

# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

### EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL 2022 PROM

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

### EHBS Class of 2022 to graduate Friday at Memorial Stadium

By John Lynds

When the East Boston High School Class of 2022 began their high school careers four years ago they could never have predicted what a wild ride high school would be.

Two years into high school students were hit with a worldwide pandemic effectively ending the second half of their sophomore year in March 2020.

While the world collectively hoped and prayed the pandemic would pass quickly the students at East Boston High School were no different and the disruption to their high school experience extended through most of the class's junior year.

However, the Class of 2022 persevered and arguably worked harder than most previous graduating classes to remain on track and focused in the face of so much uncertainty.

The class spent the first half of their junior year in remote learning classes, isolated from friends,

See GRADUATION Page 3



East Boston High School (EBHS) gathered at the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor hotel for prom on June 9. Pictured (left to right) are Gloria Rodriguez, Lesly Perez, Galilea Ticas, and Janisse Palacios.



Pictured (left to right) Julio Figueroa, Michael O'Neill, Freddy Grant, and Xavier Heard. See Page 8 for more photos.

### East Boston legend John White dies at 87

By John Lynds

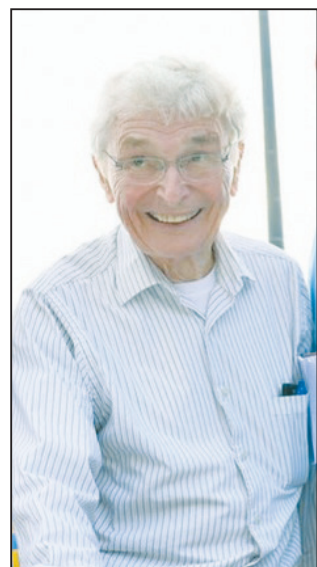
*"Every time you do a good deed you shine the light a little farther into the dark. And the thing is, when you're gone that light is going to keep shining on, pushing the shadows back."*

John White, a man who selflessly gave back to the community he grew up in for over five decades, has died.

Mr. White, who served as East Boston Area Planning Action Committee's (APAC) director for over 50 years, passed away at his daughter Siobhan Dispenza's home in Syracuse, NY surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, June 7 following a brief illness. He was 87 years old.

Mr. White was a legend in East Boston whose actions transcended rhetoric and whose name became synonymous with compassion for the poor. He was a man that never sought glory, awards, headlines, or acknowledgement.

His impact in East Boston rose above today's social media soundbites



John White.

and was measured by his deeds and work on behalf of those most marginalized and most in need in our community.

He touched the lives of many but a want for praise was not his motivation.

It's hard to find a family in East Boston Mr. White hasn't helped through the numerous social service programs APAC runs from its small office on Meridian Street where Mr. White would consistently make miracles happen.

See WHITE Page 3

### Area officials demand better mitigation for Sumner Tunnel Toll project

By John Lynds

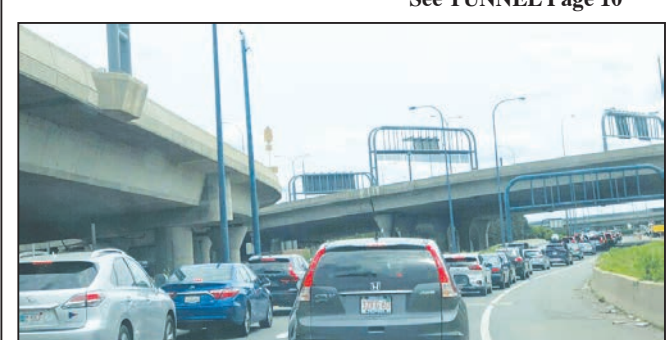
East Boston residents got the first taste of what it is going to be like living with the scheduled weekend closures of the Sumner Tunnel for the next 36 weeks that will culminate in a full closure of the tunnel for four months next spring.

Gridlock on Saturday and Sunday in Eastie, Chelsea and Revere was

horrendous as traffic heading into Boston was rerouted to the Ted Williams Tunnel and Tobin Bridge.

This week, Mayor Michelle Wu sent a letter to MassDOT administrators that was signed by Eastie's elected officials, as well as elected officials in Revere, demanding more meaningful mitigation as the project progresses like a free Blue Line for residents

See TUNNEL Page 10



With the Sumner Tunnel closed, traffic was at a standstill Saturday morning leading into the Ted Williams Tunnel. MassDOT kicked off its Sumner Tunnel restoration project last weekend and the tunnel will be closed every weekend for the next 36 weeks. Elected officials are now calling on MassDOT to provide more meaningful mitigation for residents impacted by the project.

### New Yorkers arrested in Eastie for fentanyl trafficking

By John Lynds

The New Yorkers were arraigned Monday on serious drug charges after being caught in Eastie selling a large quantity of fentanyl to undercover agents. The amount of fentanyl seized had the potential to kill tens of thousands of people.

Sergio Singer Galicia, 39, and Bryan Roberto Rodriguez, 38, both of New York, were charged in the East Boston Division of Boston on charges of trafficking in more than 200 grams of fentanyl.

Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office, along with State and Boston Police narcotics officers and federal Homeland Security officers, arranged an undercover operation to purchase the drugs from Galicia and Rodriguez.

On Friday morning a deal was confirmed to

take place at 945 Saratoga Street in East Boston. Galicia and Rodriguez were under surveillance from officers deployed in the area and by the State Police airwing.

When the transaction took place, Galicia and Rodriguez were arrested without incident.

As part of the undercover operation police seized two kilograms of fentanyl with an estimated wholesale street value of \$90,000.

Massachusetts pub-

lic health officials this week pointed to fentanyl as a primary factor in the 8.8-percent increase in opioid overdose deaths in the state last year. Deaths rose to 2,290, an all-time high.

According to the DEA two milligrams of fentanyl will kill an adult. One kilogram of fentanyl is equivalent to 1 million milligrams. The amount seized could potentially kill over 300,000 adults.

"This quantity of fentanyl hitting the streets would have undoubtedly contributed to the unprecedented number of overdoses and deaths we're seeing across the state. This was a careful, efficient operation that interdicted a significant quantity of one of the deadliest drugs in our society," Hayden said.

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Father's Day Poems on Page 5  
Father's Day Drawings on Page 6



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# Jason Gallagher to become next headmaster of Boston Latin School


By John Lynds

It was recently announced that the principal of the Harvard-Kent Elementary School for the last 11 year, Jason Gallagher, will become the next headmaster of Boston Latin School (BLS).

Gallagher, who led Harvard-Kent’s transformation into a top performing school in Boston culminating with the prestigious 2019 EdVestorsThomas W. Payzant School School on the Move prize, will take over the reins of the country’s oldest public school from outgoing principal Rachel Skeritt in the fall. Skeritt announced in March she was leaving her post as headmaster of BLS after five years leading the school. Skeritt successfully navigated the school through two years of the pandemic as well as a change in how students are accepted to Boston’s exam schools.

For Gallagher, heading to BLS in the fall is a sort of homecoming. He graduated from BLS in 1991 and his two sons also graduated from BLS in 2018 and 2021.

Gallagher, a lifelong Charlestown resident, returned to his home neighborhood after serving as a



Jason Gallagher was named the next headmaster of Boston Latin School.

history and special education teacher at Braintree High School.

He kicked off his 21 year career with Boston Public Schools (BPS) serving first as a class teacher at the Harvard-Kent and then as an assistant principal at the District Office of Special Education before becoming principal of the school.

Over the past decade during Gallagher’s tenure the Harvard-Kent has experienced rapid academic growth. Harvard-Kent’s student population is uniquely diverse within Boston Public Schools. The school community is racially diverse, with nearly equal numbers of Latino, Asian, Black and

Caucasian young people represented in the student body. Over half of the student body are English Learners, a quarter are students with disabilities, and more than two-thirds are economically disadvantaged.

Under Gallagher’s leadership the school has met or exceeded MCAS targets. The 400-student school has also seen steady improvement over the past few years in both literacy and math while also narrowing achievement gaps.

The school was recognized for exceeding performance targets set by the state, one of 14 BPS schools to do so in 2019, and one of four BPS schools to do so for two years in a row.

Of his work at the Harvard-Kent Gallagher has said, “The most important thing we do every day is offer a safe and welcoming school to our students and families. We want to make our kids feel like they are in the best school not just in Boston, but in the country. If you are a member of the Harvard-Kent school community, we want you to feel important, loved and valued. And, we want you to become a proficient reader, writer and mathematician.”

# Three Eastie students honored at Annual BPS Valedictorian Luncheon

By John Lynds

For over two decades the Boston Public School’s (BPS) annual valedictorian luncheon has honored students from every neighborhood that have the highest academic achievements in their respective high schools.

After a two year hiatus the 24th Annual BPS Valedictorian Luncheon returned in person at Fenway Park with Mayor Michelle Wu, Superintendent Brenda Cassellius and the Boston School Committee paying tribute to the best and brightest graduating seniors.

Among the students honored at Fenway Park this year were three East Boston students who were named valedictorians of their class and will have



Eastie’s John Le, valedictorian of East Boston High School, Eliana Sepulveda Garcia, valedictorian of Boston Adult Technical Academy and Kevin Lima Murcia, valedictorian of Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing were all honored by Mayor Michelle Wu, Superintendent Brenda Cassellius and the Boston School Committee at BPS’s 24th Annual Valedictorian Luncheon at Fenway Park.



