



# East Boston

## TIMES-FREE PRESS

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Wednesday, June 19, 2024

### EBHS CLASS OF 2024



East Boston High School 144th Graduation Exercises at Sartori Stadium. On Friday, June 14, 240 students received their diplomas in front of family and friends at Sartori Stadium behind Logan Airport. See pages 3-6 for EBHS Graduation Special Section.

## Water Quality Report Card

Boston Harbor's water, including Constitution Beach, was once again ranked among the safest in the country for beachgoers

Special to the Times-Free Press

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay released their 2023 Beach Season Water Quality Report Card at a press conference with Democratic Whip Congresswoman Katherine Clark, DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo, and other local and state leaders at Revere Beach last week.

This year's report card used data from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to survey the water quality of each of the region's public beaches in Lynn, Nahant, Revere,

Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.

2023 was the rainiest summer in the Boston area since 1955, resulting in an overall water quality safety rating of 85% for

the Boston Harbor area beaches, down from the previous dry year's 93% score.

In East Boston, Constitution Beach saw its overall rating drop to 88 percent from 97 percent in the 2022 dry year. The six-year average safety rating for Constitution Beach still has it with a healthy 93 percent safety rating.

"With temperatures expected to reach an all-time high this summer, it is essential that our urban beaches remain safe, clean, and accessible for families and residents to cool down and have fun,"

said East Boston State Representative Adrian Madaro. "An increase in our overall water quality safety rating reflects our ongoing commitment to

See WATER QUALITY Page 6



Headmaster Philip Brangiforte presents Juan Diego Gomez his diploma.



Headmaster Philip Brangiforte presents Omar DeJesus Pleitez his diploma.

### EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PROM



The senior class of East Boston High School gathered at an outside venue at the Logan Hyatt Regency Hotel for their 2024 prom. Shown are Sofia Alvarado and Addison Arguta enjoying the night. See Pages 12 and 13 for more photos.

## OHNC split on restaurant proposal at Monday's meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During its monthly meeting on Monday, the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) held a vote on a new Taqueria Jalisco restaurant location at 980 Saratoga Street, which is seeking a liquor license and is proposing to close at 1:00 a.m., which ended in a tie.

According to Attorney Ryan Gazda, the above-mentioned restaurant is planned to be "a new full-service restaurant, serving authentic Mexican

cuisine."

Moreover, he explained that the restaurant space is comprised of about 2,500 square feet and would have 75 indoor seats.

"My clients own and operate the existing Taqueria Jalisco at 291 Bennington Street, which they have operated successfully for approximately 20 years since 2004, and they're now excited for the opportunity to open a sister restaurant here in Orient Heights," said Gazda.

Gazda also indicated that the plan is for the

restaurant to be open for seven days and expanded on the proposed closure time. Gazda referred to the 1:00 a.m. closing as "aspirational" and that he guessed that on slower nights, the restaurant would close much earlier.

He also emphasized that this establishment is "restaurant-forward" compared to others in the area with late closing times and indicated that the floor plans only contain seven counter-bar seats. Moreover, there are no plans for live entertainment.

Regarding the next steps, Gazda indicated that they have filed an application with the licensing board but have not been scheduled for a hearing yet. He anticipates that the hearing will be scheduled sometime in July.

"This is all strictly aspirational based upon what the state might do with the pending legislation, but the hope here is that licenses will come into East Boston and that Taqueria Jalisco, who has been a

See OHNC Page 2



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# East Boston

Times-Free Press

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## GET READY FOR THE HEAT

With the weatherman forecasting the first heat wave of the season for our region this week, all of us should take precautions to ensure that we do not fall victim to heat stroke or other heat-related stress to our bodies.

A heat wave officially comprises three straight days of 90+ temperatures and forecasters are telling us that we could have four 90+ days with little relief at night. Our readers may be surprised to learn that more than 1200 Americans die every year from extreme heat, making heat the deadliest kind of extreme weather. By contrast, flooding, though more sensational when viewed on our TV screens, kills fewer than 100 Americans each year. In addition, it is widely believed that those 1200 deaths are a significant undercount because persons with health issues who succumb to heat may not have been deemed to have died from heat.

Although senior citizens and those with underlying health conditions are the most susceptible to the dangers of excessive heat, even young and healthy individuals can succumb to heat stroke if they do not take it easy. With our region plunging from typically cool, spring weather right into the heat, those who work outside (or who work out on a daily basis) have not had time to adjust, both mentally and physically, to the onset of the extreme heat.

However, we are not the only ones facing extreme heat these days. Extreme heat is a world-wide phenomenon thanks to the effects of climate change. Heat records have been set in recent days across the globe, from Greece to India to the Philippines. Every month for the past 12 months has set a world record for that month (in other words, May was the hottest-ever May, April the hottest-ever April, etc.) and June is on track to make it 13 months in a row (which means that this June will break last June's record for the hottest-ever June).

The National Weather Service is providing a new way to gauge the risk from extreme heat. In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it has launched a tool called HeatRisk which allows users to search a map of the United States to figure out their level of threat, ranging between one (little to no risk) and four (extreme risk).

For those of us lucky enough to live near the coastline, a dip in the ocean will offer a respite from the heat wave. But those of us who have sampled the ocean in the past few weeks have noticed another ominous sign of climate change -- the water temperature already has been far above normal. Instead of the extremity-chilling temps that are typical for May and early June, the water temp at the beaches around Boston Harbor actually has been pleasant. So the good news is that it's been warm enough to go for a swim -- but the bad news is that the record high ocean temps are a threat to all marine life and a major contributor to rising sea levels.

Finally, the combination of the hot atmosphere and the hot ocean increases the chances of extreme weather events such as hurricanes and inundating rainfall, which is occurring in southern Florida right now.

We urge all of our readers not to underestimate the effects of extreme heat and to take it easy over the next few days.

## BANNER NO. 18!

The Celtics' convincing victory in Game 5 on Monday that clinched the Celtics' 18th NBA championship was great fun for fans old and young alike.

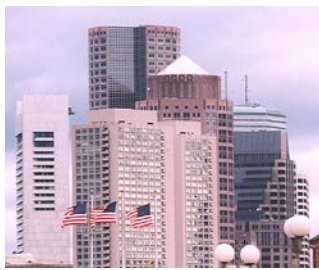
For those of us who cherish our "Havlicek Stole the Ball" album and who recall watching the Bill Russell-led Celtics clinch their 1969 NBA title in Game 7 at Los Angeles in dramatic fashion (we had to stay up late on a school night because the game was played on the West Coast), the chance to surpass the hated-Lakers for the most NBA titles was one of the most-satisfying aspects of the 2024 title.

In addition, this edition of the Celtics laid to rest whether they had that special quality that separates champions from the rest of the pack. After the disappointment of being knocked out in the first round last year, and the collapse against Golden State in the finals two years ago, even the most-ardent Celtic fans had to wonder whether JT, JB, & Co. had what it takes to be the best -- and they answered that question in commanding fashion.

Still, when we consider that this was the Celtics' first title in 16 years and only the second in almost 40 years, it makes us realize how special these championship moments are in the world of sports today. By contrast, the Celtics won 16 NBA titles over a 30-year span from 1957 to 1986. That's more than half of the NBA crowns spanning two generations of Boston sports fans.

But those days when Bill, Dave, and Larry ruled the NBA are long gone. The NBA is big business now -- the extended playoffs literally are a second season -- and attracts the best players from all over the world. The post-game commentators noted that there are more excellent teams who will be shooting to knock off the Celtics than at any time in the history of the NBA. As good as this talented young group may be, we cannot expect that they can create the sort of dynasties that marked the Celtics' teams of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s.

So let's savor the moment -- and get ready for a joyous victory parade!



# Forum

## WU HOLDS COFFEE HOUR AT NOYES PLAYGROUND

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department recently hosted a 2024 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin'® in East Boston on May 29, at Noyes Playground for residents.

Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours offered Jamaica Plain residents a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods.

"Every neighborhood and every resident has their own diverse set of concerns that deserve to

not only be heard, but to be acknowledged and addressed," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am excited for all of the conversations and connection that came from Neighborhood Coffee Hours."

"Coffee Hours with the Mayor is an intentional effort to meet community members in the heart of their neighborhoods," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "I encourage residents, including our youth, seniors, civic organizations, business owners, and local leaders to attend this neighborhood-centered event. Bos-

ton 311 will be present to connect residents to essential city services."

Dunkin' was on-site with freshly brewed Iced Coffee and MUNCHKINS® donut hole treats. Dunkin' will have lawn games and gift card giveaways. Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'. Individuals in attendance will receive a free flowering plant provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, while supplies last. Fresh fruit will be provided by Star Market.

"Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours are vi-

tal for community engagement, allowing residents to share their thoughts directly. We're grateful for their participation," noted Ryan Woods, Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. "These events not only foster dialogue but also mark the kickoff for our exciting summer calendar of events. From outdoor concerts to movies to arts and crafts workshops for kids, our programming breathes life into our parks, fulfilling our core mission of creating vibrant spaces for all to enjoy."

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY ISABEL LEON



Shown (above and below) Mayor Wu talks with residents.



Water was available to all.



The City of Boston table provided access to information on and sign-ups for services throughout the City.

## OHNC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

member of the community here for 20 years, is a deserving applicant," said Gazda.

