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East Boston
Times-Free Press

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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BOB MARRA PHOTO

East Boston's Juan Sepulveda seems as if he is levitated as he fights for a ball along the sideline during the September 11 match against Chelsea. See Pages 12 and 13 for more photos.

Eastie continues to change

Community event examines school closure, community displacement, and gentrification

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston University's Initiative on Cities is hosting a community event to present and discuss recent research which examines the history of East Boston's Dante Alighieri elementary school and how changes in schools are connected to gentrification in the neighborhood.

The study traces the Dante Alighieri's closure in 2011 –

See CHANGES Page 2



PHOTO COURTESY DANIELLE MULLIGAN

The Dante Alighieri elementary school.



East Boston Times-Free Press

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

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



Forum

DATA CENTERS: WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND THEY ARE US

The massive build-out of data centers recently has aroused the wrath of the American public across the political spectrum. However, this backlash has highlighted a sharp disconnect in modern society: On the one hand, we expect technology to provide us with an on-demand, 21st-century digital lifestyle, but on the other, we eschew the infrastructure required to provide us with the means to implement our way of life.

The enormous scale of the newest data centers is difficult to comprehend. The largest data center for Meta (Facebook) in Oregon presently comprises 4.6 million square feet across 11 connected buildings.

But that is nothing compared to Meta's new center in Louisiana that will cover 3,650 acres (about six square miles), a footprint that is almost four times the size of New York City's Central Park.

The environmental impact of data centers is significant: They require huge amounts of water for cooling; most have their own generators that rely either on their own natural gas turbines or the electric grid (often with diesel generators for back-up) that contribute to air pollution; and the industrial cooling systems and rooftop fans create a constant level of noise.

However, using Meta as an example, hundreds of millions of Americans use Meta's platforms -- Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp -- not merely daily, but on a constant basis, 24/7.

Americans also rely on the other companies with huge data centers, most notably Amazon for our shopping and Alphabet (which owns Google and YouTube) for our information and entertainment.

To be sure, the trillion-dollar tech firms building these data centers must be required to do more to reduce their impact on local communities and the environment.

But in the end, we have to admit a basic truth: Data centers exist because of our insatiable need and desire to click...click.. click...

Your opinions, please

The East Boston Times-Free Press welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.
Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com.
Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

Changes // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

due to Boston Public School budget cuts – to its reopening in 2014 as a public Montessori school. The project explores how these changes unfolded alongside significant public and private investment, and an acceleration of gentrification in East Boston.

The research asks: What did the Dante Alighieri mean to the community? What was lost when it closed? Who has benefited from its reopening? And how do changes in schools reflect larger changes happening across East Boston? Project findings draw on interviews with former students, parents, educators, and community and educational leaders, as well as school enrollment and demographic data. The work is also informed by the lived experience of one research team member, a lifelong East Boston resident, who attended the school until its closure in 2011.

The event will offer an opportunity for East Boston community members to learn more about the research conducted and discuss the implications of the project findings, as well as reflect on questions of equity, access, belonging, and the future of East Boston.

This is a community-wide event, all are welcome.You do not need to have attended, worked at, or been directly connected to the Dante Alighieri elementary school to attend.

Event Information:

The Dante Alighieri Then and Now: School, Community, and Change in East Boston.

Date: Saturday, September 19th

Location: Zumix, 260 Sumner Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Time: 10:30-12:30pm

RSVP: Advance registration is requested.

The event will include a brief research presentation, interactive activities, and an opportunity for community members to share memories of the school. Attendees affiliated with the Alighieri are encouraged to bring photographs, yearbooks, and other school memorabilia. All are welcome (affiliated with the Dante Alighieri school not required)!

Free lunch, childcare, and English/Spanish interpretation will be provided

For further information, please contact Danielle Mulligan (dtmull@bu.edu) or Natalie Smith (natsmith@bu.edu).

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East Boston Branch Library News

Library Happenings:

Baby Lapsit, Mondays: 11:15 AM and Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

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.

All Ages Storytime: Wednesdays at 10:30 am

This weekly story time features books, songs, movement, and a craft. Groups please call ahead.

Bike Repair Workshop with Boston Bikes: Tuesday, Sept. 15th from 3:30-5:30 pm

Join us for a hands-on bike repair workshop led by Boston Bikes. We do all basic bike repair including: patching flat tires, aligning brakes, and adjusting gears and shifters.

Animal Rescue League of Boston: Thursday, September 17th at 4 pm

Learn all about the work of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. The Animal Rescue League of Boston works hard to help animals who need a safe place to stay. Through fun programs like adoption, pet training, and community activities, they help animals stay healthy, happy, and loved.

Boston Teachers Union: Homework Help: Thursdays from 4-6 pm starting on Sept. 24th

Visit the library and receive homework assistance from a Boston Public Schools teacher. This is a drop-in program; no registration is required to attend.

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with La Piñata: Tuesday, Sept. 29th at 4 pm

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with La Pinata. Rosalba Solis will engage children ages 6-11 years old in fun and easy traditional Meso-American/Aztec music & dance, utilizing authentic percussion and wind instruments. Rosalba will instruct participants in basic movement and music skills including Aztec dance steps for participants to learn & plan with!