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The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing it will be hosting the third public information meeting for the Route 1A Corridor Study on Tuesday, June 21, at 6:00 p.m. The study is being conducted to assess the potential uses of the MassDOT and MBTA rail parcels located between Route 1A

At this meeting, MassDOT will present draft alternatives for the MBTA parcels located between Route 1A and the Chelsea Creek, and gather input

The meeting will be recorded and posted online for individuals who are unable to attend.

After Eva passed, Mr. White restlessness in semi-retirement took its toll and he was back at APAC almost everyday assisting and guiding the new Directors that suc-

He was a friend to all, a mentor to many and will be missed dearly by the neighborhood he touched for so long.

“As the first Black woman to chair the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, and also as a proud appointee of Governor Baker

Our Commonwealth  
Heroines are women who  
have been chosen by their  
legislators for their ex-  
traordinary acts of ser-

vice, making a big difference in their communities but not necessarily making the news. They perform unheralded acts daily that make our homes, neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. Commonwealth Heroines use their time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others in their community. They are mentors, volunteers, and innovators who strive to protect and represent the interests of seniors, victims of violence, children, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations. They are the glue that keeps a community together.

"I am so excited to see you all," Mayor Wu told the honorees. "I've been really looking forward to this and my heart is bursting with pride for each one of you knowing how much you have fought through and barreled forward over the last couple of years. You are truly the pride of your families, your city, your communities, and you are the future that we're counting on. So I'm really excited and very honored and grateful

"A special recognition to the parents and guardians who are here at our tables," said Cassellius. "Parents and families are our children's first teachers and moments like today are just a testament to the unwavering support

cation to their education, especially for only being in the building for two out of the four four years due to the pandemic,” said Brangiforte. “They acted mature beyond their

"I thought of three things to share with you," she said. "The first is to never let others define you. You get to decide your identity. You get to decide who you love, and you get to decide what your contributions are going to be in this world. Second, be mindful of the choices that you make these next several years as you embark on this new journey because the choices you make today, impact what choices are available tomorrow. And third, don't beat yourself up. If you do make a poor choice or mistake, look at what went wrong and think through it and learn from it. I wish I had learned this earlier. All of us here know that you are already hard working and that you certainly know how to persevere through tough times and that you don't give up."

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# East Boston

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### WE URGE OUR LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT LOBSTER FISHING BILL

Most of us are environmentalists to some extent. We doubt there are few among us who do not find it heartbreaking that there was a record number of deaths of manatees this past year in Florida because excessive algae growth fueled by fertilizer runoff into the coastal Gulf waters is destroying the manatees’ primary food source, sea grass. The manatees literally are starving because of a lack of food.

In our area of the country, the right whale long has been endangered. Only a few hundred of these beautiful animals exist. The greatest threat to their extinction are boat strikes and fishing and lobster gear in which they can become entangled.

Since 2015, state regulations have banned the use of lobstering equipment from Feb. 1 until at least April 30 off Cape Cod Bay and beyond, shutting down the local industry for the winter.

Right whales are common in Cape Cod Bay during late winter and early spring, especially during March and April. The ban was further extended until May 15 this year because of the presence of right whales in our area.

Needless to say, the state-mandated ban has taken a financial toll on those who earn their livelihood from lobstering. Some lobstermen say that their annual income has been cut in half since the ban went into effect in 2015.

However, State Senator Patrick O’Connor from Weymouth has filed a bill that he has attached to the upcoming state budget that would provide some degree of recompense to lobster fishermen for their lost revenue.

The total cost of the bill is miniscue -- \$12 million out of a total state budget of almost \$50 billion.

In our view, Senator O’Connor’s bill is long-overdue. Saving a species such as the right whale is a public good that benefits all of us in some way and has a direct economic benefit for our tourism industry.

Yet the only ones being asked to pay the price for saving the whales are our lobster fishermen, for whom making ends meet always has been an iffy proposition, but which, thanks to climate change (which is driving lobsters further north to colder waters) and the state regulations, is becoming even more difficult.

The bottom line is that since the state’s regulations are forcing our lobster fishing industry to “Save the Whales,” then it is time for the state to put its money where its slogan is.

### REMEMBER WHAT TRUMP SAID....

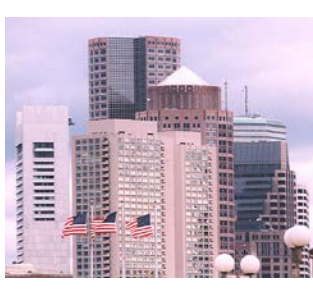
While he was on the campaign trail during the primary season in early 2016, Donald Trump uttered these memorable words, “I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn’t lose voters.”

Although Trump later said he was only joking, his comment revealed his deep understanding of his base of supporters that to this day the majority of Americans still don’t quite get: Both Donald Trump and his supporters could care less about the Constitution and the democratic norms that have prevailed since the founding of our country.

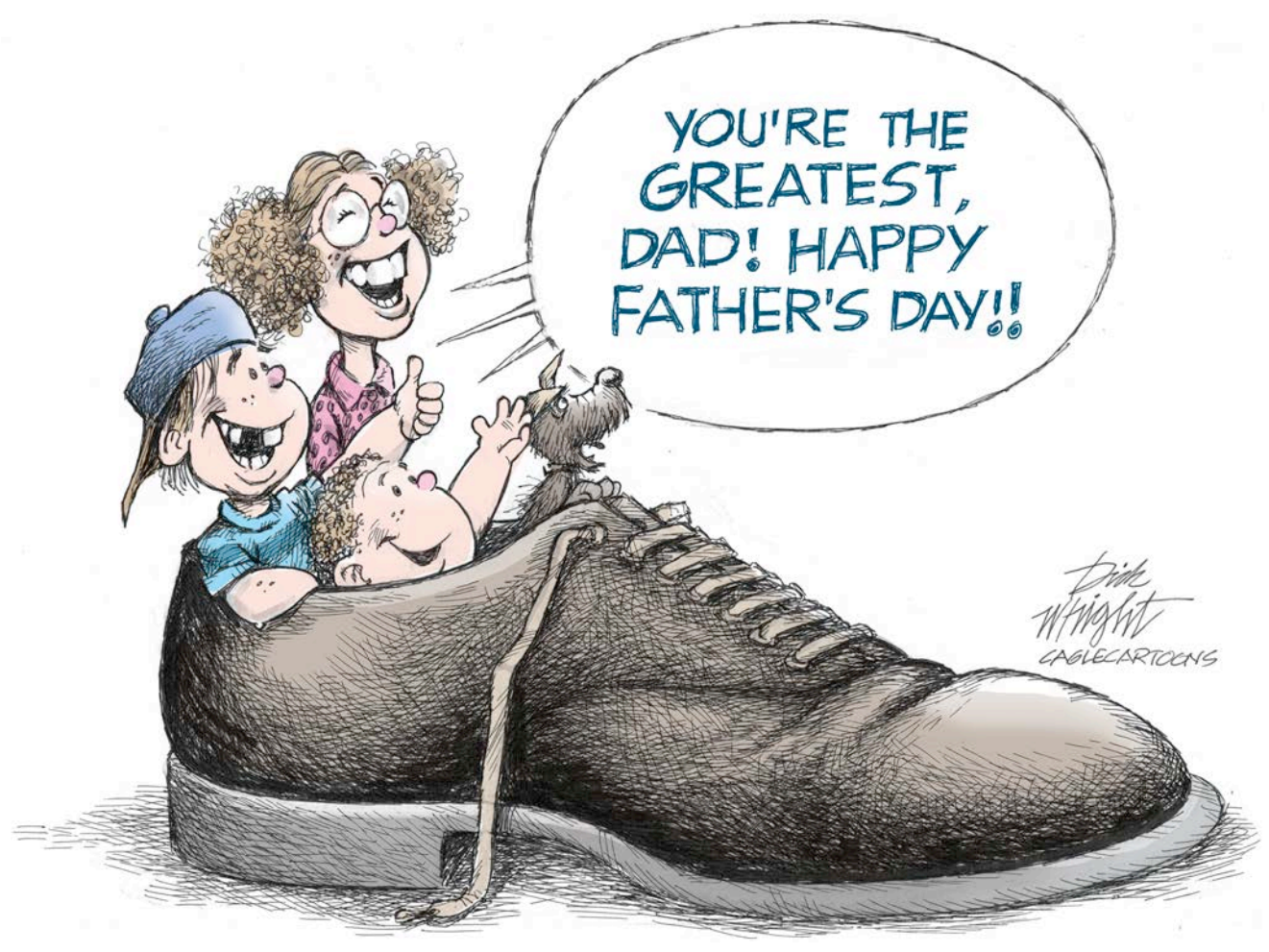
Some pundits suggest that Trump is not to blame for the distrust of government that is evident among his base, many of whom believe in Q-Anon and all sorts of nutty conspiracy theories.

But every anti-democratic movement needs a leader who is willing to break the norms in order to thwart the democratic process and rule of law. There is not one leading GOP politician who, had he been President and lost re-election, would have done what Trump attempted to do to overturn the election, culminating in the events of January 6.

In view of the apathy among Trump’s base of support to the revelations of the House January 6 Committee hearings, the updated corollary to Trump’s 2016 campaign comment is this: “I could stand in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue and urge a violent riot at the Capitol and I wouldn’t lose voters.”