"They have a proven track record as a responsible operator, and of course, they would love to have your support as we move forward."

After Gazda's presentation, the floor was open to questions and comments. One resident asked if they would still move forward with plans without the liquor license, to which Gazda said yes.

Another resident who welcomed the restaurant in the neighborhood pushed back on the proposed 1:00 a.m. closing time out of fears that it might entice the applicants to come back to the neighborhood for live entertainment, noise issues, and more.

Gazda acknowledged the concerns and added, "We're trying to be in line with what's present

now in the community to also remain economically competitive with the other restaurants in the area to give them a fair shot."

Another resident raised concerns about the 1:00 a.m. closing time, and Gazda indicated that the owners are willing to work with the community to potentially come to a compromise if that is a hurdle.

An attendee asked if the owners' other restaurant had a liquor license, to which Gazda said no. He was also asked if the other location would stay open, to which Gazda said yes.

Several other comments were made about the proposal. Ultimately, the OHNC did not reach a majority position in opposition or support, as the vote ended 8-8, with one voter abstaining. The next OHNC meeting is scheduled for July 15.

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# EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

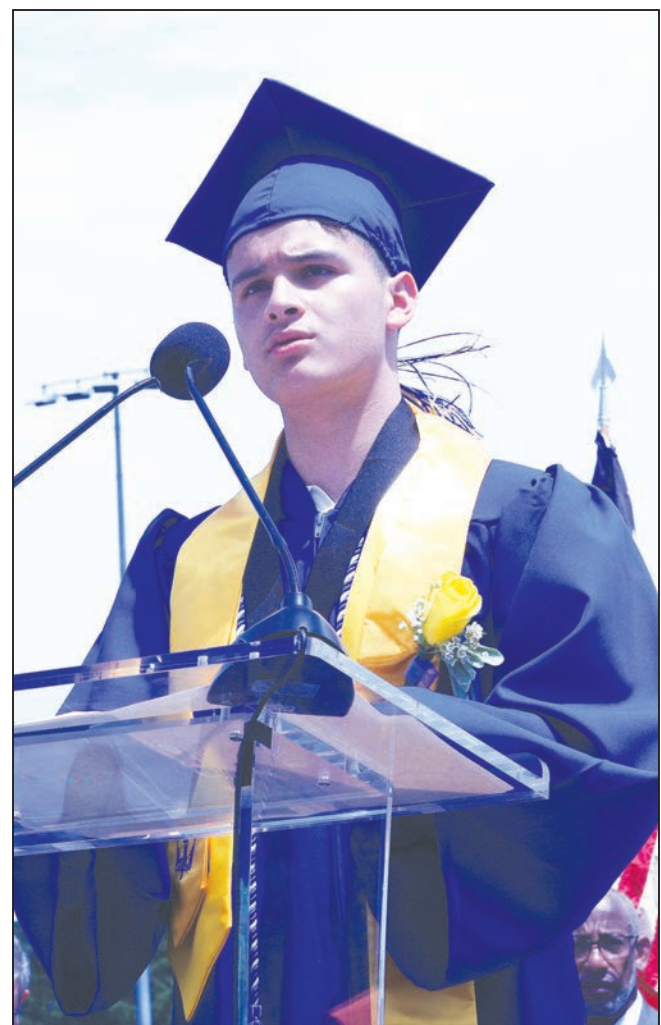


Amid blazing sunshine, graduation took place on Friday morning, June 14 at Sartori Stadium. Shortly after 11 a.m, the graduates, girls in yellow and boys in blue filed into the stadium and took their seats in a reserved from section. The exercises began with the Posting of the Colors led by the JROTC color guard, the singing

of the National Anthem by Gabriel Rosa and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Dave Arinella '70 who acted as master of ceremonies. Headmaster Philip Brangiforte introduced honored guests that included Judith Blanco, assistant headmaster; Tommy Welch, School Superintendent for Area 1; Michael

O'Neill, vice-chairperson of the Boston School Committee; Albert Vasallo who delivered the Keynote address, Michael Rubin, headmaster-emeritus; State Rep Adrian Madaro, State Senator Lydia Edwards and City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. The salutatorian address was presented by Juan Diego Gomez and the valedictorian

by Omar DeJesus Pleitez. The graduates then lined up to receive their diplomas from Headmaster Brangiforte, greeted their teachers in a receiving line and gathered for a final class picture at mid field. Diplomas were presented to 240 graduates.



Valedictorian Omar DeJesus Pleitez.



Members of the EBHS Class of 2024 are ready to receive their diplomas.



Abdulshakur Farah Abdullahi Nur gets his diploma from Headmaster Philip Brangiforte.



Anastasia Maeve Agostinelli receives her diploma.



Kevin Joseph Alas Gavarrete received his diploma.



Salutatorian Juan Diego Gomez.



**Class of 2024 Graduates,**  
 your hard work has paid off. Embrace the future with confidence and continue to make us proud.  
**Congratulations!**




**Lydia Edwards**  
 State Senator

**Congratulations E.B.H.S. Graduating Class of 2024**




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**Congratulations Class of 2024!**



**State Rep. Adrian Madaro**





# EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Master of Ceremonies Dave Arinella welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Keynote speaker Albert Vasallo III addresses the Graduating East Boston High School Class of 2024.



Gabriel Rosa performed the National Anthem.



The Keynote Address made by Alberto Vasallo III.



Boston City Councillor Gabriela Coletta Zapata talks with EBHS Valedictorian Omar DeJesus Pleitez.



Boston School Committee "Greetings" from Michael O'Neill.



Headmaster of East Boston High School Phillip Brangiforte with his address.



The East Boston High School JROTC presents the colors to start the program.



State Representative Adrian Madaro and State Senator Lydia Edwards were at the ceremony.



Keynote speaker Alberto Vasallo III talks things over with Omar DeJesus Pleitez, the 2024 EBHS Valedictorian.



The class of 2024 gathering and lining up before the ceremony.





SCENES FROM EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR



Some of the graduating football players and coaches.



Some of the graduating basketball players and coaches.



Shown (above and below) are the Class of 2024 line up for the entrance to the exercises at Sartori Stadium.



Shown (above and below) are the graduates in line to receive their diplomas from Headmaster Philip Brangiforte.



*Graduation... is not the end, it's the beginning*







## EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



### East Boston HS Class of 2023

Omar De Jesus Pleitez \* ^ \*\*\*  
 Juan Diego Gomez \*\* ^ \*\*\*  
 Abdulshakur Farah Abdullahi Nur  
 Anastasia Maeve Agostinelli  
 Kevin Joseph Alas Gavarrete  
 Jose Manuel Alas  
 Jarek Joseph Alexander  
 Andres Antonio Alfaro Iraheta Jr.  
 Bryan Jose Alfaro Ortez  
 Yensi Lineth Alfaro Reyes  
 Andre Lindel Allen  
 Carly Ryann Allen  
 Sofia Gisela Alvarado Ascencio \*\*\*  
 Melanie Janetsy Aponte  
 Kenny Erain Arevalo  
 Velinda Yadeli Argueta Reyes  
 Andrea Mercedes Ayala Gonzalez  
 Kenia Yaritza Ayala  
 Adem Ayed  
 Cristian Alberto Bautista  
 Zulema Lisseth Benitez Maldonado  
 Erick Alexander Bermudez  
 Joshua Berrio Gonzalez  
 Cristian Bojorquez  
 Ever Jose Breve Benitez  
 Hayleigh Kathryn Burhoe  
 Nasly Valentina Bustamante  
 Erismel Cabrera Pacheco  
 Manuela Calderon Cadavid \*\*\*  
 Dennis Andres Calderon  
 Huberto Adolfo Calderon  
 Kevin Oswaldo Calderon  
 Nicolas Calderon  
 Damanni Joe Caldwell  
 Gavin Calles  
 Mychell Jesus Candido De Souza  
 Osmin Castaneda  
 Jose Alberto Castro Barillas  
 James Abisay Chacon Tejada  
 Josue Geovanny Chavez  
 Benjamin Gonzalo Chub Chun  
 Alexandra Maria Collado  
 Dajahlee Arianna Copeland  
 Oscar Hernan Corea Gomez  
 Zyianna Alike Coren-Payoutc  
 Yuleisy Maribi Crespo Hohl  
 Emely Janette Cruz Rodriguez \*\*\* ^  
 Esperanza Guadalupe Cruz Rodriguez ^  
 Julie Cyprien  
 Mateus Cristian Da Rocha Ferreira  
 Yeison Fabricio De Jesus  
 Samantha Navidad De Leon Argueta  
 Echilei Camili De Souza  
 Jacob RL Delmuto  
 Vanessa Rose Delvecchio  
 Katharine Mishell Duarte Sanchez  
 Yesenia Guadalupe Dubon Landaverde  
 Leidi Noemi Dubon Mendez  
 Tyler James Duncan  
 Sofia Espinosa Valencia  
 Josue Manuel Figueroa Alvarado  
 Ashlyn Sarahi Feliciano Nazario  
 Jeancarlos Flores  
 Dezaray Marie Foley  
 Paul Steven Fortes  
 Sara Andrea Franco Giraldo  
 Jose Antonio Fuentes Hernandez  
 Elias Jose Galdamez  
 Rafael Junior Gamez  
 Alejandro Garcia  
 Angelyce Lexus Garcia  
 Sofia Fernanda Garcia  
 Valentina Giraldo Arango  
 Adriano Nolberto Gomez Garcia \*\*\*  
 O’Ryan Juanbryan Gomez Scruggs  
 Jean Gustavo Goncalves De Souza  
 Brian Andres Gonzalez Sandoval  
 Rogelio Gonzalez Velasquez  
 Kevin Jamal Gonzalez  
 Marvin Eduardo Guerra Garza  
 Yuldana Guerrero Areiza  
 Johanna Gabriella Guevara  
 Cristian Daniel Hercules

