, Zach Matthews and his wife, Orla, Amanda Tardano and her husband, Michael



and seven great-grandchildren: Collin Arsenault, Brendan Arsenault, Tiffany Recupero, Aiden Recupero, Frank DeBellis, Vivian DeBellis and Reese DeBellis.

Jean was an avid Red Sox fan and enjoyed her chicken sandwiches from Burger King.

Services will be held at the Cremation Gardens of Puritan Lawn Cemetery in Peabody on April 16th at 11:30 a.m.

Refund // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

In the letter, she also continues to urge the President to reconsider his new global tariffs, as they will once again raise costs on consumers and businesses.

Since President Trump began imposing tariffs on our trading partners, Governor Healey has

spoken out against them. In an effort to curb the impact in Massachusetts, her administration launched the Massachusetts Tariff Response and Business Operations Support Initiative to align state resources to aid Massachusetts businesses, convened Massachusetts business

leaders to discuss how tariffs were impacting them, and invited six Northeastern Governors and six Canadian Premiers to the State House to discuss regional collaboration.

The full letter can be read online at www.mass.gov/doc/tariff-refund-letter/download.



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EBYBL HOLDS END OF SEASON AWARDS CEREMONY

COURTESY PHOTOS

On Saturday, March 14, the EBYBL wrapped up their season with an award ceremony. The day started with Lucca Buccella reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Melissa Forbes received an award for 10 Years of service, Louie Ortiz, who was a player 40 years ago received recognition for 30 years of service, and Tony Gallotto has coached for over 40 years. The players and coaches appreciate

all of their efforts. In addition, the league presented Peyton DiBiasio with a special recognition reward. She recently concluded her high school career at Saugus High as the school's leading all time scorer with 1,700 points. She started her basketball career playing in the Ebybl as a Sev-

See EBYBL Page 9



Lucca Buccella reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



Coach Brian Lynch and the Red Team.



Louie Ortiz receives an award for 30 years of service.



Coach Michael Nucci and the Blue Team.



Coach John Digiacomo and the Red Team.



Coaches Anthony Forbes and Tony Gallotto with the Black Team.



Black Team, missing coaches Kayla and David Free.

EBYBL // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

en year old and through hard work and dedication became a tremendous player and more importantly person. In addition to her basketball accomplishments she is also a fine soccer player, track star, and an honor roll student. Peyton is the daughter of Ron and Jen DiBiasio who actually met playing in the EBYBL many years ago. Peyton's Grandmother, Sheila has been a supporter of the League since 1980!



Coaches Marty Pino and Candace Gaeta with the White Team.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Coaches Michael, Allison, and Melissa Forbes and the Green Team.



Melissa Forbes receives 10 Year Award, shown with her father, Michael Forbes.



Coach Vin Guarino with the Yellow Team.



Coach Dennis Leary and the Green Team.



Tony Gallotto receives an award for 40 years of service. Tony has been an invaluable contributor.



Coach Vin Guarino and the Yellow Team.



Peyton DiBiasio with her aunt, Alicia Cali, Grandmother, Sheila Cali, and Dad, former league coach Ronny DiBiasio.

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Healey highlights recent wave of business expansions bringing thousands of jobs to the state

Special to the Times-Free Press

During her address to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Forum last week, Governor Maura Healey will highlight a wave of recent business expansions and investments across Massachusetts that are bringing with them thousands of jobs and strengthening the state's leadership in innovation, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence and life sciences.

Recent announcements from global firms and homegrown companies across multiple industries show continued momentum in Massachusetts' innovation economy, with businesses choosing to expand and invest in the state's talent, research institutions and collaborative business environment.

"Massachusetts is where companies come to build the future," said Governor Maura Healey. "We have the best talent in the world, unmatched research institutions and an innovation ecosystem that helps businesses grow and compete. Companies are choosing Massachusetts because they know this is the place to innovate, create jobs and lead the next generation of industries. But we know that residents and businesses alike are facing headwinds driven by high costs and President Trump's policies, and that's why we're continuing to work every day to make Massachusetts more affordable and competitive."