# Forum



### GUEST OP-ED

### A father and a child can make a great family

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Father’s Day is coming one more time and you still have a chance at having a great family.

Fathers like most all people have good days and bad days. They have great seasons of life and some that are more difficult. Few fathers will look back over their lives and say, “Every day I was a perfect dad.” Some days were better than others.

We all feel bad about the seasons of our lives when we had to work too much. Working all the time depletes energy we would prefer to spend on our families. The problem is that like most fathers we want to keep a roof over our heads and food in the refrigerator. Making car payments, house payments, and all the basic things of life typically keep most dads and moms very busy.

Even in a home filled with love and patience the average dad lives a juggling life. He is pulled between work, kid’s ball-games, meeting the needs of his wife and house-work. Add to this school meetings, homework,

fishing, piano lessons, family events, all while trying to maintain and add to his career.

Most of us looking back can think of some endeavors or activities we wish we had let go in order to spend more time with our families. For some weird reason at the time they seemed all so important but now they feel like wasted time.

Throughout life the way we typically learn is the hard way. Education is always expensive. Our vision is 20/20 looking back. People tell us what we will regret and what we should do but we rarely believe them. When we get past the “fifty-five” mark of life we start to realize what the “old timers” told us was true. You know how it is because you probably tell your kids about what is right and wrong and what they will appreciate or regret. In most cases they don’t pay much attention to you.

The only season of being a father that you have is this one. No future is guaranteed and yesterday is gone. You do have today. Have a loving and

forgiving heart. Extend grace and a second, third or fourth chance. Try to spend time with those you love. You are probably finding out now that your grown children are too busy for you. They have lives of their own and you may not be a priority. It hurts some but they probably are being like you used to be. Don’t lose sleep over this but be available and reach out as you are able.

Finally, you have to be more than the human ATM machine. You can’t buy your children’s affection for the rest of your life. Every parent wants to help their children but the best thing you can do for them is work with them to help them care for themselves. You can either teach them to fish or spend the rest of your life fishing for them and this ends up being a hard life for you and cripples them.

Today is another opportunity to be a good father. This is also a good day for you to reciprocate love and affection to your dad. A father and a child working together can make a great family.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

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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. Items can also be faxed two 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

### Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is **781-485-1403**. Letters may also be e-mailed to **editor@eastietimes.com**. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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# Patrick J. Kennedy students' Father's Day poem

**F**antastic Dad  
**A**lways tries his best even when  
 he is tired  
**T**houghtful about his family  
**H**elps me play soccer  
**E**ncourages me when I play  
 soccer  
**R**esponsible  
**S**uper good at soccer  
**D**edicated to what he loves  
**A**n amazing soccer player  
**Y**oung in my eyes

*Happy Father's Day  
 Kimberely Anaya*

**F**aithful  
**A**lways by my side  
**T**houghtful  
**H**ard working  
**E**ncourages me when I need it  
**R**esponsible  
**S**mart  
**D**oing his best work to take care  
 of me  
**A**mazing  
**Y**earning for the best in me

*Happy Father's Day  
 Justin Garay*

**F**aithful  
**A**n amazing father  
**T**eaching  
**H**elpful  
**E**ncourage me to get good grades  
**R**espectful  
**S**uper dad  
**D**etermine to give us a house  
**A**wesome dad to this world and  
 back  
**Y**outhful

*Happy Father's Day  
 Diego Argueta*

**F**abulous  
**A**wesome dad  
**T**alented  
**H**ard working  
**E**xercising for an hour  
**R**espectful  
**S**trong father  
**D**edicated to our family  
**A**thletic person  
**Y**outhful

*Happy Father's Day  
 Joel Vasquez*

**F**antastic son  
**A**n amazing cleaner at home  
**T**eaching me to be an amazing  
 soccer player  
**H**onest man  
**E**ncouraging me to do better  
**R**esponsible worker  
**S**uper strong  
**D**edicated to his job  
**A**wesome listener  
**Y**oung soul

*Happy Father's Day  
 Allison Henriquez*

Father  
 Thoughtful, helpful  
 Helping, hugging, working,  
 Always by my side  
 Dad  
 Father  
 Optimistic, loyal  
 Loving, teaching, caring  
 Always believes in me  
 Daddy

*Happy Father's Day  
 Justin Garay*

**F**ather  
**A** hard worker  
**T**he best dad  
**H**onest man  
**E**xcellent  
**R**espectful father  
**S**trong healthy man  
**D**ivine  
**A**wesome  
**Y**oung soul

*Happy Father's Day  
 Rian Mendes*

**F**unny dad  
**A**mazing dad  
**T**eaching me about car parts  
**H**elpful  
**E**ncourage me when I'm playing  
 soccer  
**R**espectful  
**S**trong Dad  
**D**oes his work  
**A**wesome at math and cars  
**Y**ou're an amazing father

*Happy Father's Day  
 Jason Aguilar*

**F**rom El Salvador  
**A**lways plays with me  
**T**ime-on-time all the time  
**H**appy to help his family  
**E**very day he works  
**R**uns every day  
**S**upportive of my school work  
 Dad is a good dancer  
**A**lways friendly  
**Y**ou are a good person

*Happy Father's Day  
 Anderson Luna*

**F**unny  
**A**mazing about his teaching  
**T**he best father  
**H**elpful  
**E**xcellent father  
**R**eally happy when I do good  
 things  
**S**mart  
**D**edicated worker  
**A**wesome  
**Y**ou are great

*Happy Father's Day  
 Anis Obah*

**F**antastic Father  
**A**mazing at cooking  
**T**all and funny  
**H**umble  
**E**ncourages me to do my best  
**R**esponsibility on his job  
**S**uper fast runner  
**D**reams about his dream car  
**A**lways taking care of me  
**Y**ou're the best father in the  
 world

*Happy Father's Day  
 Mariana Valentina*

**F**uerte  
**A**sombrozo  
**T**rabajador  
**H**ermoso  
**E**l me jor papa del mundo  
**R**espetuoso con las personas  
**S**onador  
**D**ibuja conmigo algunas veces  
**A**dorable consushijos consu espo-  
 sa y la familia  
**Y**ou eres Gran persona conel  
 mundo

*Feliz Dia del Padre  
 Gabriela Blanco*

**F**unny  
**A**wesome at cooking  
**T**ells me to never give up on a  
 dream  
**H**ard worker  
**E**ncourages me when I think I  
 can't do something  
**R**espectful  
**S**mart at math  
**D**ad-one of a kind  
**A** good dad that loves & cares for  
 his family  
**Y**ou are the best that I can wish  
 for!

*Happy Father's Day  
 Jonathan Mazariegos*

**F**un to go on walks with  
**A**mazing  
**T**he best friend ever  
**H**appy when he plays soccer  
**E**xcellent father  
**R**eally funny  
**S**mile a lot when he is with me  
**D**oes a lot around the house  
**A**wesome  
**Y**ou always get the best from  
 him!

*Feliz Dia del Padre  
 Emiliano Perez*

**F**aithful  
**A**mazingly helpful  
**T**houghtful person  
**H**eavenly to Jesus  
**E**ncourages me to be a good person  
**R**espectful to me  
**S**mart  
**D**etermined for me to get good  
 grades  
**A**lways helps me with my work  
**Y**outhful

*Happy Father's Day  
 Benjamin Creamer*

**F**inding me a way out in bad  
 times  
**A**fternoon, day, night, and  
 midnight,  
 no matter what he is there  
**T**hankful for his life  
**H**yperactive every day  
**E**nraged when his favorite boxers  
 lose a match  
**R**ight almost all the time  
**S**aving me from the dangers of  
 the real world  
**D**etermined to help you when  
 times are rough  
**A** very supportive person  
**Y**oung or old he will always be  
 himself  
 Dad

Protective, respected  
 Playing, sleeping, relaxing  
 Saving me from danger  
 POPS

*Dishawn Newton*

**DAD**  
 Loyal, thoughtful  
 Loving, caring, helping  
 Love him soo much  
 Father  
 Padre  
 Awesome, faithful  
 Amazing, teaching, respecting  
 Works hard for us  
 Papa

*Happy Father's Day  
 Diego Argueta*

**F**aithful  
**A**mazing Father  
**T**rustworthy  
**H**elping the family no matter  
 what  
**E**ncouraging my sister and I  
**R**adiant  
**S**pecial  
**D**riven to be the best cook  
**A**lways caring for his daughters  
**Y**outhful  
 Father  
 Brilliant, Bold  
 Cooking, working, traveling  
 He's the best Dad  
 Pa

*Happy Father's Day  
 Valeria Mejia*

**F**antastic  
**A** wonderful father  
**T**he best dad  
**H**elps me when I need him  
**E**xcellent cook  
**R**espectful  
**S**weet  
**D**ivine  
**A**wesome  
**Y**ou are the best Dad!