Sara Yaritza Hernandez Berrios  
 Alex Orlando Hernandez Franco  
 Eliasaro Hernandez Rodriguez  
 Luis Alfredo Hernandez  
 Anthony Alexander Herrera  
 Jacob Ray Hicks ^  
 Trung Quang Tahj Ho  
 Kyle Hui  
 Jyeir Omari Emmanuel Hyppolite  
 Valerie Margaret Iturralde  
 Marcone Dutra Kerr  
 Edward Joseph Kinney Jr.  
 Rigoberto Lainez Vega  
 Gerardo Alonso Landaverde Carranza  
 Omar Landaverde Morales  
 Wendy Beatriz Landaverde Perdido  
 Cristian Javier Lazo Garcia  
 Jasmine Le  
 Camdyn Raymond Leger  
 Berta Marisol Leiva Garcia  
 Jorge Alexander Leiva \*\*\*  
 Angie Paola Lemus Palomo  
 Jose Alexander Lemus Reyes  
 Josue Miguel Lima Guerra  
 Patricia Yasmin Lizama Euceda  
 Melanie Marisela Lobos \*\*\* ^  
 Salome Lopera Rojo \*\*\*  
 Jefferson Mateo Lopez Guzman  
 Ana Sofia Lopez Sepulveda  
 Joshua Alberto Magana  
 Larissa Malaquias Lima  
 Heidi Lisseth Mancia Gutierrez  
 Katherine Steffany Marquez Dominguez  
 Gabriela Guadalupe Marquez  
 Vanessa Aracely Marroquin  
 Teresa De Gestrudis Martinez Castaneda  
 Melvin Jose Martinez Figueroa  
 Isabella Martinez Quintero  
 Cristian Hernan Martinez  
 Danna Elizabeth Martinez  
 Katie Vanessa Martinez  
 Jeffrey Anthony Mayorga  
 Delia Elizabeth Burke McCrary  
 Aliani Damalix Medina Ramirez \*\*\*  
 Oscar Hannibal Medrano  
 Jasmin Mejia \*\*\*  
 Grace Alexandra Melendez  
 Diana Yesenia Melgar Melgar \*\*\* ^  
 Angel Steven Melgar  
 Bryan Ader Mendozamiron  
 Juliet Marie Milano  
 Ahmed Zaed Hamza Mohamed  
 Lucas Molina Lopera \*\*\*  
 Andrea Elizabeth Morales  
 Mauricio Alfonso Moran Orellana  
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Cheryl Jeannette Pleitez Martinez \*\*\*  
 Oscar Emanuel Pomales  
 Marilyn Alexandra Portillo Umana  
 Laura Daniela Pulido Casas  
 Marisa Isabel Ramirez Acevedo  
 Elvin Humberto Ramirez Sanchez  
 Rigoberto Abimael Ramos Solorzano  
 Gabriela Elizabeth Ramos  
 Ilyass Rebbal  
 Arbey Restrepo Restrepo  
 Luciana Restrepo Rojo  
 Isabel Mia Reyes Bartolon \*\*\*  
 Wilfredo Alexander Reyes Coca \*\*\*  
 Evelyn Cecilia Reyes Marroquin  
 Andy Adrian Reyes Vasquez  
 Cindy Carolina Reyes Vasquez \*\*\*  
 Brian Alexander Reyes  
 Carlos Ariel Reyes  
 Sheila Adriana Richards  
 Alexandra Damaris Rivera Suarez ^  
 Brayan Antoni Roblero Bail  
 Yimmy Stiben Roblero Reynoso  
 Jenifer Suellen Rodrigues Da Silva  
 Yamiguelis Marie Rodriguez Santiago #  
 Eric Mauricio Rodriguez  
 Jadalys Marie Rodriguez  
 Lune Rodriguez  
 Misael Isaac Rodriguez  
 Omar Ferney Rojo Vanegas  
 Luciana Roldan Medina \*\*\*  
 David Romero  
 Duban Salazar  
 Kevin Fabian Salazar  
 Christian Robert Sanders  
 Jakih Messiah Sanders  
 Jasmine Sandoval Figueroa  
 Kenia Vanessa Santos Garcia  
 Elizabeth Santos  
 Miguel Angel Santos  
 Krystal Alexza Serrano ^  
 Keith Xavier Splaine  
 Sara Ivonne Taborda #  
 Brian Oswald Tejada  
 Draggo Benjamin Tejada Feliz  
 Mayori Tejada Fernandez \*\*\*  
 Yermayori Tejada Fernandez \*\*\*  
 Leisvith Mariet Tejada Guerrero  
 Arnold Terna Maldonado  
 Jacob Anthony Thomas  
 Ryan Zachary Thomas  
 Luis fernando Tomas Roblero  
 Jecsan Javier Torres Flores  
 Anthony Juelz Torres  
 Dylan Gadiel Torres  
 William Adolfo Torres  
 Ismael Trigueros Juarez  
 Gianna Troville  
 Brayan Alexander Tzib Cae  
 Mateo Uribe Martinez  
 Kelly Johana Urrego Lopera  
 Liliana Judith Vargas Bonilla \*\*\* ^  
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 Robert Therodore Wisniewski  
 Ariana Briseyda Zetino

\* Valedictorian

\*\* Salutatorian

\*\*\* Seal of Biliteracy

# Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction

^ National Honor Society

## Water Quality // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ensuring that everyone can enjoy our beautiful beaches.”

Despite the frequent heavy rainstorms, Constitution Beach remained one of nine area beaches that scored over 88 percent this year, with South Boston’s beaches once again defending their title as the cleanest urban beaches in the country.

“Even amid all the ecological challenges of last year’s historic rainfall, our beaches were able to persevere and continue welcoming visitors,” said Clark. “That resilience was a policy choice — the result of transformational investments in Boston Harbor. Now, we have to make another choice:

mobilizing unprecedented action to brace these treasures against the impacts of climate change.

“That’s why I’m fighting every day to bring home our share of the historic climate investments we’ve enacted under President Biden.”

Save the Harbor hopes their annual report card makes it easy to understand how safe and clean these places are, even as they work to address the effect of sea level rise on recreational beaches and the impact of increasing storms on water quality in some areas.

The dizzying amount of precipitation amplifies the significant effort still required to raise the stan-

dard on some beaches like King’s Beach in Lynn, which scored a record low of 55% in the wet season.

“King’s Beach is an outlier in the Boston area,” said Save the Harbor Executive Director Chris Mancini. “It’s a difficult and complex infrastructure challenge that has required dozens of meetings between stakeholders at every level of community and government. We’re very lucky to have such a committed, collaborative group from Lynn, Swampscott, the state and the federal government focused on trying to turn this beach around.”

Arrigo said the DCR is committed to ensuring the beaches are safe, clean

and swimmable spaces for families and residents to cool down at.

“Despite last year’s record rainfall, our Metro Boston beaches continue to be some of the cleanest in the country,” said Arrigo. “Throughout the summer, DCR conducts regular water quality testing at all of our waterfronts, and we work diligently with our partners at the Department of Public Health to post the results to our website and Park Alerts Page as quickly as possible. We’re grateful to our partners like Save the Harbor and the legislators on the Metro Beaches Commission for their support in ensuring our beaches are welcoming places and

our residents have clean water for recreation.”

Save the Harbor Deputy Director Kristen Barry noted that in urban infrastructure, an inch of rain can quickly flush out bacteria that builds up in drains and stormwater pipes, making some days where it is unsafe to swim. “That bacteria is the main public health concern — the good news is we have a 9-foot tide cycle twice a day and within 24 hours our beaches are again as clean as ever,” said Barry.

Currently the beaches use a posting and flagging system to alert the public to high bacteria levels. But the best technology available takes 24 hours to re-

turn results, meaning by the time the posting goes up, the information is already out of date.

“Until technology can catch up, our best advice is to follow the 24-hour rule and simply wait a day after a significant rainfall before returning to water,” said Mancini. “Except in South Boston where you can swim every day of the year. In the meantime, the Report Card has been a great tool to show the great overall quality of our urban beaches. We hope it will give people the confidence to get out and enjoy our spectacular state beaches.”



## ATLANTIC WORKS GALLERY HOLDS ‘THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW’ EXHIBIT

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Atlantic Works Gallery (AWG) held the opening reception for “The View from My Window,” a solo exhibition featuring large-scale grid drawings by Leigh Hall, on June 8.

“These are all botanical – grapevines, trees, ferns, and plant tendrils,” said Hall, who had a long career in design and production. “I deliberately did even lines because I wanted to get rid of depth and

color, and flatten it out.”

Hall’s technique has evolved from creating the drawings on the walls on site to composing them at home with black acid-free tape on drawing paper that is sealed with an acrylic medium. The easily-stored tiles can then be installed in gallery spaces.

