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Wednesday, July 8, 2026



BOSTON POPS FOURTH OF JULY SPECTACULAR AT THE HATCH SHELL



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JOHN WILCOX

Congratulations to our Boston Pops on their 52nd annual Fireworks Spectacular on the Esplanade—Boston's most beloved Independence Day tradition, complete with amazing performances from Chance the Rapper, Trombone Shorty, and Lainey Wilson. See pages 8 for more photos.

Tom Ambrosino will retire as administrator of state courts

By Cary Shuman

Tom Ambrosino, one of the most influential municipal leaders in the history of two communities, Revere and Chelsea, has announced that he will be retiring as the court administrator of the Massachusetts Trial Court.

Ambrosino said he notified court personnel that he will be retiring in the fall. "I haven't yet submitted my paperwork to the state, but it's sitting on my desk ready to be hand-delivered. I'll probably retire sometime in September."

From his office at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston, Ambrosino had a major responsibility in the Massachusetts judicial system: he oversaw 94 courts and 6,500 court employees.

"It definitely was an interesting job, but it's time to go," said



Tom Ambrosino

Ambrosino. "I've been here three-and-a-half years."

Prior to his job in the courts, Ambrosino served as city manager of Chelsea for seven-and-

See AMBROSINO Page 4

Free Arts and Crafts and STEM Workshops arrive in Boston Parks

Staff Report

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce the return of free Arts & Crafts Workshops and the introduction of STEM &

Youth Preparedness Workshops for children through the ParkARTS program. Kids ages three to ten can enjoy a wide variety of activities led by local artists and instructors, including upcoming dates right here

in East Boston.

Local East Boston Events:

• Arts and Crafts Workshops: Tuesdays, July 28, August 4, and 11 at LoPresti Park, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

In addition to arts programming, ParkARTS is debuting free STEM and Youth Preparedness Workshops on Mondays throughout July and August at various parks across the city. Led by a Boston Public

Schools teacher and staff from the City of Boston Office of Emergency Management, these hands-on workshops combine interactive STEM activities with lessons on emergency pre-

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East Boston

Times-Free Press

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley **PUBLISHER:** Debra DiGregorio

EDITOR: Cary Shuman **PUBLISHER EMERITUS:** John A. Torrione



Forum

ENJOY THE TALL SHIPS!

The return of the Tall Ships to Boston Harbor this coming weekend will place a spectacular exclamation point to the celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

The international fleet of vessels will arrive in Boston Outer Harbor beginning Thursday and into Friday, where they will anchor in Broad Sound ahead of the Parade of Sail on Saturday.

The ships at anchor will be plainly visible from the shores of Lynn, Revere, and Winthrop, transforming the Outer Harbor into a seascape of masts that will evoke the 18th century.

Then on Saturday morning, starting at 9:00, the ships will unfurl their sails and proceed into the Inner Harbor past Deer Island and Castle Island. Led by Old Ironsides -- the U.S.S. Constitution -- the parade will sail past the entire Boston waterfront, including East Boston, the North End, and Charlestown (with Admiral's Hill in Chelsea offering longer-distance views as the ships turn around) before heading to their berths.

The ships will be open to the public for boarding throughout the week, providing a unique opportunity to experience the inner workings of these majestic vessels, which will include the Amerigo Vespucci (Italy), Juan Sebastián de Elcano (Spain), Cisne Branco (Brazil), Bluenose II (Canada), and Dar Młodzieży (Poland).

Fireworks displays on the evenings of Saturday, July 11, and Wednesday, July 15, will light up the harbor beginning at 9:15 p.m..

We vividly recall the first visit of the Tall Ships in 1976 for America's 200th anniversary. We have no doubt that for young and old alike, the visit of the Tall Ships this week will create memories that will last a lifetime.

IT HAD BEEN A GREAT WORLD CUP UNTIL...

The World Cup has been a wonderful event, enjoyed by soccer fans and non-fans alike. The games have been incredibly exciting, especially in the first knockout round, where underdog teams have pushed the giants of the sport to the limit.

Until recently, the tournament also has been devoid of politics. The influx of international fans into our American host cities, including Boston, has created a degree of harmony and good will that is seldom seen in the world today.

However, that all changed this past week. American government officials took it upon themselves to intervene with FIFA to lift the automatic one-game suspension of a star U.S. player who had received a red card in his previous match.

The sequence of events that led to the player's reinstatement for Monday's match with Belgium has cast a pall over the integrity of the tournament.

FIFA, by "suspending" its own suspension, has shown itself to be just as subject to backroom influence as it has been in the past.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials have shown themselves to be ruthlessly craven in the pursuit of winning.

Ultimately, the real losers amidst all of the shenanigans are the American players. Their superb showing throughout the tournament, despite Monday's 4-1 loss to Belgium, will be forever overshadowed by this crass manipulation of the rules by FIFA and U.S. officials.

EAST BOSTON BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

Baby Lapsit, Mondays at 11:15 am & Tuesdays at 10:30

Join us for bounces, rhymes, stories, songs, and activities. We will have the same program on Monday and Tuesday. We ask that you choose one time to attend. For ages 0-24 months.

Storytime, Wednesdays at 10:30 am

This weekly storytime features books, songs, movement and a craft. Groups, please call ahead. For ages 2-5.

Maker Mondays, Mondays 3:30-4:30 pm

Do you like to make things? Drop in each Monday to make something fun. *No Maker Monday on 7/20.*

Mariana Iranzi Concert: Wednesday July 15th at 4 pm
Musician Mariana Iranzi

performs a bilingual and interactive show for the whole family. Enjoy a rich mix of original and classic children's songs both in Spanish & English that will make everyone sing, move, and play along. Recommended for ages 0-5.

Career Counseling Drop-in Hours: Mondays, 10 am to 1 pm

During drop-in hours, the BPL career counselor can answer job questions, connect you to services and make a follow-up plan.

Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) Community Office Hours: Thursday, July 9th from 4-7 pm

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) staff is available to meet with you one-on-one and provide

information, support, and connections to City services and local organizations to help with concerns related to: immigration (we cannot provide legal advice), food, housing, services for older adults, families, and education. Interpretation available upon request.

Creative Crafters Drop-in: Saturday, July 11th 1:30-4:30 and Thursday, July 23rd from 6-8 pm.