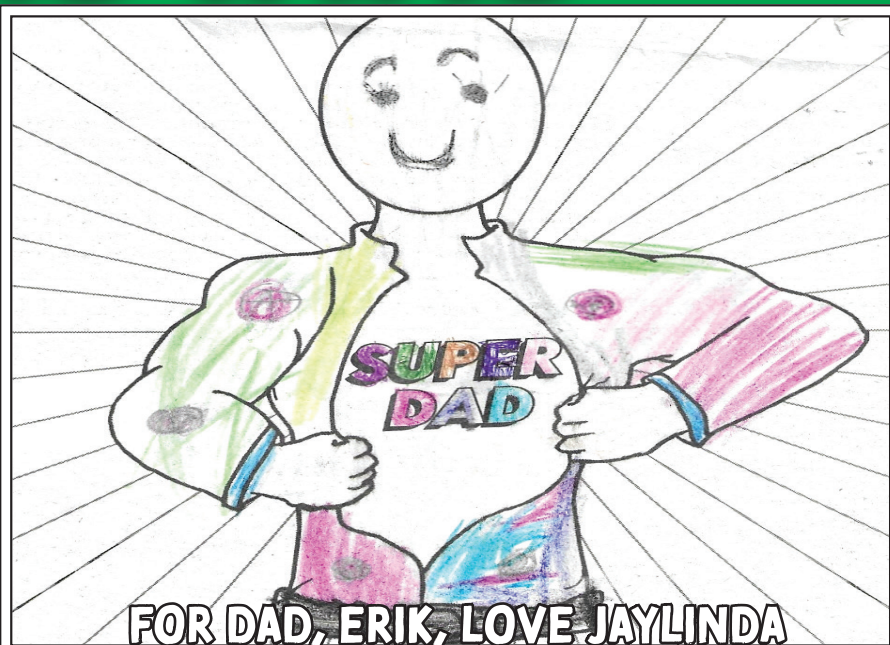
*Happy Father's Day  
 Lisette Vasquez*



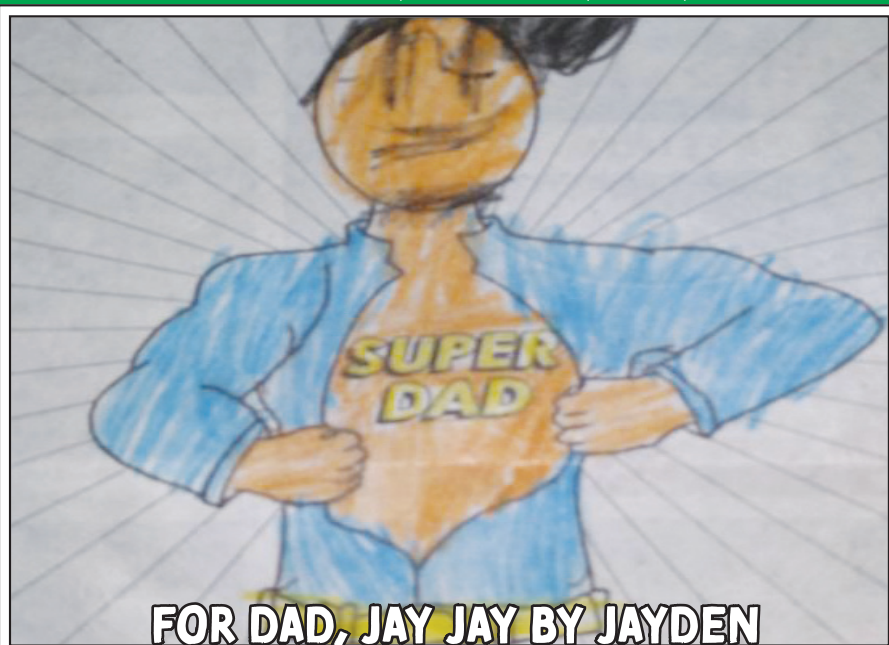


# IT'S YOUR DAY, DAD

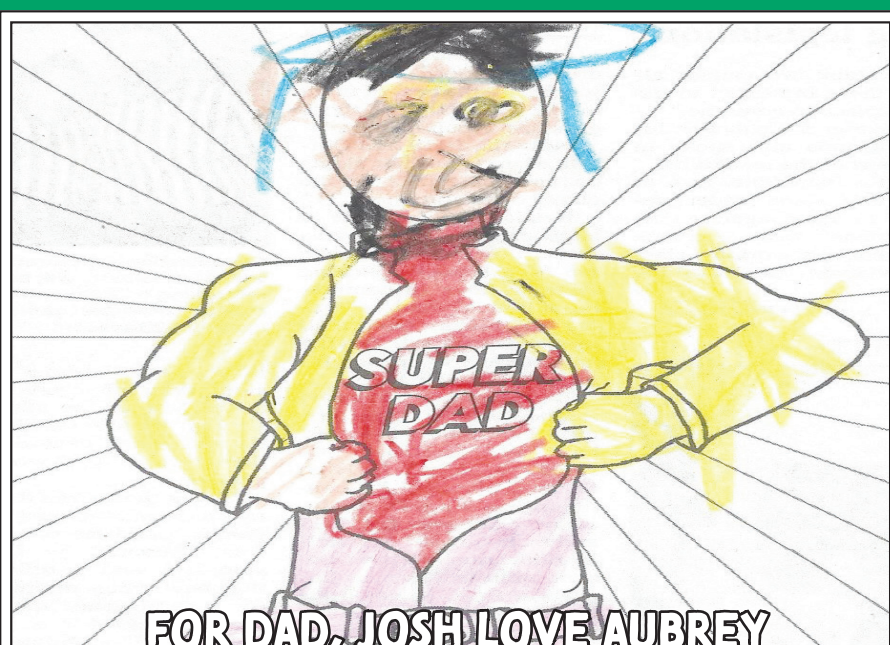
## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 2022