An earlier version of the series was on display in Emerson College.

“When I saw it hanging in a grid, it reminded me of panes on a window. If I

had a window overlooking Boston Common, it might look like this,” chuckled former East Boston resident, Hall, now of Winthrop.

Hall’s vision of her tape drawings began in 2000, when she started exploring digital photography. She was intrigued by the patterns of images that were out of focus.

“I had a photo that was blurry,” described Hall. “It was the shapes that interested me, and I wanted to

convey that.”

“The View from My Window” will be on display through June 29. Attend the third Thursday reception on June 20, 6-9pm. Atlantic Works Gallery, located at 80 Border Street, East Boston, is open Fridays and Saturdays, 2-6pm, or by appointment. For more information visit [www.AtlanticWorks.org](http://www.AtlanticWorks.org) or email [Leigh@LeighHall.net](mailto:Leigh@LeighHall.net).



Friends gathering at the opening reception of “The View from My Window,” at the Atlantic Works Gallery, on June 8.



Leigh Hall with her tape drawing, “Grapevine.”



Daniel and Sara Gaviani, in front of, “Ferns.”



Jean Bernstein, Leigh Hall, and Rachel Shatil.

## Malden Catholic celebrates 89th Commencement

On Saturday, May 18, Malden Catholic celebrated the 89th Commencement ceremony with 188 graduates from the Boys and Girls Divisions. Ariana Noe of East Boston was among those who graduated.

The Class of 2024 commencement was held in the Doherty Gymnasium with more than 1,000 family members, faculty and staff in attendance.

The ceremony started with an invocation by Malden Catholic Principal Jeffrey P. Smith '95, P'24, '26 and was followed with the MC Girls Division's Valedictory Address by Grace Ryan '24 of Medford. Ryan encouraged fel-

low graduates to embrace the journey with courage, learn from each misstep, and craft a future that resonates with your true self. She stated how each choice and experience is a step towards becoming the person you are meant to be.

The presentation of candidates by Malden Catholic Principal Jeffrey P. Smith '95, P'24, '26, Boys Division Leader Robert Gregory, Girls Division Leader Jeanne Lynch-Galvin P'16, Dean of Students Gary M. Moela and Dean of Community, Culture and Equity Erga Pierrette '21,'23,'27 was followed by the conferral of diplomas by MC

President John K. Thornburg. Rocco Carbone '24 of Medford then delivered the MC Boys Division's Valedictory Address where he commented on how each moment is a chance to learn, grow, and make a positive impact. He encouraged his classmates to step forward with confidence, knowing that the journey ahead is full of possibilities.

Malden Catholic 2024 graduates will attend some of the country's most prestigious colleges and universities including Harvard, American University, University of Washington, Wellesley College, University of Notre Dame, Northeastern

University, Boston College, Boston University, College of the Holy Cross, Morehouse College, Purdue University, Johns Hopkins University and Ohio State University, just to list a few.

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some

of the nation's most renowned universities including Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, University of Chicago, Georgetown, Cornell, Brown, Tufts, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Notre Dame, Northeastern, Boston College and College of the Holy Cross. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular op-

portunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program. Malden Catholic curricula is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles and success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org>.

## BPDA Board approves 9 Geneva Street Project

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During a meeting last week, the Boston Planning & Development Agency's (BPDA) Board approved a project to bring several units to 9 Geneva Street.

According to Daniel Polanco, a Project Manager with the BPDA, the project involves constructing a five-story residential building with 28 units, five of which are inclusionary development policy (IDP) units. It is also slated to have a maximum of 16 parking spaces and a minimum of 34 interior bike spaces.

“The proposed project will provide community benefits for the East Boston neighborhood in the City of Boston and will result in improving the pedestrian experience along Geneva Street with the installation of new sidewalks, street trees, landscaping, and visitor bike parking,” said Polanco.

After Polanco introduced the project, Ilana Haimes, a Zoning Compliance Planner at the BPDA, outlined its planning context.

Haimes indicated that the project is situated in the East Boston Residential (EBR)-4 zoning subdistrict under new zoning, which the Boston Zoning Commission adopted in April. As previously noted,

Polanco indicated that the building's height was five stories, and in the EBR-4 subdistrict, the maximum number of stories is four. However, Haimes described the height of the building as four stories above the design flood elevation.

“The proposed project is located in the coastal flood resilience overlay district, which requires new construction to meet resilient design standards,” said Haimes.

“These standards include elevating the building above the base flood elevation for the year 2070 and limiting the uses that can be located below the design flood elevation.”

She later added that the proposed height of four stories above the design flood elevation was consistent with zoning.

It should also be noted that Haimes indicated that the project would need zoning relief for building width, the rear setback, and the maximum floor plate. She also mentioned that relief is recommended for the rear setback because of the lot's irregular shape.

Shortly after Haimes' presentation, Attorney Richard Lynds outlined a brief presentation of the project. Lynds indicated that over the last 18 and a half months, the project team has been hard at work

developing the project with entities like the BPDA and Gove Street Citizens Association.

“I think people are pretty happy to see this project move forward,” said Lynds, who indicated that the project would involve the demolition of an auto repair facility that has been at the site for more than 60 years, which he described as an eyesore.

As his presentation progressed, Lynds walked through some photos of the site and reiterated that the project team would cooperate with other developers on Geneva Street to improve the roadway.

Moreover, Lynds also indicated that a courtyard consisting of around 5,000 square feet of open space will be included in the rear of the building.

To wrap up the presentation, Donnie Garrity from O'Sullivan Architects walked through other plans, elevations, and features, including a dog park, the building being all-electric, and more, before the project went to a vote.

The Board's Chair, Priscilla Rojas, was the only member who commented or asked a question about the project. She complimented the dog park and backyard amenity space. Ultimately, the Board unanimously approved the project.

### BOSTON LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS & PLANNING REPORT (ESPR) INFORMATION SESSION

Massport will host a public information session (in-person & virtual) on the 2022 Logan Environmental Status & Planning Report (2022 Logan ESPR). This hybrid information session will be in English and Spanish.

The hybrid information session will take place:  
**Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.**  
**Cathy Leonard-McLean Community Room**  
**Logan Airport Rental Car Center\***  
**15 Transportation Way**  
**East Boston, MA 02128**

To access the meeting link and for more information, please visit:  
[www.massport.com/logan-airport/about-logan/environmental-reports/](http://www.massport.com/logan-airport/about-logan/environmental-reports/)

Additional languages for the Public Information Session on the 2022 Logan ESPR will be available upon request. Requests for additional languages are due by Friday, June 21, 2024. For more information or to request translation services please contact [community@massport.com](mailto:community@massport.com).

Massport requested an extension of the public comment period for the 2022 Logan ESPR, which began on June 7, 2024, and will last for approximately 60 days until the close of public comments on August 6, 2024.

Written comments on the ESPR may be submitted by August 6, 2024 to the following address:

**The Honorable Rebecca L. Tepper, Secretary**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**Attn: MEPA Office**  
**Jennifer Hughes, EEA No. 3247**  
**100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900**  
**Boston, MA 02114**

Electronic comments may also be submitted on the MEPA Public Comments Portal at:  
<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicComment/Landing/>

Please note that an electronic copy of the 2022 Logan ESPR is available on Massport's website at:  
[www.massport.com/massport/about-massport/project-environmental-filings/logan-airport/](http://www.massport.com/massport/about-massport/project-environmental-filings/logan-airport/)

Hard copies of the 2022 Logan ESPR may be obtained by emailing Brad Washburn at [bwashburn@massport.com](mailto:bwashburn@massport.com) during the public comment period.

\*The Rental Car Center is accessible via the MBTA Blue Line Airport Station then use of Massport's On-Airport Shuttle (Route 22, 33 and 55).





# EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES FINAL LACROSSE GAME

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Coch Father Dan Zinger with EBCCS boys' lacrosse team, from grades 4-8. See Page 9 for more photos.



Coch John Macaluso and the EBCCS girls' lacrosse team, from grades 4-8.

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Lusiantonio Rivero jumping, surrounded by Jason Figueroa, Santiago Ruiz, and David Quiroz.

## JUNETEENTH TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Delayed pick-up service begins on Wednesday 6/19.

### Neighborhoods on a **Regular** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Back Bay
- Bay Village
- Beacon Hill
- Charlestown
- Chinatown
- Downtown Boston
- Fenway-Kenmore
- Mission Hill
- Wharf District
- North End
- Roxbury
- South End
- West End

### Neighborhoods on a **Delayed** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Allston
- Brighton
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- Hyde Park
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roslindale
- South Boston
- West Roxbury

Please note that all neighborhoods will run on a regular collection schedule on Monday & Tuesday.



Ibelis Diaz and Camila Correa celebrating a score.



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## EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES FINAL LACROSSE GAME

East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) celebrated their final lacrosse game of the season with a pizza party on June 5 at LoPresti Park. When EBCCS started offering lacrosse last year, only two students were familiar with the sport. Now there

are 40 players, in grades 4-8, who are enthusiastic, keen athletes.

“We taught them how to play the game and basic

skills. It’s amazing how everything came together,” said boys’ lacrosse coach, Father Dan Zinger, who is proud of how hard

the students work. “They like the camaraderie, learning something new, the competition, and being outside in a big field next

to the ocean.” The red girls’ team won the final game of the season 4:2, and the boys’ yellow team won 6:3.