If you are an adult or teen who enjoys knitting, crochet, cross stitch and other textile crafts please join us for this drop-in program. Whether you knit, quilt or crochet, join our monthly meetups to relax, share ideas, and connect with fellow crafters. Please bring a project to work on.

The East Boston Times-Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for space, accuracy and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The East Boston Times-Free Press publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The East Boston Times-Free Press. Text or attachments emailed to editor@eastietimes.com are preferred.

TIMES-FREE PRESS DIRECTORY

617-567-9600 • 781-485-0588

FAX: 781-485-1403

President

Stephen Quigley

stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

Advertising and Marketing

Debra DiGregorio – deb@reverejournal.com

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella – mdibella@winthroptranscript.com

Senior Sales Associates

Sioux Gerow – charlestownads@hotmail.com

Legal Advertising

legals@eastietimes.com

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors

Cary Shuman – cary@lynnjournal.com

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates – scott@chelsearecord.com

Kane DiMasso-Scott – kdscott@thebostonsun.com

Business

Accounts Executive

Judy Russi

judy.russi@eastietimes.com

Printer – Concord Monitor

Latinos for Education honors Excel Academy Charter School's Kiara Martinez

Special to the Times-Free Press

Latinos for Education hosted its fifth annual Latino Educators Shine Awards at the MCLE Conference Center on Tuesday, honoring Kiara Martinez, Dean of Curriculum & Instruction at Excel Academy Charter School. This year, over 50 Latino educators from across the Commonwealth were honored by state legislators for the trailblazing work they do in the classroom every day.

Kiara was recognized by State Representative Adrian Madaro and State Senator Lydia Edwards for her dedication and commitment as an educator, as well as for the incredible positive impact she has on students, families, and the broader community. Kiara was one of 15 charter public school teachers from across the state to be recognized.

"I was proud to nominate East Boston resident, Kiara LAST NAME, for the Latino Educators Shine Award," said Rep. Madaro. "Kiara embodies the dedication and commitment to her students and their education that Massachusetts teachers are known for. I am incredibly grateful for the work she



Kiara Martinez poses with Steven Gringas (Director of Communications for State Representative Adrian Madaro), Victor Pelatere (Director of Constituent Services for State Senator Lydia Edwards), and Roberto Gomez (Chief of Staff for State Representative Adrian Madaro) at the 2026 Latino Educators SHINE Awards ceremony.

does at her alma mater Excel Academy Charter High School to improve the educational experience for students, while fostering a welcoming and equitable school environment for all."

Senator Liz Miranda (Democrat - 2nd Suffolk) and Representative Michael P. Kushmerek (Democrat - 3rd Worcester)

were also honored at this year's award ceremony for their legislative work in advancing educator diversity and retention. The ceremony featured remarks from Miranda, Kushmerek, and Dr. Regina Robinson, Special Assistant to the Commissioner. Also speaking were key leaders from Latinos for Education, including Amanda Fernandez,

CEO and Founder, Jacqueline Monterroso, Director of Policy and Advocacy, and Migdalia Diaz, COO and Massachusetts Interim Executive Director.

Kiara Martinez left a successful career in finance to pursue teaching through Teach For America and returned to her home community of East Boston, where she now serves as Dean of Curriculum & Instruction at Excel Academy Charter High School, her alma mater. Since joining Excel in 2019, she has taught multiple subjects, led and coached teachers, expanded the school's AP science offerings, and spearheaded initiatives that strengthen student achievement, school culture, and family engagement. She is also a member of the prestigious Transformative Leaders of Massachusetts Fellowship, where she is advancing native language literacy initiatives in partnership with Excel's Spanish Department.

"Kiara embodies the excellence, dedication, and leadership we strive to cultivate

at Excel Academy," said Excel Academy Charter High School's Head of School, Sarah Stuntz. "Throughout her time with our school, she has expanded opportunities for students, strengthened instructional practices, and helped foster a culture where both students and educators can thrive. We are incredibly proud to see her recognized by Latinos for Education for her commitment to educational equity and her impact on students, families, and the broader school community."

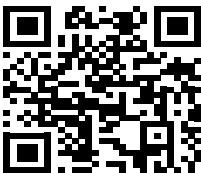
Excel Academy Charter Schools prepares students to succeed in high school and college, apply their learning to solve relevant problems, and engage productively in their communities. A network of public charter schools in Boston, Chelsea, and Rhode Island, Excel's College Access and Secondary Success (CAPS) program supports students for up to six years after graduation through college counseling, one-on-one financial aid advising, and ongoing guidance.



City of Boston
Planning
Department

The City of Boston's Planning Department invites residents to participate in planning that will help shape the future of the City.

You can sign up to receive Planning Department emails and learn about opportunities to get involved here: bosplans.org/GetInvolved



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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director / Secretary



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Ambrosino //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a-half years. He was previously the mayor of Revere for 12 years, following four years as a councilor-at-large and six years as a school committee member. “I have great memories of my years in Revere and Chelsea,” said Ambrosino. “We accomplished a lot of good things.”

Ambrosino, who will turn 65 years old in November, still holds a special connection to Revere. His daughter, Alexandra Ambrosino Nader, is a teacher at the Hill Elementary School.

Ambrosino is a 1979 graduate of Revere High School where he was an outstanding student and a member of the National Honor Society. One of his favorite educators was Carol Tye, who has often praised Ambrosino for his academic excellence and studiousness.

“She was my tenth grade English teacher,” Ambrosino noted of Tye, who would later become the superintendent of schools and serve on the school committee.

Ambrosino went on to attend Boston University, graduating in 1983. He continued his education at Harvard Law School, earning his Juris J.D degree in 1986.

Ambrosino said of his distinguished career, “I will miss public service but it’s been 37 years. It’s been a long time. I feel proud of my career. I did my best, that’s for sure.”

Ambrosino said he and his long-time partner, Lori Giardella, intend to do a lot of traveling in his retirement years. But Ambrosino added that he hopes to eventually work in another field.

“I hope it’s not the end,” said Ambrosino. “I really would like to do something else but I’m not sure what. I don’t want to really stop working. It’s time to retire from state government.”

Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe, City Council President Anthony Zambuto, and Reps. Jessica Giannino and Jeff Turco, led a tremendous tribute from city and state officials to Ambrosino’s career (see related sidebar).

City and state officials commend Tom Ambrosino’s record of public service

Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe

“I wish a relaxing retirement for former Mayor Ambrosino. He has always been a quiet mentor of mine. It was well known to the residents that Tom was a relentlessly hard worker and very kind man. Those two traits in themselves are some I try to embody each day I wake up and go to work for the city. I know Tom will make good use of his new stage in life and hope he will still be available for guidance and friendship in the years to come. Congratulations!”

State Rep. Jessica Giannino

“Tom Ambrosino has dedicated his career to public service, from his years as Mayor of Revere and City Manager of Chelsea to his leadership as Administrator of the Massachusetts Trial Court. His commitment, integrity, and steady leadership have left a lasting impact on our city and across the Commonwealth. I have always had a great deal of respect for Tom and am grateful for his many years of service.”

State Rep. Jeff Turco

“Tom Ambrosino has served Revere, Chelsea and our Commonwealth with distinction for decades. His upcoming retirement, though well deserved, is a loss to our Courts and the people they serve. Tom’s career is summed up with words like: character, integrity, empathy, and honesty. I am privileged to call him a friend and look forward to watching the next phase of his service to our society.”

Revere City Council President Anthony Zambuto

“Tom Ambrosino is a great public servant and a wonderful human being. I spent many years working with him in municipal government. He is a first-class individual, and I have the utmost respect for him. I wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.”

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez

“On behalf of the City of Chelsea, I want to congratulate Tom Ambrosino on a well-deserved retirement after many years of dedicated public service. Chelsea was fortunate to have him at its helm, and I was personally privileged to work and learn alongside him. His leadership left a lasting impact on me and on our community, and he truly helped shape Chelsea into the city it is today. I wish him all the best in this new chapter.”

Former Chelsea City Manager Jay Ash

“Tom Ambrosino has been an outstanding public servant in every stop along the way. He’s been a huge asset to the courts using his administrative skills to help the courts modernize. His efforts in Chelsea and Revere have put those two cities on paths to progress, so he should be very proud of all he’s accomplished in his years of public service.”

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Return shuttles leave Cottage Street beginning at 1pm.

Please note that there will be no parking available at the shuttle stop locations.
To learn more about Sail Boston 2026, including a list of prohibited items,
please scan the QR code.



Wu signs city order to expand property tax relief for older homeowners

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu joined City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, Mass Senior Action, local elected officials, and residents to sign a city order that lets Boston adjust the senior property tax break each year to keep up with the cost of living. Under this change, the income and assets limits for the senior exemption will rise annually with inflation, based on the federal Consumer Price Index. The new limits will allow more older homeowners to qualify starting on July 1, 2026.

“Helping seniors age in place means keeping them connected to homes, neighborhoods, families, and support networks, and this order provides real relief to older homeowners at a time when costs keep rising,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to Councilor Louijeune for championing this effort and to the entire City Council for their partnership in supporting our older homeowners.”

The City of Boston currently offers a senior property tax exemption under the 41C program, which provides property tax relief for older adults based on age, income and asset thresholds. These thresholds are fixed unless increased by local action and have become outdated for many municipalities across the state due to inflation and rising costs for residents and families.

“Investing in our seniors is more than a debt of gratitude, it’s a commitment to Boston’s future,” said City Council-



Mayor Michelle Wu (center) along with City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, Mass Senior Action, local elected officials, and residents with the newly signed bill helping senior property owners.

or Ruthzee Louijeune. “I am proud to have led the effort to adopt Clause 41D, helping protect older homeowners today while strengthening the promise that future generations will also be able to age in place, remain rooted, and continue shaping the neighborhoods they call home.”

Adopting Clause 41D will help preserve property tax relief for Boston’s older adult homeowners who are at risk of losing eligibility as inflation affects their income and savings. This order was led and filed by City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, co-sponsored by City Councilors Brian Worrell and Ben Weber, and unanimously approved by the Boston City Council. This announcement builds on Mayor Wu and the City’s work to address affordability, protect residents and families from rising costs, and

provide much-needed relief and assistance to older residents across neighborhoods.

“Adding an annual cost of living increase will help people stay eligible for the 41C exemption as their Social Security adjusts with inflation,” said Emily Shea, Boston’s Age Strong Commissioner. “This is important because our older residents deserve the opportunity to age with dignity in the communities they helped build.”

This new order will take effect on July 1, 2027 and applicants can begin to apply with the Taxpayer Referral Assistance Center. Income limits for residents will be posted on the City’s Assessing Department website on July 1, 2027. Nearly half of Boston’s senior homeowners are severely housing cost-burdened, paying more than 50 percent of their income

to housing costs. Ultimately, the City of Boston will have the ability to determine the final rate for the fee, collection method, and any exemptions that may exist.

Specifically, this order would:

Increase the fixed income with social security amounts from \$25,980 to \$26,687 if single and from \$38,970 to \$40,031 if married and increase total assets from \$40,000 to \$41,080 if single and \$55,000 to \$56,485 if married; and broaden eligibility by replacing the fixed limits with a percentage increase of the CPI.

Since 2022, the City has also included an expansion of the senior tax exemption in multiple filed home rule petitions to improve quality of life and protect older Boston residents. Through these efforts, the City has worked to secure expanded property tax relief for low-income seniors by modifying the eligibility criteria for the 41C program and increasing the exemption. These changes, if they were implemented by the State, would provide the City with flexibility to modernize the criteria and provide much-needed and sustainable financial assistance to a vulnerable population.

“Far too many seniors across Boston struggle with rising property taxes. We deeply appreciate Mayor Wu, Councilor Louijeune, and the City Council for doing all they can to expand relief,” said Lillie Bryan,

President of the Boston Chapter of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. “Clause 41D will protect seniors from losing access to the help they need by raising the income and asset limits each year to reflect the cost of living. We must now build on this victory to reach more seniors who need help, and we call on the legislature to pass Boston’s Home Rule petitions.”