"These announcements show that companies across industries continue to choose Massachusetts as the place to innovate, grow and create jobs," said Lieutenant Govern-

nor Kim Driscoll. "We're proud to partner with businesses, universities and workers across our state to support economic growth and ensure Massachusetts remains a global leader in innovation – and we're going to keep doing everything we can to maintain this positioning."

"These announcements show the breadth of Massachusetts' economy, from innovative technology and life science companies to businesses that serve our communities every day," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "Companies from across the globe are investing here because of our world-class talent, our strong business environment, and the partnerships that help businesses grow. We're focused on making sure companies of all sizes can continue to expand and create jobs across the state."

Governor Healey will highlight this momentum during her remarks to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, where she will discuss the state's economic competitiveness, investments in innovation and workforce development, and efforts to lower costs for residents and businesses.

While recognizing that the state faces headwinds, including high costs, Governor Healey will also highlight the many competitive strengths that Massachusetts has, starting with its world-class talent. Last year, Massachusetts students ranked number one among states on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) — often called the Nation's Report Card — and just recently, College Board announced that Massachusetts

students earned the highest scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams last year and broke the all-time record for the highest percentage of graduates who scored 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis also shows that Massachusetts led the nation in real Gross Domestic Product (GD) growth on a percentage basis through the first three quarters of 2025, which is the most recent data available.

Several recent announcements represent significant new job growth in Massachusetts. Major global companies are also making substantial investments in advanced manufacturing and research in Massachusetts:

P&G Gillette recently announced plans to establish its Grooming Headquarters and Technical Innovation Center in South Boston, representing a \$1 billion investment. The facility will support 750 permanent jobs, while construction of the new campus is expected to generate hundreds of additional jobs for members of the building trades.

GE Aerospace announced a \$42 million investment in its Lynn facility to upgrade sites producing defense engines and components, strengthening the U.S. defense industrial base.

Global veterinary specialty care company Dechra will relocate its global headquarters from the United Kingdom to Boston.

Boston-based wearable technology company Whoop announced plans to add more than 600 new jobs, primarily in Boston, as it continues to expand its operations and workforce.

Massachusetts-based gro-

cery chain Big Y announced plans to open six new stores across the state, representing a \$50 million capital investment and creating approximately 750 full and part-time jobs.

The state continues to see strong growth in advanced manufacturing and life sciences as well:

VulcanForms, a metal additive manufacturing company founded at MIT, recently secured \$220 million in financing and plans to open a third factory in Devens, adding more than 100 new jobs.

Medical technology company TransMedics is expanding its presence at Assembly Innovation Park in Somerville, leasing nearly 500,000 square feet of lab space and acquiring additional land to support the company's continued growth.

Biotech company Stoke Therapeutics also recently signed a lease for 98,500 square feet in Waltham, where it will relocate and expand its headquarters later this year.

Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc., a leading RNAi therapeutics company, recently announced an expansion of its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Norton.

Massachusetts is also continuing to attract investment from companies developing the next generation of artificial intelligence technologies. Anthropic, Lovable and xAI have recently established a presence in Massachusetts and begun hiring locally, further strengthening the region's growing AI ecosystem.

Massachusetts companies are also receiving global recognition for their innovation. A record number of Boston-area firms were recently named to the LexisNexis Top 100 Global Innovators list, including Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Moderna, Flagship Pioneering, Orna Therapeutics and Shark-Ninja.

Together, these recent announcements represent thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in private investment, reinforcing Massachusetts' position as a global hub for innovation, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies. Massachusetts continues to attract companies from around the country and the world that are looking to grow, innovate and access the state's highly skilled workforce.

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Attaya, Matthew	Trichilo Development LLC	106 Moore St #8	\$657,500
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Healey takes action to bring in 10 GW of new energy, save \$10 billion and promote energy independence

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Maura Healey is setting strong new targets for bringing more energy into Massachusetts and lowering energy bills. The Executive Order she has signed outlines her all-of-the-above approach to energy supply and directs her administration to secure 10 new gigawatts (GW) of energy resources for Massachusetts by 2035, as well as 5 GW of new energy storage.