Luisantonio Rivero reaching for Santiago Ruiz as he jumps.



Anayah Augustave being chased by Alexia Palma, Alana Newhook, Elena Gonzalez, and Samara Mejia.



Kayla Gomes being chased by Alyson Rozzi, Mia Santillana, and Anayah Augustave.



Allen Maria throwing the ball.



Mia Macaluso and Victoria Rodriguez.



Carlos Hincapie Gutierrez and Diego Garcia.

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Rao's Pasta Sauce.....	\$7.99
Hellmann's Mayonnaise 30 oz.....	\$5.99
Barilla Pasta .....	4/ \$5.00
(ex: gluten free-protein-tortellini-pasta ready)	
Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice 64 oz.....	2/ \$5.00
(ex: 100%)	
Capri Sun Drinks.....	2/ \$6.00
Xtra Laundry Detergent .....	2/ \$6.00
Hunts Snack Pack .....	4/ \$5.00
Knorr Rice or Pasta Side Dishes .....	4/ \$5.00
Sweet Baby Rays Barbecue Sauce.....	3/ \$5.00
Smart Ones Entrees.....	2/ \$4.00
Cool Whip.....	2/ \$4.00
Pepperidge Farm Layer Cakes .....	\$3.99
Newman's Own Lemonade.....	2/ \$6.00
Hood Sour Cream 16 oz.....	2/ \$4.00

#### Bakery

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David's Cake Slices .....	2/ \$7.00
8" Blueberry Pie .....	\$7.99

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Green Giant Baby Carrots 1 lb pkg .....	2/ \$3.00
Fresh & Sweet Plump Blueberries full pint pkg..	2/ \$6.00

#### Deli

Krakus Imported Polish Ham.....	\$6.99/lb
Belgioioso Slicing Provolone.....	\$5.99/lb
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Kayem Natural Casing Franks.....	\$5.99/lb
Hans Kiesel Cranberry Walnut Chicken Salad .....	\$13.99/lb

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Blade Steaks .....	\$5.99/lb
Grade A Drumsticks .....	99¢/lb
Grade A Boneless Chicken Thighs .....	\$3.29/lb
Baby Back Pork Ribs .....	\$4.29/lb
Fenway Meat Franks.....	2/ \$9.00
Oscar Mayer Bacon 12 oz pkg.....	\$8.99

#### Weekend Specials

Friday, June 21st through Sunday, June 23rd

*"while supplies last"*

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#### PRODUCE

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#### MEAT

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## EAST BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PAYS TRIBUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS

On Thursday, June 6, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce held a special celebration to honor its past Presidents who have presided over the Chamber and its Board of Directors. A barbecue and coffee were served to the past Presidents and a moment of silence was observed to commemorate those who have passed away. Special tribute was given for Albert "Buddy" Mangini by City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. Citations were bestowed upon the past Presidents along with a token of their service to the community in the form of a key to the city. In attendance included past presidents Diane Modica, Jim Kearney, Marisa DiPietro, and Karina Barreto representing Veronica Robles. Also attending were City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Yamina Latchmi from Senator Lydia Edwards' office,

and Steven Gringas from Representative Adrian Madaro's office. Chamber members were in attendance along with long time business community supporters and today's Chamber President, Shirley Fabbo. This event celebrated the rich and diverse history of the Chamber and the ever changing business landscape we have here in East Boston.

El jueves, 6/6/24, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston celebró un evento especial para honrar a sus expresidentes que han presidido la Cámara y su Junta Directiva. Se sirvieron una barbacoa y café a los expresidentes y se observó un momento de silencio para conmemorar a aquellos que han fallecido. La Concejal Gabriela Coletta Zapata rindió un homenaje especial a Albert "Buddy" Mangini. Se otorgaron reconocimientos a los expresidentes junto con un símbolo de su



Past President Diane Modica toasting with a cup of coffee.

servicio a la comunidad en forma de una llave de la ciudad. Entre los asistentes se encontraban los expresidentes Diane Modica, Jim Kearney, Marisa DiPietro, y Karina Barreto en representación de Veronica Robles. También asistieron la Concejal Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Yamina Latchmi de la oficina de la Senadora Lydia Edwards, y Steven Gringas de la oficina del Representante Adrian Madaro. Miembros de la



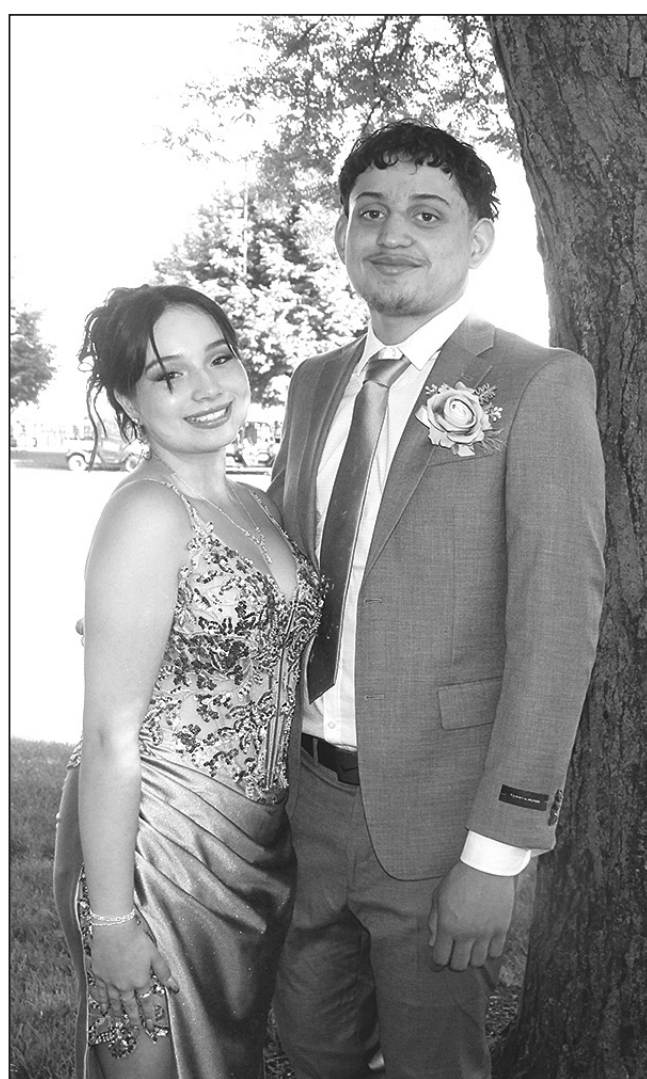
Pictured Karina Barreto representing previous past President Veronica Robles, Steven Gringas from Representative Adrian Madaro's office, Yamina Latchmi from Senator Lydia Edwards' office, past President Marisa DiPietro, City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, and past President Jim Kearney.

Cámara estuvieron presentes junto con seguidores de la comunidad empresarial de larga data

y la actual Presidenta de la Cámara, Shirley Fabbo. Este evento celebró la rica y diversa historia de la

Cámara y el siempre cambiante panorama empresarial que tenemos aquí en East Boston.

## EXCEL ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL PROM



Excel Academy Charter High School students Nicole Arbolada and Anthony Martinez, pictured at Piers Park on their way to the school prom June 7.

## Boston Harborfest returns for its 42nd edition July 1 - 4

Special to the Times-Free Press

The 2024 edition of Boston Harborfest – the country's largest and Boston's most expansive July Fourth celebration – runs July 1 through 4 with events stretching from Downtown Crossing to the North End and from the Boston Common to Boston Harbor. The Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (Downtown Boston BID) is a co-sponsor of Harborfest, with the City of Boston, Meet Boston and others listed here. A full press release is available here.

Harborfest kicks off in Downtown Crossing July 1 with a noon opening ceremony featuring local and international public officials, hospitality leaders and military representatives; Downtown Boston BID President Michael J. Nichols hosts.

"The rich history and culture of Boston comes alive for Harborfest," Nichols says. "Downtown is the perfect backdrop for recalling the American Revolution, honoring our country's move to freedom, and celebrating the dynamic city and country that has emerged ever since. Residents and 4th of July visitors will love the events, the music, the art and the people-watching

here and on the waterfront during Harborfest week."

This year, Harborfest deepens its ties to Boston's rich maritime history with a Navy Week collaboration including special events, demonstrations and performances. This year will mark the first Navy Week in Boston since 2012.

Harborfest coverage highlights in Downtown Crossing:

**DAILY:** Daily events July 1-4 comprise live entertainment from local performers and musicians from two stages in Downtown Crossing, as well as roaming musicians, historical re-enactors, and costumed characters. A beer garden pops up on the Summer Street Plaza (Summer St. @ Washington St.) from July 1-3, 12 noon to 5 pm, in partnership with Democracy Brewing and Distraction Brewing.