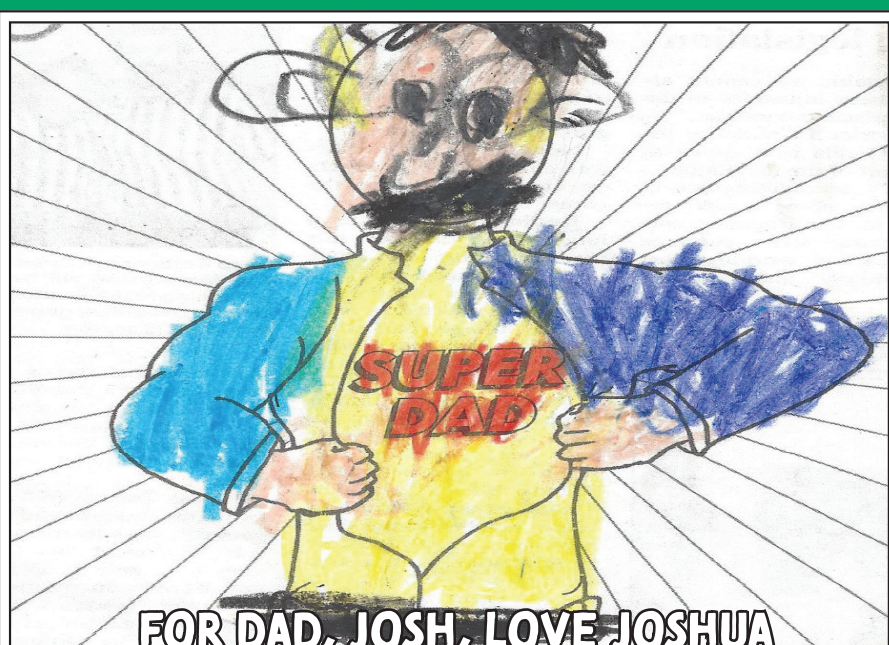
FOR DAD, ERIK, LOVE JAYLINDA



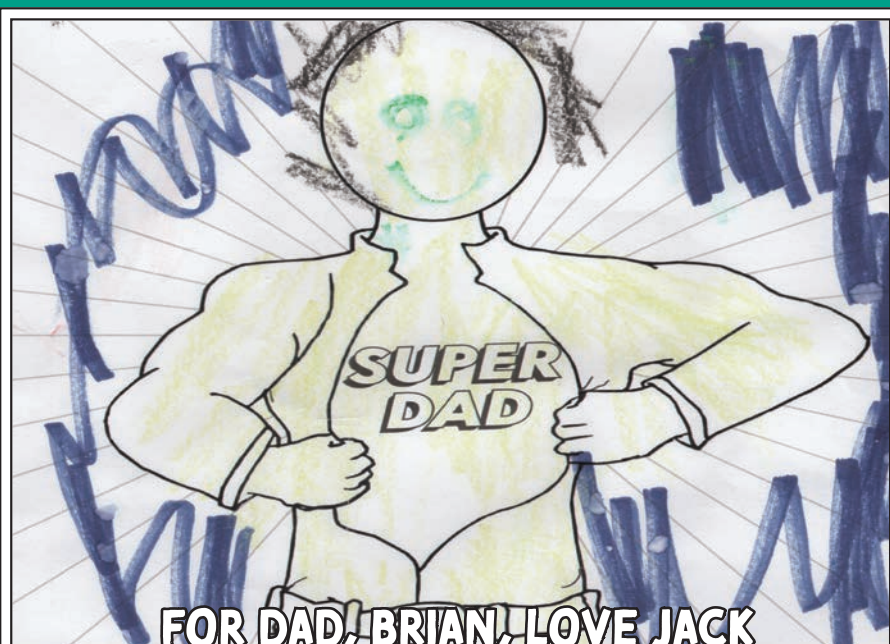
FOR DAD, JAY JAY BY JAYDEN



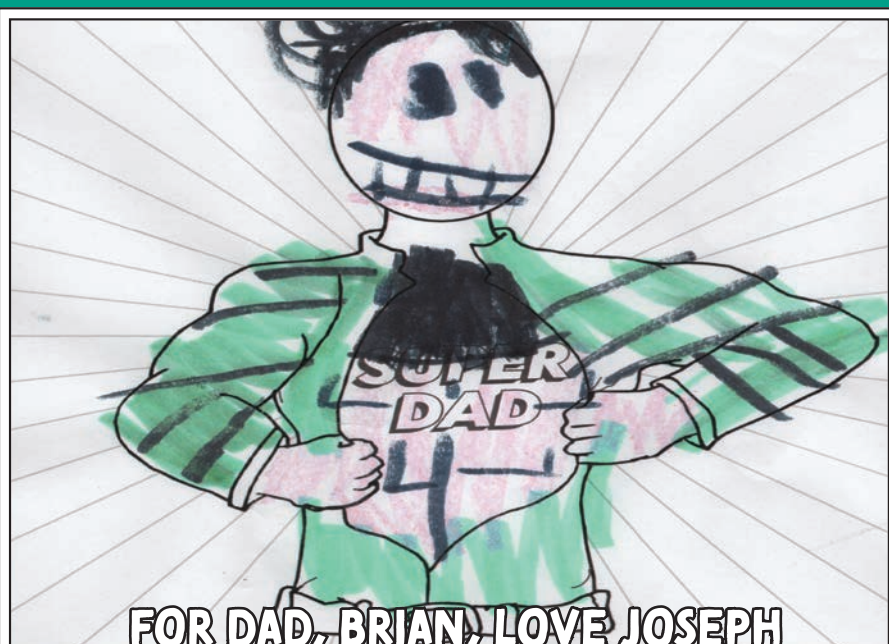
FOR DAD, JOSH LOVE AUBREY



FOR DAD, JOSH, LOVE JOSHUA



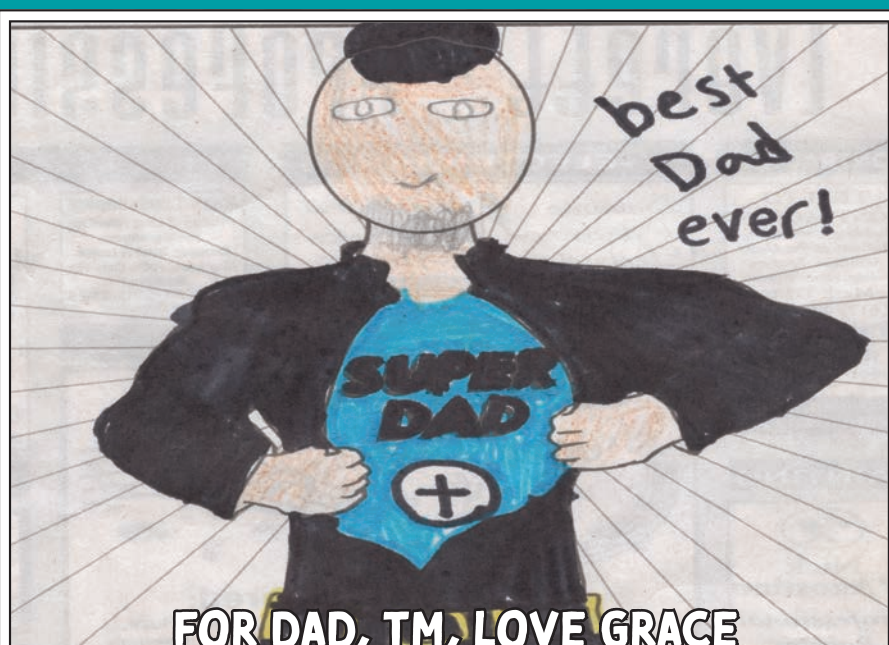
FOR DAD, BRIAN, LOVE JACK



FOR DAD, BRIAN, LOVE JOSEPH



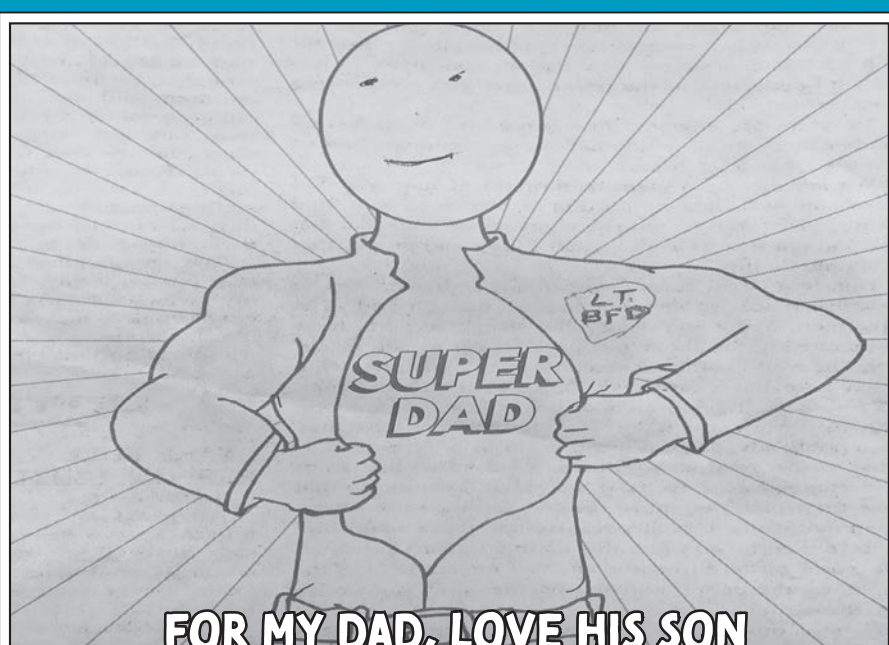
FOR DAD, ERIK, LOVE ABIGAIL



FOR DAD, TM, LOVE GRACE



FOR DAD MARK, LOVE MASON



FOR MY DAD, LOVE HIS SON



# Community, Massport raise Gay Pride Flag at Piers Park Friday

By John Lynds

In honor of Gay Pride month the community joined Massport, state and city officials in raising the Gay Pride Rainbow Flag at Piers Park last Friday to show East Boston's continuing support for the LGBTQ+ community.

For the first time in the annual flag raising's history the community was joined by the CEO of Massport.

Massport CEO Lisa Wieland kicked off the event saying it was an honor for her to take part in the annual event.

"I'm really pleased to have the opportunity to participate in tonight's 9th Annual Pride Flag Raising ceremony," said Wieland. "As we all know, East Boston is one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods and we know that East Boston strives to be inclusive and welcoming to all and the flag here is just one symbol of that. We at Massport also strive to be diverse and inclusive and so we raise the flag not just here at Piers Park but we also raise the flag at all of our facilities at Logan Airport, at our airports in Worcester and Hanscom and also at the facilities in South Boston. So thank you again for

coming out to support the LGBTQ+ community and to celebrate June as Pride Month."

This year's keynote speaker was Eastie's former Mayoral Liaison Jesus Garcia Mota who was honored by the state and city officials present at the event.

"It feels weird to now be on the other side and receiving citations," Mota said. "I really wasn't expecting to do this but being with this group from East Boston it feels like we are family because that is what we are in this neighborhood, family."

Mota said he considers himself a very lucky person who came to the US from Mexico City in 2009 and was fortunate in 2014 to find such a welcoming, diverse, accepting and special neighborhood.

"I was born and raised in Mexico City and came here looking for a professional opportunity and worked in the Mexican consulate," he said. "Then in 2014 I moved to East Boston and realized this was a very, very special neighborhood. I love it. I love everything about it. I have the privilege to say that we have people from every part of the world and this

is what I was looking for when I moved to the United States. I was looking to embrace the richness of the United States and found a place that embraces all the cultures and all the people from around the world."

Mota said being a member of the LGBTQ+ community he was a very lucky person that he found acceptance from his family.

"I grew up in a country that not necessarily supports gay people," said Mota. "I was very lucky to have my family's support from the beginning. I remember perfectly when I came out to my family I was super nervous. I was expecting that they were going to kick me out of the house. They're going to tell me that this is not what they expected from me."

Mota continued, "All of us sat together at the table and I started crying. I remember because I was super nervous and it was one of the worst feelings that I ever had. My sister calmed me down, held my hand and she said, 'Jesus, relax. We already know' and then my father said he knew and loved and supported me and wanted to make sure I knew that I'd always have their love and support."

Mota said at that mo-

ment his fear was turned into the most amazing feeling he ever had in his life.

"I think I'm a very lucky person for that because not every gay person has that experience when they come out," he said. "So I think the message I want to deliver is that there are so many kids out there who don't have the same support I had from their family. But in neighborhoods like East Boston you can find support from the community, from a teacher, from a friend, from someone. There are so many other people out there that will support you no matter what so just be yourself and if you need help or support just approach someone. Remember that Pride is

about being your authentic self and celebrating everyone in the LGBTQ+ community all the time and not just for this one month. I love you all and thank you so much for your support."



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.



Jesus Garcia Mota delivered the keynote speech at Friday's ceremony.



Massport CEO Lisa Wieland.



Rep. Adrian Madaro during Friday's Gay Pride flag raising ceremony at Piers Park.



Sen. Lydia Edwards addresses the crowd.



Executive Director for the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement Quincy Roberts.



The Rainbow Flag is ready to be hoisted high above Eastie's waterfront.



From left, Massport CEO Lisa Wieland, Josue Espinoza, Quincy Roberts, Rep. Adrian Madaro, Sen. Lydia Edwards, Jesus Garcia Mota, City Councilor Gabriela Coletta and Celeste Hewitt.