Governor Healey's directive requires agencies to pursue a range of energy resources and ensure adequate supplies in place to meet growing demand and lower bills. The Executive Order outlines directives for state agencies related to solar, storage, wind, load management, gas, nuclear, and geothermal, leading to an estimated savings of \$10 billion for Massachusetts residents and businesses. Governor Healey signed the Executive Order at Lynch Elementary School in Winchester, which is powered entirely from roof-mounted and ground-mounted solar.

Governor Healey laid out her energy supply plan amidst a dramatic spike in oil and gas prices due to President Trump's costly war and his failed energy policies that have taken American sources of energy like wind and solar off the table.

"The American people are now paying the price as oil and gas bills go through the roof because of President Trump's costly war," said Governor Healey. "I believe in an all-of-the-above approach to energy – that means solar, wind, gas, nuclear and hydro. While the President is taking American-built energy sources off the table, in Massachusetts, we are saying yes to more supply from more sources of energy. We are saying yes to American jobs and American energy independence. And we are saying yes to lowering energy bills for all."

"When we invest in Massachusetts energy, we invest in Massachusetts energy jobs," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "It's Massachusetts gas, solar, offshore wind and electric workers that are keeping our lights on, homes warm and businesses moving. For many, these are 24/7, 365-day jobs. We need to support our in-state energy supply and the

workforce that makes it possible."

"Setting firm targets and laying out a clear energy supply strategy will provide certainty and stability as we work to lower energy bills," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "And by building more energy resources with a fixed price, we can give Massachusetts a competitive edge. We're going to work as a region to power our communities and ensure more affordable, reliable service."

More Energy for Massachusetts

ISO New England projects that electricity consumption could rise by nearly 15 percent by 2035 and 50 percent by 2045, with peak electricity demand in the winter growing even faster. This is true across the country, as demand for electricity climbs and the cost to update the aging American electrical grid rises.

The Executive Order establishes a target of 10 GW of new energy supply-side and demand-side resources over the next 10 years, as well as a separate target for 5 GW of energy storage. 10 GW is roughly the equivalent of enough power for 2 million households. The

10 GW target includes 4 GW of new in-state solar and 3.5 GW of new electric demand reduction to be achieved through load management strategies such as energy efficiency, virtual power plants, and electric vehicle charging management. This builds on Massachusetts' successful strategy of demand management over the past 20 years, during which electricity demand has declined while the economy has grown, increasing our overall energy productivity. Because of these past investments, all customers are saving \$800 million every year – or on average, \$20 each month – due to utilities not needing to spend on transmission and distribution infrastructure or buy electricity for their customers.

How We Get There

Governor Healey is directing agencies to take a number of immediate steps to get more affordable energy built in the near future, including to:

Ramp up efforts to build more solar projects before President Trump ends federal support;

Expand opportunities for wind, nuclear power, and fusion energy;

Explore natural gas and other fuel storage and delivery strate-

gies to ensure reliability, avoid unnecessary spending and charges, and reduce reliance on imported liquefied natural gas.

Lower the cost of geothermal for heating and cooling; and,

Allow for flexible interconnection to make better use of the energy grid we already have and get more energy connected faster and cheaper.

Governor Healey filed the

Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act to lower energy bills and bring more supply into Massachusetts. The legislation includes a key provision that would give the state more flexibility in procuring a range of energy resources when costs are at their lowest, rather than on a rigid schedule that locks ratepayers into high costs.

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PHOTOS PUBLISHED WEDS. APR 1st

VFW Post 6712, City of Revere wish Staff Sergeant Hernandez a safe return from her deployment to the Middle East

Faith Hernandez is a mother of three daughters, Delilah, Deanna, and Dakota. She is married to Daniel Hernandez and they reside in Revere.

Faith is a U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sergeant and is being deployed to the Middle East, with orders to serve 400 days. SSG Hernandez is attached to the 209th Support Regiment in the U.S. Army. Faith met her husband Danny, while both were serving in Iraq in the same unit back in 2004, and have been

married for 21 years. Danny is a retired US Army Sergeant, Chaplin of the Beachmont VFW Post 6712, and currently serving as the City of Revere's Veterans Service Officer. Faith is also a Trustee at Post 6712 as well.