This action also builds on Mayor Wu and the City’s long-standing efforts to amend state laws to address the housing crisis and provide predictability for residents. Earlier this year, Mayor Wu signed the City’s Transfer Fee Home Rule Petition, a proposal to create a new local funding source for affordable housing. Passed by the Boston City Council on April 15, 2026, the petition is with the State Legislature for consideration. The proposal would allow Boston to apply a fee of up to 2% on real estate transactions over \$2 million, with the first \$2 million exempt to limit impacts on middle-class homeowners. The Mayor has advanced similar proposals in 2021 and 2023 and continues to pursue the transfer fee as a tool to help build more affordable housing across Boston. Last year, the City also refiled an expanded residential tax relief package that aimed at providing financial assistance to Boston residents impacted by sharp increases in their property tax bills.

Workshops // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

paredness.

“Summer in Boston’s parks is all about giving children and families opportunities to connect, learn, explore, and create,” said Diana Fernandez Bibeau, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and Deputy Chief of Open Space. “Early exposure to STEM is critical for shaping the next generation of innovators, and we are proud to use our parks to inspire young minds and open doors to future career possibilities.”

Kendall Basham, Emer-

gency Manager and Regional Coordinator for Boston Office of Emergency Management, added, “By using fun, accessible tools like the ‘Prepare with Pedro’ series, we can teach our young students how to stay calm, find a flashlight, and know what goes into an emergency kit.”

Participation is free and all materials are provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of eight or more must pre-register by emailing parks@boston.gov

or by calling the Parks Department at (617) 961-3082. The Marionette Puppet Show series will also return in July and August during various children’s workshops, featuring Rosalita’s Puppets.

Other City-Wide Events:

- Arts and Crafts Workshops (10 a.m. to 12 noon): Wednesdays at Marcella Playground and Hynes Field (July 8, 15, 22), and Training Field and Mission Hill Playground (July 29, Aug. 5, 12). Thursdays at

Fallon Field and Walker Playground (July 9, 16, 23), and Medal of Honor Park and Myrtle Street Playground (July 30, Aug. 6, 13). Fridays at Mozart Street Playground and Joyce Playground (July 10, 17, 24), and Training Field and Doherty-Gibson Playground (July 31, Aug. 7, 14). Tuesdays at Iacono Playground and Walsh Playground (July 14, 21), and Elliot Norton Park (July 28, Aug. 4, 11).

- STEM and Youth Preparedness Workshops (10 a.m. and 11

a.m.): Mondays at McConnell Park (July 13), Tiffany Moore Tot Lot (July 20), Moakley Park (July 27), Hunt-Almont Park (Aug. 3), and Peters Park (Aug. 10).

- Rosalita’s Puppets (11 a.m.): Fallon Field (July 23), Mozart Street Playground (July 24), Myrtle Street Playground (July 30), O’Day Playground (July 31), Medal of Honor Park (Aug. 6), and Doherty-Gibson Playground (Aug. 7).

For more information, visit boston.gov/parkarts.

We Hold These Truths Honored 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

The Associates of the Boston Public Library presented an evening of music, poetry, and reflection marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Associates of the Boston Public Library (Associates) presented *We Hold These Truths* on Thursday, June 25 at the Central Library's Rabb Hall, marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with an evening of music, poetry, and reflection.

Former Governor Deval Patrick and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer served as special guest speakers, reading from the Declaration interspersed throughout the program. Their readings framed the evening's artistic performances within the enduring language and ideals of the founding document. The hall was filled with sustained applause at the end of the pro-



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer.

gram, underscoring the impact of the evening's performances and readings.

The Central Library's Rabb Hall was filled to the brim as audiences gathered for the eighth annual Pierce Performance Series, featuring newly commissioned music by gradu-



Former Governor Deval Patrick.

ate students from New England Conservatory and Berklee College of Music, created in response to the Declaration's legacy. The Handel & Haydn Society Youth Chorus Ambassador Ensemble performed *Lamentations Over Boston* by early American composer Wil-

liam Billings.

Massachusetts inaugural Poet Laureate Regie Gibson performed an original blackout poem drawn from the text of the Declaration of Independence.

The event complemented the Boston Public Library's exhibition *Declarations: Printing a New Nation*, presented by the BPL and the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center, made possible by the Irene Haney Creative Enrichment Fund through the BPL Fund. For the first time ever, the BPL's eight rare printings of the Declarations are displayed together in a public exhibition on view through September 13, 2026.

Now in its eighth year, the Pierce Performance Series is

supported by the Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust and reflects the Associates' commitment to activating the Boston Public Library's Special Collections through free public programming that connects historical materials with contemporary artists and audiences.

Since 1972, the Associates of the Boston Public Library, an independent non-profit, has raised funds to preserve and promote the Boston Public Library's Special Collections. The Associates hosts many programs, including the Pierce Performance Series, the Alan Andres Writer-in-Residence and Picture Book Writer Fellowship, the Hundred-Year Book Debate, and the Literary Lights Gala.

Wu announces new cycle of city-wide participatory budgeting initiative

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the return of the City's Participatory Budgeting initiative, 'Ideas in Action,' for its third year. Last year, thousands of residents participated by attending workshops, submitting ideas, and voting to fund eight innovative projects, which are now moving into implementation. Participatory Budgeting is open to all Boston residents, offering the opportunity to help decide how to allocate \$2 million of the City's budget by submitting ideas, developing ballot proposals, and voting on their preferred projects. Residents can share their ideas up to July 31 by visiting boston.gov/participate.

"Participatory Budgeting empowers community members to directly shape City investments, from strengthening youth programs and expanding access to community resources, to improving public spaces across Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We encourage residents to share their ideas and help shape the investments that will be made in communities across every neighborhood."

The Office of Participatory Budgeting will again partner with trusted community-based

organizations to support residents in submitting ideas and participating in the process. Residents may share ideas online at participate.boston.gov, via phone by calling 617-635-3059, in-person at City Hall and selected BCYF Community Centers, and by joining Idea Collection Workshops hosted by community partners across Boston.

After the Idea Collection phase, the City will review submissions and work with residents to develop eligible ideas into proposals for a future public vote. Ideas submitted throughout the process also help inform the City's understanding of community priorities and future budget investments.

"Participatory Budgeting is one of the most direct ways residents can help shape how City resources are invested in their communities," said Renato Castelo, Director of the Office of Participatory Budgeting. "Every idea submitted helps us better understand what residents are experiencing, what neighborhoods need, and where public investment can have the greatest impact. As we continue this work, our goal is to make participation simple, accessible, and meaningful

for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and neighborhoods."