The crowd that gathered at Friday's ceremony at Piers Park in honor of Gay Pride Month.

6<sup>th</sup> Edition

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Best Yet K-Cups .....	¢3.99
General Mills Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal .....	2/¢6.00
Best Yet Apple Juice 64 oz .....	2/¢3.00
Best Yet Peanut Butter.....	2/¢4.00
Best Yet Single Box Macaroni & Cheese .....	5/¢3.00
Best Yet Waffles.....	2/¢3.00
Swanson's Pot Pies Chicken or Turkey.....	4/¢5.00
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---

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Russer Canadian Maple Ham .....	¢6.99 lb
Great Lakes Mozzarella Cheese.....	¢5.99 lb
Mrs. Ressler's Buffalo Turkey Breast.....	¢8.99 lb
Natural Casing Hot Dogs.....	¢7.99 lb

### Produce

Tropical Mangoes .....	4/¢5.00
Southern Sweet & Juicy Peaches.....	¢1.89 lb
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EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL 2022 PROM

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

East Boston High School (EBHS) gathered at the Hyatt Regency Bos-

ton Harbor hotel for their prom on June 9. Students, like Anthony Holman, captain of the basketball team -- who looked forward to dancing with his partner -- enjoyed being formally dressed and par-

tying with classmates before graduation. “It feels amazing spending time with friends; especially after Covid,” said Anthony, who will be attending Massasoit Community College. “I am celebrating my years of high school because I’ve been here since 7th grade. East Boston is a special place.”



Marjory Erez, Yazmeen Diaz, Valentina Dampolo, and Samantha Sierre.



Jose Landaverde, Kevin Argueta, Luis Peña, Victor Moreno, and Isaiah Funes.



Niah and Kenzie.



Erika Reyes, Katherine Cruz, and Junior Ramirez.



Madeline Sherman and Destiny Peage.

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Jose Besednjak, Matthew Crystal, Keyla Rodriguez, and Brian Lemus.



Jisell Ochpa and Mohamed Mohamed.



Nanci Guevara, Dervy Jimenez, and Jennifer Marquez.



Chris Frazier, Gianna Troville, Brittany Elliott, and Anthony Carino.

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# Five Eastie public schools receive EdVestors Arts Expansion Grants

By John Lynds

Five East Boston public schools will continue to receive arts education by partnering with local music and performing arts agencies thanks to a grant from EdVestors.

The five Eastie schools were among 66 Boston Public Schools to receive EdVestors Arts Expansion Grants totaling \$455,000. The Eastie schools to share in this latest round of funding from EdVestors are Adams Elementary, Bradley Elementary, East Boston High School, McKay K-8, and the Umana Academy. Throughout the 2022/2023 Zumix, Eastie’s premier music and performing arts nonprofit, will work with students at the Bradley, East Boston High, McKay and Umana to expand musical arts at the school while the Community Music Center of Boston will work with students at the Adams. Finally, I Learn America and Mass Poetry will also be at the Umana to expand art opetunities at the school. “Arts education enables

students to express themselves and succeed in ways they often don’t in other subjects, and is a powerful motivator for students to want to attend and engage at school,” said President & CEO of EdVestors Marinell Rousmaniere. “We couldn’t have made this much progress without our committed funders and dedicated partners who continue to support our mission of increasing equitable access to quality arts education for all of Boston’s public schools students.” Rousmaniere said since 2009, these grants have helped increase the number of students receiving arts education in Boston by 17,000 annually by providing more opportunities for students to become involved in the arts. The grants were announced as part of the annual BPS Citywide Arts Festival, which returned to the Boston Common in person for the first time in three years. “These grants are essential in ensuring that high-quality arts education will continue to be accessible to Boston Pub-

lic Schools students,” said Boston School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson. “We all know how important in-person learning is, which is why this year’s event on the Common was such a great opportunity to help our youth re-engage with the community and showcase the magic that comes from being back in the classroom inspiring one another through the arts.” Robinson added that BPS Arts Expansion is marking its 13th year, having built a partnership that has continued to improve access to quality and equitable arts education for all students. “This collaborative effort has allowed Boston to emerge as a leader in arts education,” she said. “BPS arts teachers working in partnership with community-based teaching artists and organizations have made this work possible. The initiative continues to focus on expanding access to equitable arts education and deepening arts experiences, while building systems to sustain a high level of arts education long into the future.”

## Eastie’s weekly COVID positive test-rate drops

By John Lynds

With East Boston’s weekly COVID positive test rates continuing to slowly drop week after week the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MassDPH) announced an update to its statewide mask advisory. The updated policy now puts mask wearing in the hands of individuals regardless of vaccination status. However, all people in the state, regardless of vaccination status, are required to continue wearing masks or face coverings in certain settings, including in health care facilities. “To protect friends and family members, residents are reminded that getting a vaccine and booster remain the best way to protect against serious illness or hospitalization from COVID-19,” said Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. “Based

on our nation-leading vaccination efforts, DPH now recommends that Massachusetts residents have the option to make a personal choice about wearing a mask or face covering in indoor settings regardless of vaccination status.” MassDPH continues to advise masks for individuals with a weakened immune system, those at increased risk for severe disease because of age or underlying conditions, or who have a household member with a weakened immune system and at increased risk. Last week, 1,043 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 9.5 percent were positive--this was a 8.6 percent decrease from the 10.4 percent that tested positive as reported by the BPHC on June 6. Ninety nine additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between June 6 and June 13 there have now been 15,765 con-

firmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic. Boston’s citywide weekly positive test rate stayed the same last week with 13,924 residents tested citywide and 9.5 percent testing positive for COVID positive. The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race. Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.7 percent last week and went from 190,394 to 191,740 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic. There were four additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,478.

## MVES commits to justice on WEAAD

June 15 marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a time to bring attention to this critical issue affecting older adults worldwide. Elder abuse can include physical, emotional, sexual, caregiver neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation. It impacts seniors from all walks of life. The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations (UN) launched the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15, 2006 in an effort to unite communities around the world in raising awareness about elder abuse. WEAAD serves as a call-to-action for our communities to raise awareness about abuse, neglect, and

exploitation of elders, and reaffirm our country’s commitment to the principle of justice for all. Elder abuse is widespread. Every year an estimated 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. And that’s only part of the picture: Experts believe that elder abuse is significantly under-reported, in part because so many of our communities lack the social supports that would make it easier for those who experience abuse to report it. Research suggests that as few as 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse come to the attention of authorities. Mystic Valley Elder Services Protective Services Department plays a proactive role in addressing elder abuse by not only

investigating cases but by proactively offering education and trainings in the 11 communities served. MVES has developed a strong rapport with mandated reporters of elder abuse such as police officers and hospitals. The agency also educates seniors themselves by offering seminars and resources. The goal is to build awareness while enabling seniors to remain safe and independent living in the community. If you suspect elder abuse of a loved one or are being abused yourself, please call the state’s Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-922-2275 or file online at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/report-elder-abuse>.

## EXCEL ACADEMY NEWS

### EXCEL ACADEMY RANKED TOP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Earlier this year, Excel Academy High School was ranked in the top 3% of public high schools nationwide by the U.S. News and World Report. The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on nearly 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college. “Excel Academy prepared me for my future in so many aspects. I believe I got a great education here. I was able to choose classes I was interested in. For me, it was computer science, which was offered all four years,” said graduating senior Kevin Caballero, who is headed to Dartmouth College in the fall. “Excel Academy prepared me emotionally and mentally. It taught me how to connect with others and how to ask for resources when I need them. They taught me how to get a great education and have fun.” “Receiving national recognition for our students’ accomplishments validates the hard work invested every day by our students, teachers, counselors, and administrators,” said Head of School, Sarah Stuntz. “Our collaborative efforts to ensure our students succeed in their post-secondary goals are paying off in big ways.” Excel Academy High School was ranked the 16th top public high school in Massachusetts, outperforming many nearby suburban districts. Moreover, Excel Academy was rated the top open enrollment, nonselective public high school in Boston and ranked #4 in Massachusetts for college readiness. Excel Academy has an eight-person College Access and Postsecondary Success team that supports all students to develop and attain their postsecondary

goals beginning in fifth grade all the way through their sixth year as an alum of our schools.