**JULY 1:** 12 noon to 1 pm - Opening Ceremony. A ceremonial cake-cutting with public officials and other city leaders kicks off Boston Harborfest festivities. Roving re-enactors and staff from the USS Constitution engage with visitors, and the five-and-drum group Liberty performs. Includes cutting and serving of the ceremonial cake. To honor

Boston's Navy Week, the Navy Band performs prior to the ceremony. FREE. (Summer Street Plaza)

**JULY 2:** In addition to the evening's Boston Harborfest Fireworks, viewable at Long Wharf at 9:15 pm, and the Pre-Fireworks Concert at Christopher Columbus Park at 6 pm, today's Downtown Boston highlights include daylong free entertainment and:

2 to 4 pm – Chowderfest Chowder Tasting. Restaurants from around the Boston area offer up tasty samples of the celebrated New England summer staple for visitors to enjoy and pick their favorite. DJ Whysham spins tunes while visitors chow(der) down. FREE. (Washington Street at the Downtown Crossing Steps)

**JULY 3:** 2 to 3 pm – Macy's All American Fashion Show. Macy's Independence Day-themed fashion show highlights streetwear looks on citizen models from the neighborhood, including the best of new summer trends. FREE (Downtown Crossing Steps)

4 to 8 PM – Salute To Service Block Party. Boston Navy Week and Harborfest merge at this festive "shore leave" block party, taking over Summer

Street with live musical entertainment, a DJ, and giveaways that honor sailors and the military community. FREE and open to 21+. (Summer Street Plaza)

**JULY 4:** City of Boston's 248th Independence Day Celebration.

9 AM – A short parade steps off from City Hall Plaza and passes the Granary Burial Ground, where wreaths will be laid on the graves of patriots. FREE. Parade viewing all along the route.

10 AM – Parade continues to the Old State House where the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company continues its tradition of reading the Declaration of Independence from the State House balcony. FREE.

1:30 PM – "A Day of Unity: Reading Frederick Douglass." A community-led reading of Frederick Douglass's abolitionist speech, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" Embracing stirring historical and joyful contemporary elements, the event includes live music, gospel vocalists, a local DJ, and African dance performances. Event concludes with an ice cream social. FREE (Steps at Downtown Crossing)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### BC HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS 160TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Recently, Boston College High School welcomed 249 young men into its alumni network during the school's 160th commencement ceremony. The Class of 2024 included one student from Beacon Hill, four students from Charlestown, four students from East Boston, four students from

Everett, one student from Jamaica Plain, four students from Revere, and six students from Winthrop, whose names and applicable awards can be found below along with a news release.

East Boston: Pablo Avila, Gabriel Aviles-Lemus, Jesse Ramos, Thomas Zirpolo.

### GSNA JUNE 24 MEETING AGENDA

Gove Street Neighborhood Association (GSNA)

Agenda for Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Please register for this virtual meeting on our website: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

Agenda (approx. 45 min)

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata - Updates and Q&A

BPD (Sgt. Cintolo) - Updates

City Hall (Mela Villa Gomez) - Updates

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS for Gove Street Community picnic on Monday, July 29

TENTATIVE MassDOT Summer Tunnel Closure for Restoration - Q&A

Monday, June 24 · 6:30 - 7:30pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/qjw-kz-kp-age>

Or dial: 347-754-4812. PIN: 480 183 197#

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### EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS REUNION

East Boston High School alumni and friends enjoyed a multi-class reunion Saturday, June 8 at the Orient Heights Yacht Club.

Dawn Clark, one of the main organizers of the reunion, welcomed the many guests who were representing classes from 1965 through 1996. The Class of 1984 was celebrating its 40th reunion. "Life is so short that we want to be able to see our longtime friends that we don't always get to see," Clark told the gathering. "Just because you're in another area or another state doesn't mean that you're not our friends so we want to thank everyone for taking the time to be here."

One graduate said proudly from the audience that "The Class of 1980 was the 100th graduating class of East Boston High School. Clark thanked the many

people who assisted her in organizing the reunion.

The graduates reminisced about their years growing up in Eastie and attending East Boston High School.

Robert Bulla, EBHS Class of 1988, owner of Sons of Sicily Eatery, Saugus, provided a delicious buffet dinner and also served as the DJ.



Gilda DiBenedetto and Dawn Clark.



The Palmisano Twins, John and Patrick, pictured at the reunion.



Reunion leaders, Dawn Clark and Sheila.



Tommy Mangone of the Class of 1973, Julie Dee, Janet Garufo, and Lydia Sarno from the Class of 1974.



Patrick Palmisano (Class of 1989), Daniele Boyer (Class of 1996), Joe Napolitano (Class of 1989), and John Palmisano (Class of 1989).



Robert Bulla (Class of 1988), Alex Bulla (Class of 1983), Carmine D'Amelio (Class of 1988), and Timmy McCarthy (Class of 1982).



Danielle Boyer (left) and Dawn Clark (right), pictured with their mother, Linda Boyer, who assisted at the reception and raffle drawing tables.



Dawn Clark and Robert Bulla, who was the caterer and DJ for the reunion.



Reunion organizer Dawn Clark delivers her welcoming remarks to the alumni and guests in attendance.



Representing the Class of 1965, Josephine Celona Pullo, Vikki Borden Drelick, Marie Ventresca Augur, Petrina Caci Botte, and Phyllis Mazza.



Tommy Mangone of the Class of 1973, Faith Fiore and Carol Celona from the Class of 1980.



Graduates of East Boston High School Class of 1984 are pictured at the reunion Saturday at Orient Heights Yacht Club.



Dawn Clark and friends, including Timmy McCarthy, Robert Bulla, and other EBHS alumni, at the reunion.



Graduates of East Boston High School, pictured at the reunion Saturday at Orient Heights Yacht Club.



The Class of 1988, Rosemarie Lopes Evora, John Marotta, Maria Valentini, Francesca Treviso, and Debbie Sorrentino.



# EAST BOSTON HIGH CLASS OF 2024 SENIOR PROM AT LOGAN'S HYATT REGENCY HOTEL

The senior class of East Boston High School gathered at an outside venue at the Logan Hyatt Regency

Hotel for the prom. The classmates got to enjoy a final night of friendship and an oppor-

tunity to share memories from the past 4 years. For some they will be moving on to higher learning,

possibly in other parts of the country, some into armed forces, and some will become part of the

working force. No matter the choice, their time as students, enjoying all the events and sports that

made them who they are is now officially over, and this prom is a way to say good luck, and fare well.



Daniela Pulido and Steven Mejia.



Sebastian Cruz and Teresa Martinez.



Jose Castro and Nuria Calles.



Briana Villatoro and Justin Norena.



Jacob Delmuto and Delia Burke-McCrary.



Carly Allen and Eddie Kinney.



Johan Munoz and Mccrary Alvarado.



Anastasia Agustinelli and David Ruiz.



Manuela Calderon and Alejandro Hejia.



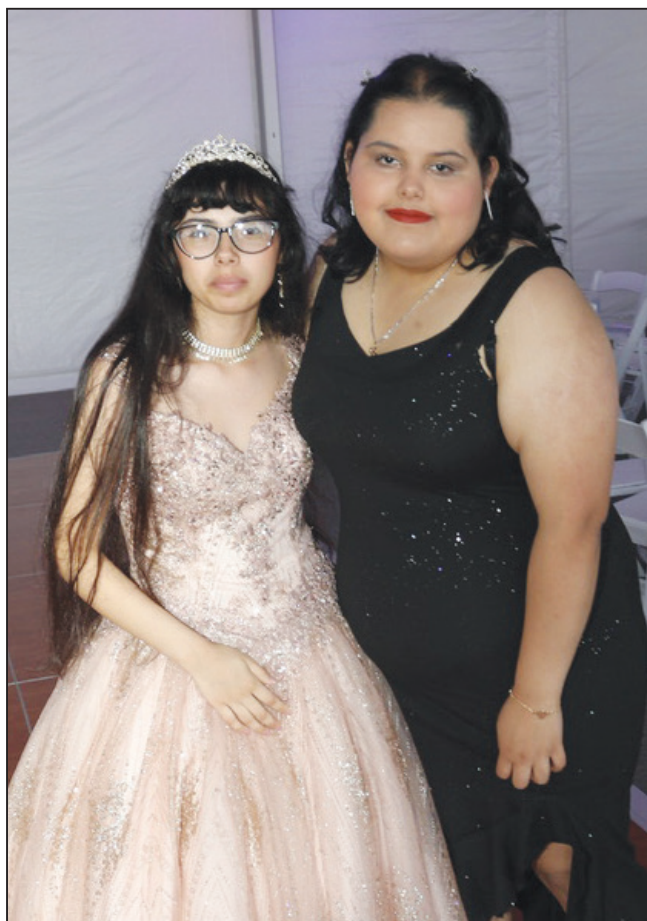
EAST BOSTON HIGH CLASS OF 2024 SENIOR PROM AT LOGAN'S HYATT REGENCY HOTEL



Gianna Capone and Camdyn Leger.



Melanie Aponte, Cyana Pierre, Grace Linnane, and Alexandra Collado.



Katie Martinez and Cynthie Villatoro.



Larissa Lima and Jenifer Rodrigues.



David Sosa and Isabella Martinez.



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## La Esquina Verde coming soon to Maverick Street

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

La Esquina Verde, “a new food venture in East Boston,” is set to come to the building at 389 Maverick Street, the site of the former Tawakal Halal Cafe, according to Mónica Leitner-Laserna, who presented plans for the establishment at Monday’s Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) meeting.

“We’re really a local food hub focused on sustainable practices,” said Leitner-Laserna, who is taking on this endeavor with her business partner Ricardo Monroy. “La Esquina Verde in English is the green corner, so we’re right on the corner of Jeffries and Maverick; we are going to be painting it green.”