Eligible ideas may include projects that strengthen mental health among Boston youth, expand digital access, support senior residents, improve public spaces, advance food access, enhance parks and recreation, support local economic opportunity, promote health and well-being, and address neighborhood needs across Boston.

Residents may participate by:

Submitting project ideas online at participate.boston.gov;

Calling and recording ideas through the multilingual Participatory Budgeting phone line at (617) 635-3059;

Visiting City Hall or selected BCYF Community Centers;

Attending in-person Idea Collection Workshops organized by nonprofit organizations throughout the city.

More information can be found at Boston.gov/participate.

Timeline for Ideas in Action
Idea Collection: July 2026
Proposal Development: October - December 2026

Voting: January - February 2027

Funding and Implementing Winning Ideas: Spring 2027

Ideas in Action started as a community effort, which led Boston voters to approve a ballot measure in the 2021 Municipal Election, creating the Of-

fice of Participatory Budgeting. The ordinance establishing the Office was adopted by Mayor Wu and the City Council in the spring of 2023.

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NeighborHealth convenes statewide leaders to advance maternal health equity

Special to the Independent

NeighborHealth brought together elected officials, clinicians, maternal health advocates, and community leaders at the Massachusetts State House on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, for “Community Maternal Health: Strengthening the Delivery of Care,” a forum focused on identifying community-driven solutions to improve maternal health care outcomes for families and reduce inequities across Massachusetts.

Led by Mimi Gardner, MPH, LICSW, Vice President and Chief of Community Partnerships and Health Impact at NeighborHealth, and sponsored by Massachusetts Senator Liz Miranda, the event addressed persistent challenges in maternal and perinatal health, including rising rates of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) and inequities across race, geography, and socioeconomic status. Throughout the morning, speakers highlighted actionable strategies to strengthen care delivery, expand access, and ensure more equitable outcomes across the Commonwealth.

“This important conversation honors the voices of birthing people across Massachusetts, whose experiences continue to guide this work,” said Gardner. “Together, doulas, midwives, public health leaders, and policymakers are



NeighborHealth Ob/Gyn Medical Director Dr. Monica Mendiola engages with the speakers, alongside Dr. Sue Ghosh, Director, Women's Health Initiatives, NeighborHealth. (Courtesy photograph)

advancing solutions to ensure every family is heard, valued, and supported with the care they deserve.”

Participants also reviewed community-informed recommendations aligned with ongoing legislative priorities, including strengthening the maternal health workforce and advancing reimbursement pathways for doulas and midwives to support safe, respectful, and equitable care.

The convening featured remarks and participation from local and statewide leaders including:

- Senator Liz Miranda, 2nd Suffolk District, Massachusetts
- State Representative Marjorie Decker
- Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Mas-

sachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services

- Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission

- Michael Curry, President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

- Dr. Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, Center for Maternal Health Advancement, Tufts University

“We know the disparities. We know the data. We know the solutions. The question is: What will it take to fully commit to maternal health equity?” said Senator Miranda. “Black and Brown women continue to face unacceptable barriers to safe and respectful care. If



COURTESY PHOTOS

Shown (left to right) are Mimi Gardner, Vice President, Chief of Community Partnerships and Health Impact, NeighborHealth; Dr. Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, Center for Maternal Health Advancement, Tufts University, present flowers to Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission after the event.

we are serious about changing outcomes, we must invest in community-led solutions, listen to those most impacted, and ensure that equity is at the center of every policy decision we make.”

“Every mother deserves dignity, and together we can build a system that truly listens and cares,” said Dr. Amutah-Onukagha. “By leading with equity and compassion, we can create a future where every family thrives – rooted in justice and joy.”

The event underscored the importance of community-led solutions in shaping policy, fostering alignment between community priorities and state-level efforts to advance maternal health equity for families across Massachusetts.

NeighborHealth continues to lead this work through innovative, community-centered models of care and partnerships that expand access and strengthen maternal health services across the Commonwealth.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MAYOR MICHELLE WU ANNOUNCES UPCOMING WORLD CUP WATCH PARTIES

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced a continuing slate of free, family-friendly watch parties for the remaining FIFA World Cup matches, giving residents across Boston's neighborhoods an opportunity to celebrate the tournament together. “Boston is a city of cham-

pions, and that spirit has been on full display throughout this World Cup,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “As matches continue throughout July, we’re creating more free opportunities for fans to gather, cheer on their teams, and build community. We’re grateful to all of our partners across the City for helping us to create safe, welcoming, and exciting spaces to enjoy the knockout matches with family and friends.”

The next upcoming event will be a Quarter Final match on Thursday, July 9, hosted at Christopher Columbus Park at 4 p.m. No registration is required for this city-sponsored event.

There will also be watch parties for the remaining matches of the tournament, but locations will be announced at a later date. These upcoming viewings include the Semi Final matches on Tuesday, July 14 at 3 p.m. and Wednesday, July 15 at 3 p.m., the Third Place Match on Saturday, July 18 at 5 p.m., and the Final Match on Sunday, July 19 at 3 p.m.

Residents and visitors are also encouraged to support local businesses during the tour-

namment. For the latest updates and details on the city's watch parties, visit www.boston.gov/watchparties.

LOCAL BAND TO HOST FREE ‘FOREST FEST 3’ AT INGLESIDE PARK

The local band State of Nature, formed by Winthrop natives, is bringing the third annual Forest Fest to Ingleside Park, in Winthrop, this Saturday. Following the success of the past two years, organizers have expanded the event to a larger space to welcome the entire community, inviting neighbors from Winthrop, East Boston, and Revere to join in the

festivities.

The free, one-day celebration of local music will run from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Attendees can enjoy performances by six different bands from across New England. Along with live entertainment, the family-friendly event will feature snacks, yard games, and arts and crafts.

Driven entirely by musicians and community members with a passion for the local scene, Forest Fest 3 is a grassroots event operating with zero corporate sponsors. Residents from across the surrounding neighborhoods are encouraged to come out and enjoy a free day of fun in the sun.