### EXCEL ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL’S GRADUATING SENIORS PAY IT FORWARD

On June 13, Excel Academy Charter High School celebrated its outgoing seniors during their annual Senior Signing Day ceremony. The event celebrated the hard work of Excel Academy’s seniors and served as an opportunity to proudly share their post-graduation plans. This year’s seniors were admitted to more than 45 colleges, including Northeastern University, Tufts University, Brandeis University and Dartmouth College, and cumulatively received approximately \$3 million in scholarships. During the celebration, all 157 graduating seniors were surprised with a \$1,000 gift, \$500 of which was to be offered by the recipients to someone that uplifted them in their greatest time of need, ultimately making it possible for them to reach this milestone. The “pay-it-forward” gift was initiated by Excel Academy’s Board Chair, Co-Founder and CEO of AGC Partners, Ben Howe, and his wife Janet Howe. “A strong network is one of the most valuable resources students from Excel Academy walk away with,” said Ben Howe. “This network relies on all its members to give as much as they receive. This gift is a tangible token of the spirit of giving that is at the core of this unique school community.” This graduating class persevered through countless personal obstacles and local and national tragedies by leaning on the thing they’ve been cultivating over the course of many years; community. “We know that attaining a milestone as significant as graduation is not a solo feat, but rather a collective endeavor,” said Sarah Stuntz, Head of School at Excel Academy High School. “This is why

we assemble intentional support groups for every single student composed of the most trusted people in their lives– their families, their teachers, their friends. These are the people we tap to empathize, encourage and celebrate each student during pivotal moments on their journey to achieving their unique postsecondary goals.” Excel Academy senior Zahra Aljiboury planned on sharing her gift with her mother. “She’s my biggest supporter and this is just the beginning of many future gifts.” On this rare occasion, when many members of the Excel Academy community were convened, graduation speaker and member of the class of 2022, Ismael Ramon beckoned classmates to continue in this legacy. “Now to the younger audience,” Ramon said. “ I ask that you be your greatest self and a best friend to someone who needs your support.” Founded in 2003, Excel Academy Charter Schools is a network of four charter public schools – three middle schools and one high school – serving approximately 1,400 students from East Boston and Chelsea. Excel Academy’s mission is to prepare students for the future, help them apply their learning to solve relevant problems, and encourage them to engage productively in their communities. From the start, Excel Academy has been committed to the long-term success of its students, with a College Access and Post-secondary Support (CAPS) team of eight full-time staff members providing robust support and counseling services to students and alumni. CAPS team members provide programming and coordinate college trips for Excel students starting from the moment they walk in our doors in 5th grade and continue for up to six years after Excel students graduate high school, as students pursue their respective post-secondary endeavors. For more information, visit [www.excelacademy.org](http://www.excelacademy.org).

## Arrest // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The charging statute provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and up to 40 years in

prison, at least four years of supervised release, and a fine of \$5 million. Sentences are imposed by a

federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Wright, Jenna M	Clippership Condo LLC	5 Lisbon St #302	\$304,400
Rihl, Stacie	Herrera, Paola R	10 Orleans St #104	\$630,000
Ghosh, Sourobh	Trichilo Development LLC	37 Horace St #303	\$625,000
Oliveros, Michael	Saleh, Yasmin	37 Horace St #201	\$730,000
Gamm, Geoffrey	Degaetano, Michael	68 Marginal St #A	\$716,000
Langh, Allison B	Nulty, Thomas M	99 Gove St #14	\$769,000
Allen, Matthew	101-105 Condor Street LL	101 Condor St #401	\$695,000
Kelley, Brian T	125 Saratoga Street LLC	125 Saratoga St #2	\$689,000
Sandperl, Joseph	Cui, Yuwei	149 Webster St #2	\$520,000
Iampietro, Mark J	Siegel, Adam M	170 Lexington St #4	\$750,000
Halpert, Albena D	Maldonado, Jesus E	212 Princeton St	\$830,000
274 Princeton LLC	274 Princeton Street IRT	274 Princeton St	\$999,000
Kontou, Georgina	Gover, Jesse M	285 Princeton St #2	\$552,000
Pali, Erik	Meridian Street RT	405-407A Meridian St	\$1,850,000

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## OBITUARIES

### Frances Sciortino

A devoted mother, first and foremost

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend a funeral in Vazza's "Beechwood" Funeral Home, 262 Beach St., Revere today, June 15 at 10 a.m. for Frances A. (Esposito) Sciortino who passed away peacefully on Friday, June 10 surrounded by her loving family at Atria Marland Place in Andover following a long battle with Alzheimers. She was 83 years old. A Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere will be immediately followed by Entombment in Woodlawn Community Mausoleum, Everett.

Frances was a born in Boston to Thomas J. and Anna (Porcaro) Esposito. She was raised in East Boston, educated in Boston Public Schools and was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1956.

Frances was the devoted mother of four children, first and foremost. When her children were of age, she returned to the workforce and was receptionist for WilmerHale Law Firm in Boston, where she worked on the 31st floor for 16 years.

Frances lived almost her entire life in East Boston before moving to Danvers with her son, in 2020. She was an incredible baker, enjoyed listening to her favorite music and dancing. She would make many beautiful ceramic



creations for all the people she loved.

The loving mother of Ann Marie Giangregorio and her husband, Patsy of Billerica, Salvatore Sciortino, Jr. and his wife, Caroline of Danvers, Rosemary Hughes and her husband, Kenneth of Connecticut and Dawn Marie DeVito and her husband, Richard of Billerica, she is the cherished and proud grandmother of Matthew and his wife, Lyndsay, Nicholas and Julie Ann Giangregorio, Crista and Salvatore, III Sciortino, Tyler and Christopher Hughes, Richard Jr. and Samantha DeVitto and adored great grandmother of Luca and Robert Giangregorio and the dear sister of Thomas Esposito and his wife of Danvers. She is also lovingly survived by nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to The Alzheimer's Association alz.org. For online guest book and condolences please visit: [www.vazzafunerals.com](http://www.vazzafunerals.com).

### Anthony Carrillo

A most selfless, generous person to the people he loved most in life

Anthony J. Carrillo, of Melrose, formerly of East Boston, passed away on June 9. He was only 71 years of age.

Tony "Chan" loved gambling, golfing, casinos and managing his grandson's poker career. He was the most selfless, generous person to the people he loved most in his life and he went above and beyond to do anything for them. You would find him at Melrose Diner most mornings and at Grimsby's most evenings. He loved spending time at home watching Shark Tank and Chicago PD with his dog, Lexi sitting on his lap, who he adored. He was predeceased by his English Bulldog "Jordan" who was his constant companion and he fondly remembered and mentioned every day.

Tony was the loving father of Gina M. Cristallini and Christopher R. Carrillo, both of Melrose, devoted son of the late Salvatore and Clara (Amodeo) Carrillo, grandfather of Antonio and Michela Cristallini and Christopher Jr., Nicholas and Daniel Carrillo; great grandfather of Gio, Angello and Lorenzo;



brother of Rudy Carrillo, Ronnie Carrillo, Robbie Carrillo, Kim Carrillo and the late Johnny Carrillo. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation was held at the Gately Funeral Home, 79 W. Foster St. Melrose on Tuesday, June 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. Family and friends may gather at the funeral home today, Wednesday morning, June 15 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church, 9 Herbert St., Melrose, at 10 a.m.. Interment at Wyoming Cemetery in Melrose. To send a message of condolence, please visit [www.gatelyfh.com](http://www.gatelyfh.com).

### Salvatore Mellone

Of Revere, formerly of East Boston

Salvatore "Sam" Mellone of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away on Sunday, June 12.

The beloved husband of Joanne (Cordwell) Mellone, he was the devoted father of Robin Vasquez and her husband, James and Maria Mellone-Macaluso and her husband John, all of Revere and the late Ricky Cordwell; dear brother of the late Vincent "Jimmy" Mellone, Michael Mellone and Concetta Scavo and loving grandfather to Nicholas, Mia and Mason Macaluso. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Sam's life by

Novena to the Sacred Heart  
Dear Heart of Jesus, In the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask for this special one. (mention it) Take it, Dear Heart Of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father will see it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen  
LN



gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston on Monday, June 20 from 4 to 8 p.m. and again Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, East Boston for a Funeral Mass celebrating Sam's life at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Sam being laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Sam's name to the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, NPCF, P.O. Box 1848, Longmont, CO 80502.

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## Tunnel // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents as well as continuing ferry service between Eastie and Boston.

"With thirty-six week-end closures and a continuous four-month closure next year, this project will have major impacts on the people who live and work in the neighborhoods that rely on the tunnel," wrote Wu in the letter. "The impact will not only be felt on the highways, but also on local streets near the Sumner and along alternative routes. Travel between East Boston and Downtown will be disrupted, and the resulting congestion is likely to impact emergency response and bus service. In addition to the transportation impacts, the nature of the construction work is likely to be disruptive to residents in East Boston and the North End who live near the tunnel."

While Wu said her Administration and her elected colleagues representing the neighborhood appreciate the mitigation measures MassDOT has already committed to—including greening and beautifying the tunnel portals, extending toll discounts for tunnel communities to the Tobin Bridge, and undertaking efforts to minimize noise, vibration, dust, and pests—more needs to be done.

"However, we believe that additional steps are needed to address the impacts of this project on our neighborhoods," wrote Wu. "Alongside toll discounts, MassDOT should direct project mitigation funds to the MBTA to provide free fares on the Blue Line whenever the tunnel is closed. This will encourage people to use transit rather than drive on alternate routes and will

reduce the financial strain on residents. Fare gates should be opened along the entire line so that residents are not burdened with enrolling in a special pass program."

Wu also called for resuming the ferry service that successfully ran between Eastie and Boston during a two week closure of the Blue Line by the MBTA in May.

"This service, which was successfully piloted during the recent Blue Line disruptions, should be continued throughout the upcoming tunnel closures," she wrote. "We support the \$1 million in funding secured by the Massachusetts Legislature to expand ferry service. Offering weekday and weekend ferry service prior to the full closure next summer will help people adjust their travel patterns to incorporate water transportation and can serve as a "dry run" for potential permanent service."

Wu also called for MassDOT to ensure adequate capacity on the Blue Line, Silver Line, and 116/117 bus.