As part of the plans, the establishment is set to offer cooking classes, catering and meal plans, and events. There are plans for public and private events along with pop-up chefs.

For example, one of the public events Leitner-Laserna outlined was Public Kitchen, a program from the Design Studio For Social Intervention, a group based in Dorchester.

Currently, Leitner-Laserna hopes to open in mid-July. The plan is to use the space from around 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

“We are hoping to use the space as much as possible because we really want it to be a space for the community, for pop-up chefs, for people who are interested in doing events, so we’re saying about 5-7 days a week,” she said.

Moreover, improvements and slight renovations are taking place. However, Leitner-Laserna indicated they are not changing the building’s layout. “We’re saying it’s a development project, but it actually right now is really just a new use of the space for this business.”

Leitner-Laserna also outlined some of the benefits La Esquina Verde would bring to East Boston.

“La Esquina Verde is committed to benefiting the community by having an affordable and accessible commercial kitchen available as well as affordable and accessible events and classes,” she said.

For example, the establishment will collaborate with local non-profits like Maverick Landing and Eastie Farm, of which Leitner-Laserna is a

co-founder. Further, a portion of La Esquina Verde’s profits will go toward local non-profits and initiatives, and the establishment will promote and educate sustainable practices.

It should be noted that Leitner-Laserna and Monroy have a wealth of experience they can share with the community. Both have teaching experience, as Leitner-Laserna has been a teacher for 15 years, and Monroy is a culinary arts teacher.

Moreover, both have a connection to Haley House, a non-profit in Roxbury that features a program called Take Back the Kitchen, which offers affordable and bilingual cooking classes. Leitner-Laserna has ties to several other establishments, like Eastie Farm, as previously mentioned.

After the presentation, Leitner-Laserna took questions from those in attendance. Josh Schmidt, a JPNA Board Member, had asked about the establishment’s potential collaboration with Eastie Farm and its CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

Eastie Farm’s CSA allows residents to sign up for and purchase shares containing a weekly supply of fresh produce from local farms and the organization.

While Leitner-Laserna indicated they are still working out the details, she theorized that patrons might get a discount on La Esquina Verde classes if they are CSA members and that there may be special events for CSA members.

Another attendee asked if there would be food for sale, to which Leitner-Laserna said yes and emphasized it would probably be “an open-fridge grab-and-go situation.” She also indicated that people can sign up for meal plans, which she said is basically picking up a whole week’s worth of food.

Finally, it should be noted that La Esquina Verde is running a Nu-Market campaign with a week remaining to raise money for renovations. When you donate, you get 120% back in store credits. For more information about the campaign or to donate, visit <https://nu-market.co/fund/la-esquina-verde-boston>.

For more information about La Esquina Verde, visit its website at <https://www.laesquinaverdeboston.com/>.

## Lorraine DeCristoforo

She leaves a legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering faith

Lorraine M. (Amato) DeCristoforo of East Boston passed away peacefully on Friday, June 14, 2024 at 90 years of age.

Lorraine was a beloved figure in her community, earning her nickname “Mother Lorraine” for her nurturing spirit and boundless compassion, reminiscent of the renowned Mother Teresa. Throughout her life, Lorraine found immense joy in two passions: cooking and her family. Her culinary creations were legendary, bringing together friends and family alike with her delicious meals that always had that extra touch of love. Her kitchen was not just a place to prepare food but a hub of warmth and togetherness where laughter and stories were shared over hearty meals. Lorraine could often be found humming along to the tunes of Tom Jones and Johnny Mathis, her favorite artists who brought her comfort and joy.

Lorraine leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness and unwavering faith. Her memory will forever be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and the community she enriched with her presence.

The beloved wife of the late Richard DeCristoforo and the loving daughter of the late Andrew and Albina (Loiselle) Amato, she was the devoted mother of



Americo “Ricky” DeCristoforo and his longtime partner, JeanMarie and Andrew DeCristoforo and his wife, Sandra; dear sister of the late Andrew and Mike Amato; cherished grandmother of Haley, Evan, Richie, Erick, and Clifford and great-grandmother of Dante and Diya. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Family and friends will honor Lorraine’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, (TODAY) Wednesday, June 19th from 4 to 7 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston, for a Funeral Mass celebrating her life at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Lorraine being laid to rest with her beloved husband, Richard, at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. May they rest in peace.

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

## Phyllis Fisher

AKA/The Cake Lady

Phyllis J. (Perry) Fisher of East Boston passed away peacefully on Friday, June 14, at 89 years of age.

Phyllis was known as “The Cake Lady” by those who knew her, always producing the most tasteful, decorated cakes for family and friends. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her.

The loving wife of the late Robert Fisher, she was the devoted mother of Joyce Stasio and her husband, Joseph of Haverhill, Joan Addesa and her husband, Michael of Revere, Wayne Fisher and his wife, Maria and Glenn Fisher and his wife, Lisa, all of Mashpee and the late Eric Fisher; dear sister of Audrey DiPasquale of Winthrop, Barbara Fronduto of East Boston and predeceased by three sisters and five brothers; adored grandmother of Jason, Joseph, Evan, Michael, Mark, Justin, Robert, Glenn Jr., Olivia, and Tristan. She is also survived by many loving great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Phyllis’s life by



gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston on Sunday, June 23rd from 1 to 5 p.m. A prayer service will be held toward the end of the visiting hours. Phyllis will be buried with her husband, Robert, at Massachusetts VA National Cemetery, Bourne at a later date. May they rest in peace.

In honoring Phyllis’s life and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 42040, Oklahoma City OK 73123. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her. For more information please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Joseph DiMarzo

Of Revere

Joseph A. DiMarzo of Revere passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

The beloved husband of Linda Calleja of Florida, he was the devoted father of Dominic DiMarzo and the late Darlene DiMarzo, dear brother of Frank DiMarzo, Marie Pepe, Marion Puleio and the late Rose Bruno and he is also survived by many loving grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as his nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Joseph’s life by



gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Saturday, June 22nd from 12 Noon to 3 p.m. To leave an online condolence, visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

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# Massachusetts House passes bill to prevent opioid-related overdose deaths

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a wide-ranging opioid bill which covers the licensure of recovery coaches, makes opioid overdose reversal drugs more accessible, protects harm reduction providers, and removes barriers that new mothers in recovery face at the time they give birth.

“As families across Massachusetts know all too well, the impact of opioid addiction can be utterly devastating for the individual and for their loved ones, which is why a continued focus on combating substance use is a critical responsibility that we have as elected officials,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I want to thank Chairman Michlewitz and Chairman Madaro for their tireless work on this legislation, as well as all my colleagues in the House for recognizing the need for reforms that will help those dealing with addiction on their journey to recovery.”

“This legislation will help the Commonwealth to address the opioid epidemic by expanding treatment options and by making it easier for those in need to seek assistance,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means. “By making treatment options more accessible and by removing barriers for thousands of people seeking help, we can help people rebuild their lives and stay on the road to recovery. I want to thank Speaker Mariano for his commitment and dedication to this issue, as well as Chairman Madaro, and all my House colleagues for their work and dedication to addressing substance use disorder.”

“The bill passed today builds on the commitment of the House to support individuals and communities across the Commonwealth who are dealing with the effects of the opioid crisis,” said Representative Adrian C. Madaro (D-East Boston), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. “By ensuring greater access to overdose reversal drugs, protecting harm reduction workers, removing barriers to mothers in recovery, and licensing recovery coaches, we are empowering health care providers, community members, and individuals to save lives. Thank you to Speaker Mariano for your leadership and guidance on this issue, and to Chair Michlewitz for your partnership in passing this critical legislation.”

In 2023, there were 2,125 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths, according to the latest data published by the Department of Public Health (DPH). In 2023, there were 232 fewer confirmed and estimated deaths than 2022.

### Recovery coaches

Recovery coaches help people with substance use needs become and stay engaged in their recovery process. The bill passed today establishes recovery coach licensing and oversight within DPH, and mandates that all health plans cover recovery coach services without cost-sharing or prior authorization. The bill also directs the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) to study and report on barriers to certification, credentialing, and other employment and practice requirements for recovery coaches, and requires them to create a

peer support program for recovery coaches consisting of mentorship, technical assistance on billing and employment practices, and resources.

“This marks a pivotal moment for our community and for those battling substance use disorders,” said Representative Jim O’Day (D-West Boylston), Fourth Division Chair and lead sponsor of the bill. “With the passage of H. 4743, we are taking significant steps to enhance treatment options, expand coverage, and, crucially, to recognize the indispensable role of recovery coaches. This legislation builds on our historical commitment to reducing stigma and providing comprehensive support for individuals in recovery. By embracing harm reduction strategies, patient education, and compassionate care, we are advancing public health and offering renewed hope to those affected by substance use disorders. Together, we are forging a path towards a healthier, more supportive future for all. Let us stand proud of this achievement and continue to champion the cause of recovery.”

### Opioid overdose reversal drugs

The bill passed today mandates that all health

plans cover opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, without cost-sharing or prior authorization. It also requires substance use disorder treatment facilities to educate on and dispense at least two doses of opioid overdose reversal drugs to an individual upon discharge, as well as requires hospitals to educate on and prescribe or dispense at least two doses of opioid overdose reversal drugs to an individual with a history of opioid use or opioid use disorder upon discharge.