Last week her brothers and sisters-in-arms, and friends gathered at the post on Bennington Street for a luncheon, giving them a chance to wish her well, and to stay safe.



Commander of VFW Post 6712 Ken Hølgersen and members Bob DeAmelio, JVC Ed Kantorski, Andrea Gay, Anna Siracusa, Bill Dickson, Camille Rossi Racca, Deborah Shaheen, Dena Mazac, and Chaplin/VSO Dan Hernandez all turned out to wish all the best to SSG Faith Hernandez on her deployment.

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The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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Joining in the good-bye, God's Speed luncheon for SSG. Faith Hernandez are her friends, Andrea Gay and Gold Star Mother Camille Rossi Racca.



Commander of VFW Post 6712 and U.S. Navy Veteran Kenny Hølgersen has a moment with SSG. Faith Hernandez, a 15-year U.S. Army Reserve Soldier and Trustee of Post 6712 being deployed for 400 days to the Middle East.

Capasso In Command

East Boston native will lead Winthrop High baseball program

By Cary Shuman

After serving for two seasons as an assistant coach in the Winthrop High School baseball program, Tom Capasso began his new position as head coach Monday.

Appointed by Athletic Director Mark DeGregorio to lead the Vikings in the fall, Capasso officially made his debut as try-outs began for the 2026 season.

Capasso, 52, welcomed 36 players to the program, which will field varsity and junior varsity teams that will compete in the Northeastern Conference. Capasso said he coached some of the current sophomores and juniors on a Winthrop-based 13-year-old team in the Lou Tompkins All-Star Baseball League.

Among the returning starters for the Vikings are shortstop Joseph Pumphret, first baseman/catcher Dom Spinale, center-fielder Michael D'Ambrosio, and pitcher/infielder Braedon Lounsbury, all of whom just completed a strong run to the MIAA Division 4 Final Four in ice hockey. Returning starter Desmond Cassidy is sidelined with an injury.

Capasso has tabbed Lounsbury as the starting pitcher for the March 30 home opener against Northeast Regional.

Capasso's coaching staff includes assistant head coach Mike Vatalaro, and assistants Dan Shannon, Jack Wallace, Paul Pellechia, and Frankie Fabiano.

Weather permitting, the Vikings will play their first of three pre-season scrimmages Saturday (11 a.m.) against Rockport in Winthrop. They'll travel to Stoneham on Tuesday,

March 24 and host Everett on Saturday, March 28.

East Boston roots

Capasso grew up in East Boston, where he was a two-time All-Star in the East Boston National Little League.

"East Boston had three Little Leagues when I played – American, Central, and National, which was in Orient Heights at Noyes Park," recalled Capasso.

He was a standout for the East Boston Senior Little League 13-year-old team that claimed the Massachusetts state championship. Other key members of that team were Jason Casaletto, Steven Autilio, Parrish Rossi, Derek Disciscio, and Craig Pacitta. Kim Rossi, Parrish's father, was the head coach.

Capasso went on to play three varsity baseball seasons at Boston Latin School, one (sophomore year) alongside his older brother, Tullio Capasso, when the Wolfpack advanced to the MIAA Division 1 quarterfinals. A 1992 graduate of the nation's oldest public school (founded in 1635), Tom was a two-year starter, excelling as a right-handed hitting infielder and outfielder.

"We used to play at a field in Brighton right behind the movie theater in Cleveland Circle which was near Boston College," recalled Capasso.

He returned to coach an East Boston American Legion baseball team with Ronnie Jordan and then piloted an Eastie travel team for two years in a regional tournament in Haverhill.

Northeastern, Suffolk Law graduate

Capasso majored in English



New Winthrop High School baseball coach Tom Capasso (second from left), pictured with assistant coaches Dan Shannon, Frankie Fabiano, Jack Wallace, and Paul Pellechia, in the school gymnasium on the first day of practice for the 2026 season.

at Northeastern University before receiving his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Suffolk Law School in 1999.

He holds a prestigious leadership position as the deputy court administrator for the Massachusetts Juvenile Court system that oversees all court

cases for persons under the age of 18 throughout the Commonwealth.