"MassDOT and the MBTA should assess capacity of the Blue and Silver Lines to handle increased ridership and increased congestion along the Silver Line and 116/117 bus routes," wrote Wu. "A plan should be put in place to increase capacity if needed, especially during the full

shutdown in 2023. Many residents of East Boston, Chelsea, and Revere rely on early morning service on the 116/117 bus to get to work, often by transferring to the subway at Haymarket at the start of service. These buses will be rerouted during the closure and the MBTA should make schedule adjustments to ensure that timely connections can still be made."

To further encourage MBTA ridership Wu called on MassDOT's parking lot near the Wood Island station to be opened for use by East Boston residents. In addition, MassDOT should look for other opportunities to secure parking near Blue Line stations.

Wu would also like to see MassDOT work with Massport to reduce airport car traffic.

"Reducing car trips to and from Logan Airport will help manage congestion in the Ted Williams Tunnel," Wu wrote. "We would like to see more substantial collaboration with Massport, including outreach, traveler and employee incentives, and enhanced transit, including Logan Express service."

Aside from MassDOT officials at previous community meetings leading up to the start of the project that MassDOT is "working with" emergency agencies and "planning" for emergency situations no one in Eastie has seen a concrete plan. At a press availability with MassDOT officials last week there were calls for Eastie residents to be provided with a solidified plan of emergency vehicle routes, designated hospitals that will be used, and projected travel times for emergency vehicles to Downtown during rush hour when the tunnel is closed.

"We are gravely concerned about the impact of the tunnel closures on emergency response times, especially for those in need of urgent transportation to a hospital," wrote Wu. "To address these concerns, MassDOT should share a detailed plan for ambulance access across the harbor and the steps taken to ensure that precious minutes are not lost in a medical emergency."

Wu also called for MassDOT to fund an overnight shift for Eastie's second EMS unit, which currently operates 16 hours/day. This will support adequate coverage when transport time for patients increases due to tunnel closure and allow proactive positioning of EMS units. Wu added that MassDOT should also establish a real-time link between the Highway Operations Center and Boston EMS dispatch to provide alerts on severe congestion or incidents in the Ted Williams Tunnel when the Sumner Tunnel is closed.

Wu's letter was signed by State Representative's Adrian Madaro, Jessica Giannino of Revere, Jeff Turco of Winthrop, State Senator Lydia Edwards, Boston City Councilors Gabriela Coletta and Ed Flynn and Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo.

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## OBITUARIES

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### Birthday Remembrance

## Rich Ford

June 19, 1980 - June 19, 2022



As each day passes, we miss you more and more, but today, on your birthday we miss you the most.

On this day that honors you, we pray that the Heavens above are rejoicing in your name, and also reminding you of how very special you are to us.

We will never forget you and how much you mean to us.

We Love You and Miss You Very Much  
Dad, Mom and Jennifer



# ORIENT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Orient Heights Neighborhood Council meeting is on Monday, June 20.  
Location: Zoom  
Meeting starts at 6:30 pm, but the Zoom link will open at 6 pm to get acclimated. The meeting will be recorded.  
Agenda  
• Announcements & General Presentations  
Public Safety  
Sergeant Joe Cintolo or Officer Tom Domenico and Officer Mosley provide an update on activity for Boston Police District A-7.  
Liz Meyer with Open Space and Recreation Plan

• Development Presentations & Vote  
972 Saratoga Street - La Fonda Restaurant is seeking a permanent live entertainment license.  
They had an abutters meeting on April 12th.  
New name, new ownership, since Spring of last year, on a temp license  
Issue for sound  
Has been operating on a temp license for a year  
Will have live music sometimes until 1am  
Weds and Friday-Sun  
There will be decibel monitoring  
• 100-102 Beachview Street

Presentation  
Deric Small  
Variances: Lot width, Building height, Front Yard, Side Yard, Rear Yard, Duplex, 2 levels  
Forbidden use  
Condos proposed  
Abutters meeting in May  
Property is zoned 1F, wanting to turn it into 2F  
Majority 1F neighborhood  
5 Breed Street - Seeking to erect a new building with 4 residential units.  
Presentation  
Variances seeking: FAR, Height, Parking  
Jeff Drago, Drago and

Toscano  
Remove curb cut, adds a parking space on the street  
Slab on grade - no digging  
No patios, rear roof deck (based on rear abutter feedback)  
Letter of support from rear abutter and from right/left abutter (rear abutter sold property being discussed)  
Asking for no parking sticker for building residents in writing  
• Adjournment  
Old Business / New Business / General Community Updates  
Have news you'd like to

share? Excited about a new effort in the neighborhood? Feel free to share any comments, feedback, updates, etc. during this time.  
The OHNC is currently looking for a new board to take over all roles (President, Vice President, and Secretary) as the current board terms are coming to a close this July.  
If you are thinking of running for the board feel free to contact any current board members with questions.  
Nomination of officers will be accepted at the June 20th 2022 meeting with nominations allowed

in written or verbal form at that time.  
Elections for the new board will be held at the July 18th 2022 meeting  
New officer duties will commence at the September 2022 meeting  
The next OHNC Design Review Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7th, 2022 at 6:00pm.  
The next OHNC meeting will be held on Monday, July 18th, 2022 at 6:30pm.  
Visit [www.ohnc.org](http://www.ohnc.org) for meeting information and protocol.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

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Docket No. SU22P0948EA  
Estate of: Thomas Stack  
Also Known As: Thomas P. Stack  
Date of Death: 6/17/2020  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Michael Vacchio of Lynn, MA  
A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Michael Vacchio of Lynn, 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 terminating 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.

6/15/22  
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# Eastie Farm, community honors outgoing manager

By John Lynds

Three years ago Alex Graora was looking for an AmeriCorps job online from his home in Cleveland, Ohio and stumbled upon an opportunity to work for an upstart community farm in East Boston.

Intrigued by the description of Eastie Farm and its mission in the neighborhood and reached out to Eastie Farm Founder and Director Kannan Thiruvengadam.

“I had a conversation with Kannan for about two hours and then three days later I moved all my stuff from Cleveland to here,” said Graora.

That was in October of 2019 but Graora never imagined five months later his work for Eastie Farm would become one of the most important jobs he’s ever had as the COVID pandemic hit the neighborhood particularly hard.

“Before the pandemic we were working in local schools and teaching about sustainable farming every Wednesday and Friday,”

explained Graora. “Between that we would have our volunteers at the Eastie Farm gardens working and doing some capital projects over at the Sumner Street location.”

But when the pandemic hit Eastie Farms, like many other nonprofit agencies in the area, was forced to reinvent themselves to deal with the sea of humanity dealing with joblessness and food insecurity.

“That’s when our food service really started to take off,” he said.

Soon Graora and Eastie Farm’s staff and volunteers were delivering 5,000 meals a week to Eastie residents in need.

“I was sort of the man on the ground while Kannan was organizing our relief efforts behind the scenes,” said Graora. “When I first started in 2019 I probably met five to 10 regular Eastie Farm volunteers but as soon as the pandemic started and the food service began we had tents set up and dozens of people coming down everyday to help us

deliver food to the hundreds of people that were coming daily. There were an insane amount of people. I met so many good people and that really opened up East Boston to me.”

Graora, who will be moving to Philadelphia to be closer to family, said he could have never imagined the impact Eastie Farm would have when he first signed up for the job.

“I guess you never really know what to expect when you accept any job but I could never have predicted what ended up happening in 2020,” said Graora. “I feel really proud of what we’ve done. When I came in we had one functioning garden and to see it go from three full time people to the 10 part time staffer and four full time staffers today complete with Eastie Farms’s new greenhouse is great. Eastie Farm has really grown as a nonprofit outside of all the food service work that we’ve done during the pandemic. I’ll look back on my time here really fondly. We’ve accomplished a lot and when people remind me I was only here for two and a half years, it really felt like a much longer time. It is bittersweet to be leaving. I mean, the whole thing is really bittersweet.”

Thiruvengadam said Graora has been the linchpin of Eastie Farm during its formative years and



Eastie Farm's outgoing manager Alex Graora was recently honored by the community for his service and dedication to the farm's mission and the people of East Boston throughout the pandemic. Graora is scene here at Eastie Farms' new greenhouse with Rep. Adrian Madaro, Sen. Lydia Edwards and Eastie Farm Founder and Director Kannan Thiruvengadam.

though he flew under the radar, his accomplishments are amazing.

“During the height of the pandemic, as food insecurity raged in our community, 300-600 hot meals went through his hands every day, to feed East Boston families,” said Thiruvengadam. “The logistics were made on the fly. Alex worked quickly knowing there were kids waiting eagerly for the food. He took on a highly ambitious project of a zero-emissions greenhouse, also during the pandemic, and diligently completed the hardest parts (geothermal drilling, delivery and construction of



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta honors Eastie Farm's outgoing manager Alex Graora.

the greenhouse) working through the permit process and quilting several grants and managing the ballooning expenses among supply-chain and contractor challenges. He played several roles during this project: grant-writer, project manager, general contractor, and ground supervisor to name a few.”

Thiruvengadam added that as the farm manager, he supported Eastie Farms’ now expansive food program and education program by ensuring safety

and convenience in the sites for these programs.

“Alex has been a godsend to Eastie Farm,” said Thiruvengadam. “We wish him a joyful voyage even as we know we will miss him dearly. We take comfort in the thought that wherever he is, he will have a positive impact on our world. We pray for his own wellness and happiness as he carries on in his service to others. And we hope that more young people will walk in his footsteps. Thank you, Alex.”



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