It also requires pharmacies in areas with high incidence of overdose to maintain a continuous supply of opioid overdose reversal drugs and to report to DPH if they are unable to maintain compliance with this provision due to insufficient stock or supply.

### Patient education

In an effort to prevent opioid misuse, the bill requires prescribers to be educated on pain treatment, including appropriate non-opioid alternatives to pain treatment. It also requires pharmacists to provide printed educational materials issued by DPH on non-opioid alternatives for the treatment of pain to patients prior to dispensing an opioid.

### Harm reduction

The bill protects public health or harm reduction organizations and their agents who provide drug-checking services, such as needle exchange programs, to reduce the risk of accidental overdose from civil liability or professional disciplinary action from a board of registration, as well as from being criminally charged or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of controlled substances, and conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substances Act (the CSA).

It also protects individuals who seek drug-checking services on substances intended only for personal use from being criminally charged or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of controlled substances, and conspiracy to violate the CSA while on the premises of a public health or harm reduction organization providing said services.

### Ensuring non-discriminatory treatment

The bill clarifies DPH’s authority to enforce anti-discrimination protections for people with substance use disorder who are on public health insur-

ance. It also prohibits life insurance companies from limiting or refusing coverage to individuals solely because they obtained an opioid overdose reversal drug for themselves or others. It also prohibits discrimination on the basis of lawful possession and use of a medication for the treatment of an opioid-related substance use disorder, such as methadone or buprenorphine.

### Pregnant people on medications for addiction treatment

The bill passed today removes “physical dependence upon an addictive drug at birth” from the conditions necessitating a child abuse and neglect report, thereby exempting pregnant people taking medications prescribed by their doctor from automatic investigation by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). It requires DCF, in consultation with DPH, the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), and stakeholders, to promulgate regulations on the care, treatment, and reporting of substance-exposed newborns (SENs).

Having passed the House of Representatives 153-0, the bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

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### BOCCE AND BISCOTTI NIGHT

The Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway held a Bocce and Biscotti Night on Friday June 7th. The bocce courts are located on the Greenway in Bremen Street Park, behind the YMCA.

Friend and neighbors took turns, playing in 4 teams. Team Captains Frank Gerardi and Enzo Leone instructed players throughout the night and managed the score board.

The Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway will host more Bocce

nights, in hopes to turn it into a league. For those interested in playing on your own, you may "rent" bocce sets, rake and broom at the YMCA during normal business hours at no cost.

The Friends thank Massport for the bocce court upkeep and maintenance, complete rehab and the YMCA for their partnership. Please check out the website for more information please log onto maryellenwelchgreenway.org.



Team Captain Enzo Leone guides Neelesh Bafra.



State Rep. Adrian Madaro displays good form while throwing the bocce ball.



Brian and Kelsey Neiswander, Katie Calandriello getting ready to play bocce.



Michael McVay, Maria Capogreco, Frank Gerardi and Christian Cappuccio.

## ZUMIX to host 2024 Walk for Music on July 14

On Sunday, July 14, ZUMIX will host its annual Walk for Music. ZUMIX community members and other participants will walk through East Boston's parks to support ZUMIX's award-winning music and youth empowerment programs. The event will begin at 260 Summer Street in East Boston, and will run from 3-6 pm, including registration at the ZUMIX Firehouse and the walk itself, starting at 4 pm. Festivities will continue with a free ZUMIX Summer Concert in Piers Park, also a part of the annual Eastie Week celebration spearheaded by Boston Harbor Now.

ZUMIX is excited to welcome several Boston-area politicians to the 2024 Walk, including State Senator Lydia Edwards; City Council Pres-

ident Ruthzee Louijeune; State Representative Adrian Madaro, a ZUMIX alumnus; and East Boston native Gabriela Coletta Zapata, City Councilor for District 1.

Created as a response to the need for high-quality music programming in Boston's schools and communities, ZUMIX has served young people in the city of Boston and surrounding areas for 33 years. The Walk for Music has historically been an afternoon of music, celebration, and community for local music organizations. This year's event will highlight the neighborhoods and green spaces of East Boston, including Piers Park, Bremen Street Park, and the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway. Walkers can sign up to walk or fundraise in

advance on the event page at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/zumix-inc/walk-for-music-2024>.

"Walk for Music is one of the best days for ZUMIX every year," said Madeleine Steczynski, co-founder and executive director of ZUMIX. "It's a time to gather together, celebrate our work, and spread the word about how music and the creative arts can empower young people and transform their lives and communities."

Walk for Music is one of ZUMIX's largest annual fundraisers, allowing the organization to keep its creative programs free and low-cost and serve more than 1,000 youth each year. ZUMIX offers programs for young people ages 7-18 in songwriting and performance,

creative media and technology, musical theater, private lesson instruction, and instrumental ensembles.

On Sunday, July 14 at 3 pm, walkers will gather at the ZUMIX Firehouse at 260 Summer Street for registration and begin the walk. In case of inclement weather, the concert and celebration after the walk will take place at the ZUMIX Firehouse.

To donate, please visit <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/zumix-inc/walk-for-music-2024>, text WALKFORMUSIC to 44-321, or send a check made out to ZUMIX to 260 Summer Street, East Boston, MA, 02128. To sign up to walk, visit the GiveLively page above or sign up in person at ZUMIX.


A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

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As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

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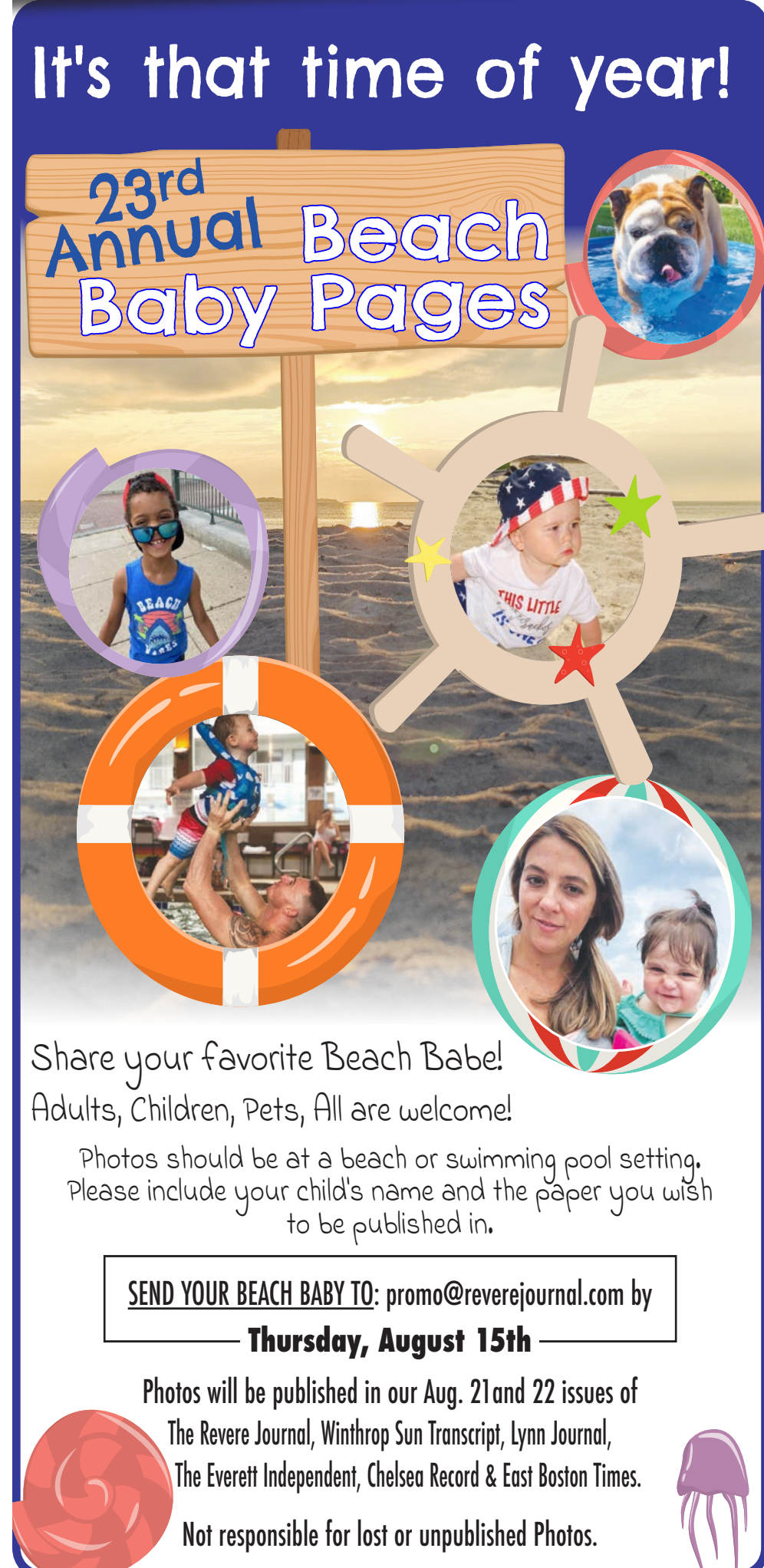
Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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