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Genevieve (Viscione) Mangini

Retired Secretary

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours on Monday, July 13, from 4 to 7 p.m., in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Genevieve (Viscione) Mangini, of East Boston, who passed away peacefully on July 5th at 83 years of age. Her funeral will be conducted from the funeral home on Tuesday, July 14th at 9 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Joseph – St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston at 10 a.m. Genevieve will be buried next to her parents, Jerry and Josephine Viscione in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Genevieve was born on August 14, 1942, and was the daughter of Jerry and Josephine Viscione. She was raised and educated in East Boston where she attended local schools. She was a graduate of Fitton Central High School in East Boston and was a member of the graduating Class of 1960. Genevieve then furthered her edu-



cation by attending secretarial school which led her to a career as a secretary spanning over 20 years.

Genevieve was devoted to her family and friends. She was especially devoted to her grandson, Anthony, and she took on a very active role during his childhood.

She simply loved being with family and friends, whether it was enjoying dinners together or just simply sharing their

company.

She is former spouse to the late Albert “Buddy” Mangini of Winthrop and dear friend to the late Calogero “Charlie” Tinnirello of East Boston. She is the devoted mother of Albert Mangini of Wakefield and his partner, Martha Hanlon and the cherished grandmother to Anthony J. Mangini of Los Angeles, California and his wife, Celia; the loving sister to Joseph Viscione and his wife, Maureen of East Boston and the late Jerry A. Viscione and his surviving wife, Gail of Seattle, WA; the aunt to Keith Viscione and his wife, Kendra of Peabody, Kelly O’Connor of Danvers, and Joey Viscione and his companion, Barbara Snyder of Salem.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

Elaine C. Ciampa

She was known for her love of cooking, her pleasure in shopping, and her excitement for the casino

In memory of Elaine Claire (Chianca) Ciampa, 76, who passed away peacefully on July 4, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Boston on July 31, 1949 to the late Pasquale and Clara Chianca, Elaine grew up in East Boston with her sister, Patty and graduated from East Boston High. She was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was happiest when she was with her family. She delighted in her passion for ceramics, teaching many friends and family, and owning her own ceramics studio. She was known for her love of cooking, her pleasure in shopping, and her excitement for the casino.

Elaine was predeceased by her late husband, Carmen C. Ciampa and she leaves her daughter, Sherry Nardone and her husband, John, her son, Carmen and his wife, Lisa and her daughter, Tara and her husband, Daniel; eleven grandchildren: Shanell, Chris, Alex-



is, Michael and his wife, Alicia, Elissa, Gianna, Ashley, Billy and Arianna. She also leaves her three great grandchildren: Waverly, Alaina and Weston, who were the light of her life. She leaves her sister Patty and brother-in-law Paul, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Family and friends are invited to attend visiting hours on Sunday, July 12th from 2 to 6 p.m., in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on

Monday, July 13th at 9 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Joseph – St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston at 10 a.m. A private burial will follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

OBITUARIES

Maria Ambrosino

She had a bubbly personality and was not only well known but also well loved

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours today, Wednesday, July 8, from 4 to 8 p.m., in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Maria Ambrosino, who passed away on July 2nd after a long illness. She was 44 years of age. Her funeral will begin from the funeral home on Thursday, July 9th at 11 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua of Church, 250 Revere St., Revere at 12 noon. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Maria was born on August 23, 1981 and was raised and educated in East Boston. She attended East Boston schools and was a well-known cheerleader for the East Boston Football League. She was a graduate of City Roots. She worked for over 23 years in the importing and exporting business for Dolliff and Co. located in Chelsea.

Maria had a bubbly personality and was not only well known but well loved. She loved to be in the company of her family and friends, especially her nieces and nephews. Over the years, she experienced several health issues, however,



she always stayed positive and always put up a hard-fought battle. She also enjoyed walks on the beach.

The beloved daughter of John and Rhonda (Colantonio) Ambrosino of Revere and the devoted fiancée of Derek Surette of Winthrop, she was the adored sister of Gina Ambrosino and Joseph Ambrosino and cherished aunt of Robert Burley and Michael Anthony Grassa. She is also lovingly survived by many uncles, aunts and cousins.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

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Madonna Observatory rededication ceremony held in memory of Teresa Basile

Thanks to generosity of the Basile family – brothers Alex, Anthony, Paul, and Carlo – the observatory at the Madonna Queen Shrine was completely renovated. The improvements included a new elevator and a chairlift for physically challenged visitors.

The observatory space provides some of the most breathtaking views of nearby Logan International Airport and the capital city of Boston's impressive skyline.

In an impressive ceremony held June 20 at the site on Orient Avenue, the observatory was rededicated in memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile, who passed away on March 26, 2026 at the age of 92.

A beautiful plaque was unveiled at the ceremony honoring Mrs. Basile as a devoted wife, loving mother, cherished grandmother, and faithful servant of the church.

Carlo Basile, a former state representative, community leader, and proud son of East Boston, delivered a beautiful, heartfelt speech on behalf of the family.

"I want to thank my brothers for being my inspiration for always guiding me to do the

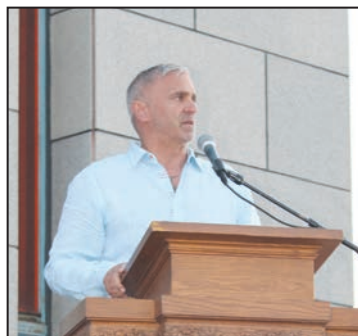


The family of the late Mrs. Teresa Basile was joined by a large crowd at the June 20 rededication ceremony of Madonna Queen Shrine observatory tower in her honor.

right thing ever since I was a kid," said Carlo. "Particularly I'd like to thank a couple of people who were so spiritual to me, my friends, Michael Basile, and [State Rep.] Jeff Turco. These two men brought me back to God when I had doubt. We met here every morning at the garden and prayed. We cried together, we laughed together, and we talked about what life was really about."

Continuing his speech, Carlo said, "When my mother got sick, I told her what we were doing here. But she didn't get to see it because she passed away on March 26. I consider this [the rededication in memory of his mother] such a special honor.