"I hope I can be a role model for the kids – that's part of the plan, here, to teach our student-athletes life lessons, it's not just about baseball," offered Capasso.

Capasso and his wife, Lauren, live in Winthrop, with their three daughters, Talia, a game day captain for the Winthrop High cheer team, Alena, a member of the Winthrop JV cheer team, and Daniela, a middle school student.

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Times-Free Press

Sparky the Fire Dog is turning 75!

Special to the Times-Free Press

Sparky the Fire Dog®, the official mascot of the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), is turning 75! This milestone birthday reflects a legacy that spans the generations. Since his official launch on March 18, 1951, Sparky has helped fire professionals, teachers, safety advocates, civic organizations, businesses, and the media, among others, share educational fire and life safety information with the public, delivering invaluable impact.

“Sparky is an emblem of fire safety for kids and adults alike, and his messages are just as relevant today as they were nearly 75 years ago,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “His dogged determination to highlight the importance of home fire safety over the

decades has ultimately helped reduce fire loss and injuries in North America.”

Among his many achievements, Sparky has touted long-lasting fire safety messages in support of Fire Prevention Week™ – NFPA’s largest annual public awareness campaign – such as “Stop, drop and roll”; “Get out, stay out”; “Dial 9-1-1”; and “Know two ways out”. He has also served as the brand for countless NFPA educational programs, resources, and initiatives, including NFPA’s Learn Not to Burn® curricula, children’s books, online activities, videos, apps, safety tip sheets, and brochures, to name just a few, promoting basic but critical fire safety information with a mix of spirit, authority, and compassion.

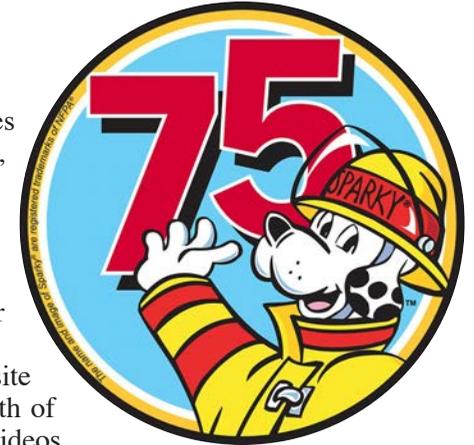
In recognition of Sparky’s big day, NFPA is reminding the public that while we’ve continued to make significant prog-

ress in reducing the home fire problem, real risks remain. A U.S. fire department responded to a fire every 23 seconds, on average, in 2024. A home structure fire was reported every 96 seconds, while a home fire death occurred every three hours, and a home fire injury occurred every 59 minutes. In addition, the majority of U.S. fire deaths (70 percent) continues to occur in homes.

“The number of U.S. home fires has declined significantly over the past decades, which reflects significant progress, but the home fire death rate has

not seen the same declines in recent years. In fact, you’re more likely to die in a home fire today than in 1980,” said Carli. “These sobering statistics reinforce that our work is far from done.”

Visit Sparky’s website at sparky.org/ for a wealth of age-appropriate games, videos, apps, and other activities that make learning about fire safety easy and fun, along with fun resources and activities that can be used to celebrate his big day. In addition, Sparky School House offers fire safe-



ty lesson plans, resources, and activities for teachers, parents, caregivers and students, many of which can be easily downloaded and shared.

Opening day at Fenway: Lansdowne Street bars kick off the season with live music and Red Sox Ticket Easter egg hunt

Opening Day at Fenway Park returns on Friday, April 3, and Lansdowne Street’s most iconic venues are celebrating with a full day of live music, DJs, and pre- and post-game parties. Loretta’s Last Call, Lansdowne Pub, Bill’s Bar, Bleacher Bar, and Game On! will open early to welcome fans heading to Fenway Park for the first home game of the season and

one of Boston’s most anticipated spring traditions.