On behalf of me and my family, my children, Carlo and Christian, who are my life, I want to thank everybody who had their hand on this [project]. I didn't do this alone. I did this with the community. It was done with my family's blessings. My mother was somebody that loved her family so hard, to the point where she sacrificed anything and all for her children and her family. So with that being said, I just want to thank everybody who had a hand on this. Thank you for being here tonight. I hope you and your families will enjoy this observatory for years to come. God bless you."



Carlo Basile, who with his three brothers made the tower observatory renovation project possible, delivers remarks on behalf of the Basile family.



A close friend of Carlo Basile, State Rep. Jeff Turco is pictured with his family at the rededication ceremony. From left, are Joseph "Papa" Carbone, Sonny Turco, Dominic Turco, Melissa Turco, Mary Turco, Grace Turco, Rep. Jeff Turco, Matteo Turco, and Joseph Turco.



The Rev. Angel Alvarez delivers inspirational words and a prayer during the ceremony.



Father Angel, Father Marcio, Carlo Basile, Anthony Basile, Alex Basile, Paul Basile, Father Georgio, and Father Mirek, pictured before the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Members of the Basile family stand proudly for a photo following the rededication ceremony in memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile.



Carlo Basile joins his family in prayer at the ceremony in memory of his mother, Mrs. Teresa Basile.



Members of the Basile family stand proudly for a photo following the rededication ceremony in memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile.



The grandchildren of Mrs. Teresa Basile stand proudly adjacent to the plaque outside the observatory tower.



The elegant plaque, representing the impressive tribute in memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile.

MORE SCENES FROM THE EAST BOSTON ATHLETIC BOARD HOST
THE 76TH ANNUAL BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS AT SPINELLI’S



Andrew Biggio/veteran and Boston Police Officer received the Rocky DiNicolantonio Special recognition Award, and the ITAM Post 6 Community Service Award, presented by Bobby Gilbride, and shown with his two sons, Andrew and Charlie Biggio.



Warren Cutlip was presented the Coach Tony Geraci Flashback Award, shown with family and friends, presented by EBAB President Jim Geraci.

ZUMIX announces 2026 Summer Concert Series

ZUMIX, a local nonprofit providing creative opportunities for young people through music and technology, will kick off its annual Summer Concert Series on Sunday, July 12, in Piers Park. The first concert coincides with ZUMIX’s annual Walk for Music, a major fundraiser and joyful celebration of the ZUMIX community, and the launch of Eastie Weeks, an annual celebration of cultural and musical heritage and organizations in the East Boston neighborhood. Local Eastie band Don’t Be Denied will headline the July 12 show, with an opening set by the Zukix, a ZUMIX youth ensemble.

The Summer Concert Series highlights local professional musicians showcasing a vast array of genres. The July lineup this year includes a youth showcase on July 19, featuring

student bands from ZUMIX and fellow East Boston-based music nonprofit MOAB. Musicians headlining in August include Latin jazz and folk artist Manuela Sanchez Goubert on August 2; Zoe Knight and Mythical Beasts on August 9; and Club d’Elf on August 16. The final show on August 23 will feature ZUMIX’s African drumming ensemble, Rhythms of Ghana, opening for local musical adventure K2 , which blends the music of several Greater Boston-based denizens of the African music scene, with roots in Ghana and Mozambique.

“We’re so excited to welcome the community to our summer concerts this year,” said Madeleine Steczynski, co-founder and executive director of ZUMIX. “As we continue to celebrate our 35th

anniversary, we’re thrilled to showcase great local talent, including our student musicians and sound techs. Anyone is welcome to join us.”

All family-friendly concerts will take place from 6-8 p.m. at Piers Park, which is located at 95 Marginal Street in East Boston. The concerts will open with young musicians from ZUMIX’s programs.

ZUMIX’s Summer Concert Series is presented with support from the East Boston Foundation and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

ZUMIX’s mission is to empower young people to build successful futures for themselves – transforming lives and community through music, technology, and creative employment. ZUMIX works with more than 900 young people ages 7-18 each year. Free and low-cost programs are offered out-of-school in instrumental music, songwriting, performance, radio, audio engineering, and audio and video storytelling. ZUMIX partners with local schools to bring more arts education opportunities to Boston’s youth. In addition to youth programs, ZUMIX offers free concerts and events for all ages. For more information, visit zumix.org.

For more information, please contact Brian Burke, Events Coordinator, at events@zumix.org.

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7/19 ZUMIX / MOAB YOUTH SHOWCASE

7/26 OPALINE (ALT-COUNTRY NOISE ROCK)

8/2 MANUELA SANCHEZ GOUBERT (LATIN JAZZ + FOLK)

8/9 ZOE KNIGHT & MYTHICAL BEASTS (ROCK + SOUL)

8/16 CLUB D'ELF (MOROCCAN TRANCE / JAZZ / FUNK)

8/23 K² (MOZAMBICAN / GHANAIAN FUSION)

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'From sit and sip to get up and move,' Caffè Dello Sport hosts We Run Eastie group

By Cary Shuman

What began as an idea between Anthony White of Caffè Dello Sport East Boston and local resident Yahaira Acuna has blossomed into one of the most popular weekly athletic happenings in the neighborhoods of Boston.

Caffè Dello Sport, a small business located at 973 Saratoga Street and run by the original owner's family operation in the North End for the last 37 years, is the official host for We Run Eastie's weekly 5-kilometer runs on Tuesday nights.

The popular Italian café - which features a full bar, gelato, panini, desserts, sandwiches, espresso, latte, Aperol Spritz, espresso martini, draft beer, and cold brew - celebrated its first anniversary on May 10.

White explained the origin of the healthy partnership between his popular shop and its customers who enjoy running as a hobby and a way to maintain physical fitness.

"We knew Boston had experienced a long, cold winter and Yahaira and I wanted to give people a reason or something to look forward to come spring," said White. "Our inaugural run was on Tuesday, May 19, a day with severe thunderstorms and temperatures in the high 90s and 100 percent humidity. But we made it!"

White said that Yahaira introduced him to group co-founder Paola Villatoro, "and the partnership was formed with thoughts and collaborations and an emphasis on commu-



Members of the We Run Eastie club and friends join Caffè Dello Sport general manager Anthony White (top right) for a photo at the entrance to the popular establishment located at 973 Saratoga St.

nity involvement and conversations between people and the movement of the mind, body and soul."

We Run Eastie is described as an all-inclusive social fitness group that meets once a week every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for a stretch before the run starts at 6:30 p.m. Drinks and refreshments are not served before and after the run.

Villatoro said she and Yahaira started the We Run Eastie club "as a way to bring our East Boston community's neighbors together."

"I also work from home, and

I feel like this is an opportunity to bring the community to a local spot and show them a local business that welcomes them with coffee, a drink, water, and also shows them a run club that encourages people to participate at their own pace," said Villatoro. "Sometimes people will walk [the course], sometimes people will run. Some bring their strollers. So, really, it's a run club where movement from everyone is appreciated."

A welcoming environment and a cozy atmosphere

White, who has seen Caffè

Dello Sport become a major hub for soccer fans of all nationalities during the World Cup (there is a large-screen television and a back patio inside the café), treasures the commitment and support from We Run Eastie members.

"We really appreciate everyone's commitment to running each week and being part of the club," said White. "Hopefully we have a very long future in engaging in the community, having a conversation, and being detached at least for an hour a week from our iPhone, where we can put the phone down and sit in a group and talk about our lives and where we're from, where we've been, what we'd like to in the future, and how we can all bond together - whether it be with a coffee, an adult beverage. We can talk about soccer or our travels, our families, our heritage, or our culture."

White said the movement aspect of the club is "very important."

"It's not just sit and sip. It's get up and move," concluded White.

We Run Eastie runners talk running and Caffè Co-founder Yahaira Acuna

"I love how we have been able to partner with Caffè dello Sport. There's a real sense of being able to create a community, to be healthy and run or walk - we welcome all paces. It's just good to get to know your neighbors, socialize after

work. We're happy with what we've been able to build here in East Boston."

Katherine Sennott

"I really love We Run Eastie. It's a great way to get outside and get moving in the evenings. Sometimes, it's just great to have that motivation to go somewhere after work, see other people, hang out, and get some exercise. It's been a great activity for all."

Chris Black

"I moved back here a couple of years ago. I was working full-time remote for a long time, and I thought it was really unhealthy. So, now I get out of the house almost every day of the week. I love the atmosphere and the food and drink offerings at Caffè dello Sport. I heard from their North End location that they were opening in East Boston. I followed it on Instagram, and I saw that they posted information about a running club, and that's how I ended up here."

Robert White

"I like staying fit, and running plays a big role in that. When I met Anthony on the running trail, he invited me to part of We Run Eastie, and it was no-brainer for me as running helps me to stay in shape. I'm happy to be running with the other members. It's been fantastic so far, so for the foreseeable future, I'll be here taking part."

Wu, Commissioner Cox announce pilot allowing licensed taxis to accept rides through Uber, Lyft

To support Boston's taxi drivers and expand choice for passengers, the City and the Boston Police Department announced a one-year pilot that will, for the first time, allow licensed Boston taxis to accept trip requests generated through TNC apps like Uber and Lyft. The pilot will allow e-hailing apps for licensed taxis, including Curb and ARRO, to interface directly with TNC apps and enable trips to be served by taxis. Such rides will be offered to passengers with the same up-front fare structure offered by Uber and Lyft, rather than using the regulated fare structure for taxis set by the Hackney

Division of the Boston Police Department. The goal of the pilot is to give Boston passengers more options to hail a taxi and to allow Boston's licensed taxis to participate directly in meeting the demand for trips generated through Uber and Lyft.

"This pilot will help Boston's taxi industry participate fully in meeting demand, improve earnings for drivers, reduce wait times and improve the experience of drivers and the riding public," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We're thankful for the collaboration and advocacy from our taxicab drivers to introduce this new transportation service, and excited to

support the people who keep our city moving."

The Boston Police Department operates the Hackney Carriage Unit, which regulates all taxis in the City. "We are pleased to work with the taxi industry, Mayor Wu and our City partners on this pilot to potentially expand opportunities for taxi drivers and choices for passengers," said Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox.

During the one-year pilot, the City, participating e-hail applications and taxi drivers will evaluate changes in demand for taxis and feedback from passengers. The City expects that

the pilot will allow taxi drivers to access a significantly larger number of trips than most currently serve, by enabling them to service some of the demand generated through TNC companies. The pilot requires that participating e-hail companies exclude airport trips and allow the Hackney Division to set additional exclusions for special events. Taxis hailed on the street or requested directly through taxi-specific apps will continue to charge customers based on the City's regulated meter fares.

"Boston taxi drivers are hardworking small business owners, including many immi-

grants, and this City pilot will help them better support their families and our local communities," said Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, who has advocated for the pilot alongside the taxi drivers. "I thank our taxi drivers for their advocacy and Mayor Wu and Commissioner Cox for helping deliver on this important update to support our local drivers, give riders more choice, and respond to major changes in the industry."

"This change is a major boost for taxi drivers in Boston

Taxis // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

and the passengers we serve,” said Balwinder Gill, a Boston Taxi Network board member and a 25-year owner/operator of a Boston taxi cab. “We thank the City for partnering with taxi drivers to help our small businesses and deliver a better service for all Bostonians.”

“Curb is thrilled to partner with the City to expand Curb Flow and deliver even better taxi services for Boston,” said Dorel Tamam, Vice President of the Mobile Business Unit at Curb. “Following continued success across several leading markets, this pilot represents an exciting opportunity to benefit drivers, riders, and the city’s broader mobility ecosystem. We are deeply grateful to Mayor Michelle Wu, Commissioner Michael Cox, City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and their teams. We look forward to showing what Curb Flow can do for Boston.”

“ARRO welcomes the City of Boston and Boston Hackney’s decision to modernize the city’s taxi regulations. These updates open new earning opportunities for Boston’s taxi drivers by expanding access to ride share demand,” said Ron Sherman, CEO of CMT Group and ARRO.

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2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Festival Hours: 10AM-10PM

8:00 AM- 5:00 PM: Sculpting Competition

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Festival Hours: 10AM-10PM

8:00 AM- 2:00 PM: Sculpting Competition

4:00 PM: People's Choice Voting Ends

6:30 PM: Awards Ceremony

AT THE WILLIAM G. REINSTEIN BANDSTAND

9:00 PM: Fireworks Extravaganza

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Festival Hours: 10AM-8PM

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