To add to the excitement leading into Easter Weekend, the Lansdowne Street venues are launching a citywide Fenway Opening Weekend Easter Egg Hunt. On Friday, April 3, Easter eggs will be hidden around Boston containing pairs of Red Sox tickets for the Sunday or Mon-

day home games. Each egg will include instructions on how winners can claim their tickets via the MLB Ballpark App. Clues will be posted through the venues’ Instagram accounts with minimal hints about the egg locations. Fans are encouraged to follow along for clues: @gameonfenway | @lorettaslastcall | @bleacherbar | @lansdownepub

East Boston Times-Free Press Drop-Off Locations

Orient Height Food Market	1016 Bennington St.	Mobil Gas Station	Meridian St.
Angelos	1012 Bennington St.	Shaw’s	240 Border St.
Butcher	1008 Bennington St.	Kappy’s Liquors	216 Border St.
Tobacco	1006 Bennington St.	CVS	210 Border St.
Sunny	1000 Bennington St.	McDonalds	Central Square
Renegades	1004 Bennington St.	East Boston Social Center	68 Central St.
Metro PCS	982 Saratoga St.	Wallgreens	1 Central Sq 100 St.
Catering Deli	978 Saratoga St.	Americano Express Bar	Meridian St.
Kiosco Restaurant Bar	974 Saratoga St.	Shell Gas Station	52 Meridian St.
Rite Aid	971 Bennington St.	Police Station	49 Meridian St.
Luna’s Italian	945 Saratoga St.	Post Office	50 Meridian St.
Neptune Laundromat	Saratoga St.	East Boston Saving Bank	10 Meridian St.
Subway	948 Saratoga St.	East Boston APAC	17 Meridian St.
Burger King	948 Saratoga St.	Bella’s Market	67 Maverick St.
Saratoga Market	16 Trident St.	Bank of America	Maverick St.
Royal Famous Roast Beef	752 Bennington St.	Smoke Shop	Maverick St.
Lanzillis Gas Station	931 Bennington St.	PLS Check	19 Maverick St.
Lisslot Hair Salon	730 Bennington St.	Meridian Market	121 Meridian St.
Century 21 Realty	620 Bennington St.	Clipper Wine and Spirit	Maverick St.
7-Eleven	120 Byron St.	Station Grocery	Maverick St.
Salesian Boys and Girls Club	150 Byron and Bennington St.	Dunkin’ Donut	Maverick St.
Carlos Catering	567 Bennington and Moore St.	Tedeschi	Maverick St.
The Corner Mini Market	517 Bennington and Harmony St.	Heritage Apts	209 Sumner St.
The UPS	2 Neptune Rd.	Cross Roads Shelter	56 Havre St.
Neptune Liquors	1 Neptune Rd.	Maverick Landing	31 Liverpool St.
Neptune Convenience	3 Neptune Rd.	San Miguel Argangel	317 Sumner St.
Neptune Laundromat	489 Saratoga St.	Adela’s Bakery	319 Sumner St.
Mellos Coffee	476 Saratoga St.	Mehak Halal	Sumner St.
DA. Copas Pizza	474 Saratoga St.	Wine and Barley	326 Sumner St.
Laundromat	470 Saratoga St.	Al Bar	330 Sumner St.
Mobil Gas Station	396 Chelsea St.	Italian Express Pizza	336 Sumner St.
Spinellis	282 Bennington St.	Family Brothers Market	339 Sumner St.
Daycare Liquors	286 Bennington St.	Alvaro Laundromat	341 Sumner St.
Jevell’s Restaurant	Chelsea and Day Square	Sumner Market	345 Sumner St.
Tiny Bubbles	200 Bennington St.	Maverick st Market	211 Maverick St.
Lolly’s Bakery	158 Bennington St.	Wash and Dry	209 Maverick St.
Sava’s Market	150 Bennington and Brooks St.	Laundromat	72 Chelsea St.
Kelly’s Pub	84 Bennington St.	Santarpis	111 Chelsea St.
East Boston Corner Market	233 Marion St.	Old Factory Condo	156 Porter St.
Peach’s and Cream	73 Bennington St.	Spotless	24 Porter St.
East Boston Saving Bank	1 Bennington St.	East Boston YMCA	215 Bremen St.
Citizens Bank	Meridian St.	Boston Library	365 Bremen St.
Dunkin’ Donut	Meridian St.	Woody’s Liquors	1035 Bennington St.
Castello Liquors	Meridian St.	Don Orion Nursing Home	111 Orient Ave.
The Soap Box Laundromat	299 Meridian St.	Glastone Market	3 Glastone St.
Angela’s Coffee	131 Lexington St.	Continental Dry Cleaners	15 Breed St.
Food Market	353 Meridian St.	Martin Community Ctr	86 Boardman St.
Meridian Market	357 Meridian St.	Starbucks	430 McClellan Highway

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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 GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR’S ACCOUNT Docket No.

SU24P1553PM

In the matter of:
Veronica Marie Berrios
Of East Boston, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the 1st Annual account(s) of Marie Ciulla of Boston, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before 10:00 a.m. on 04/09/2026.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appear-

ance and objection by the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s). Additionally, within thirty days after said return day(or within such time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court. You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 11, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

3/18/26
EB

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
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Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU26P0385EA

Estate of: Madleine Luongo
Date of Death: 11/13/1993

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Elaine J Luongo of East Boston, 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: Elaine J Luongo of East Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(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 04/17/2026.

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 UNDER 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: March 06, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

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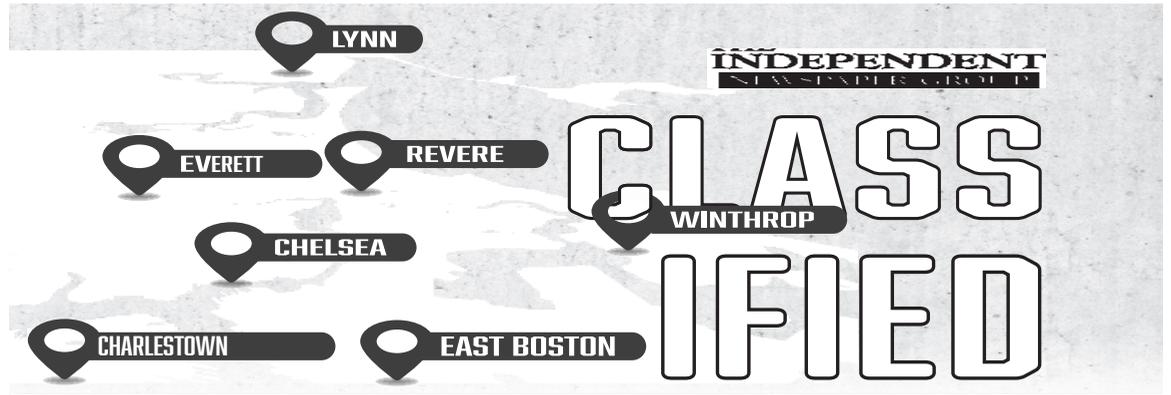
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COLETTA ZAPATA ORGANIZES TRASH CLEAN UP

On Wednesday, March 11, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata hosted a trash cleanup in partnership with Eastie Clean & Green with over a dozen volunteers attending. Representative Adrian Madaro and staff from Senator Lydia Edwards' office were also in attendance and supported the cleanup efforts. With the snow melting after recent storms and warmer weather arriving, accumulated trash has become more visible across neighborhood streets and public spaces. In response, Councilor Coletta Zapata organized the cleanup to help remove litter and keep East Boston's streets clean.

"Team Eastie Clean and Green was out in full force! Trash accumulated during the recent snowstorms, but the community showed up without hesitation to help clean our streets. I'm incredibly proud of my neighbors and grateful for their dedication to keeping East Boston beautiful," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "While community cleanups are not a long-term solution, they play an important role in encouraging neighbors to take active stewardship of their streets



and public spaces while fostering community pride. I will continue pursuing longer-term solutions, including efforts to revive the Red Shirts program and advocating for additional resources through the City's upcoming budget process to help keep our streets clean. Thank you to Civic Organizing for providing the materials to make this effort possible."

Boston residents can also organize their own neighborhood cleanups through the Office of Civic Organizing's Boston Neighborhood Clean-Up Initiative. The program provides volunteers with the tools and support needed to conduct safe and effective cleanups. Residents can learn more at <https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/love-your-block/neighborhood-cleanups>



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