Career Counseling Drop-in Hours: Thursdays, 12-2:30 pm

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

ESOL Conversation Group: Thursdays from 7-8 pm

Practice speaking English with other adult learners in an informal and friendly group setting. The group is led every Thursday by a volunteer teacher and will take place in-person. This is a drop-in program. No registration is required.

Spellers Screening and Q&A: Saturday, Sept. 26th, 10:30 am

SPELLERS tells the story of eight nonspeakers who all found their voice through the miraculous process of using a letterboard to communicate their thoughts and feelings. After the screening, local resident and Speller certified practitioner, Ryan Curella will answer questions about the Speller technique.

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eastboston@bpl.org

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.

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News in Brief

VIVA MEXICO EVENT

Viva Mexico Event Saturday, September 19 / Evento Viva México – Sábado 19 de septiembre de 2026

Please join Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC) on 102 Border Street, East Boston, Sept. 19 from 1 to 8 p.m. for this free event to celebrate Mexican culture and pride with musical and dance performances, specialty food and beverages for purchase, traditional art and community outreach. Donations and/or sponsorships are always welcome.

vrocc.org

Evento Viva México – Sábado 19 de septiembre de 2026

Únase al Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC) para este evento gratuito en celebración de la cultura y el orgullo mexicano, con presentaciones musicales y de danza, comida y bebidas especiales disponibles para la compra, arte tradicional y actividades de participación comunitaria. Las donaciones y/o patrocinios son siempre bienvenidos.

Sábado, 19 de septiembre de 2026

1:00 a 8:00 pm

102 Border Street, East Boston

vrocc.org

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARY ELLEN WELCH GREENWAY

PHOTOS COURTESY AGNIESKA RYTYCH – FOSTER AND MOLLY WHITEMORE.

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Greenway buzzed with activity all summer, offering something for everyone. The Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway organized many events, including the "Wednesday Night" entertainment series featuring concerts and films. Other highlights included a Bocce tournament, Saturday morning coffee and cartoons, Sports Day, the Pup Cup Social, and Poetry in the Park.

"We are so proud of what we created on the Greenway this summer. Our lineup featured celebrated poets, renowned musicians from Berklee College, recording artists, and local talent," said Keeley Fanuele, Executive Director. "Our goal is to celebrate our community while introducing visitors to our beautiful open spaces. Bringing people together from across the area made the season especially meaningful, particularly as first-time visitors discovered all that Eastie has to offer."

The Greenway even got the attention of WBZ's Chris Tanaka "It Happens Here" where he visited and highlighted Bremen Street Park.

In addition to music and performances, the Greenway introduced "Sports Day".

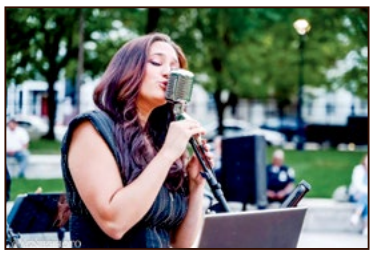
"We held 'Sports Day' at Bremen Street which turned out to be more successful than we could imagine. It started out as an event to encourage kids to get active, promote local sports programs and camps. While it did that, we also celebrated New England Sports Teams like the Patriots, Bruins, Red Sox, Celtics, Revolution, Legacy, Free Jacks and right in our backyard at Memorial Stadium, Suffolk University teams." Said, Lisa Capogreco, Event Coordinator.

Without the financial support of the East Boston Foundation, the Greenway could not have produced such an incredible summer of fun. Many thanks also to our individual event sponsors, Rockland Trust, Cappuccio Construction, State Representative Adrian Madaro, Blue Bikes, The Spur Boston, Taco Mex and Slush King and Aloe Natural.

Big shout out to Massport's Parks Department for assisting the Greenway at every event and keeping the park clean and welcoming for all.

Check out www.maryellenwelchgreenway.org for more updates and events.

Shown are highlights of the events held at Bremen Street Park this summer.

























Mary Ellen Welch GREENWAY

Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway

www.maryellenwelch.org

Mayor Wu, Lt. Governor Driscoll, St. Francis House, and the Planning Office For Urban Affairs celebrate opening of 126 affordable homes at 41 LaGrange Street

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Lt. Governor Driscoll, St. Francis House, the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA), MassHousing, state and local elected officials, residents, and community partners to celebrate the grand opening of 41 LaGrange Street, a new 19-story affordable housing development in downtown Boston. The development creates 126 income-restricted rental homes, advancing the City's work to provide Boston residents with safe, stable, and affordable housing.

"Congratulations to St. Francis House, all our partners, and especially the new neighbors joining our community through the 126 homes in this transformational project. Over the last five years, homelessness has dropped by 19% in Boston, thanks to nation-leading partners working together on a vision for housing that serves every part of our community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Thank you to all our partners for their persistence, support and commitment, and to everyone who has helped bring this project forward. "

Of the 126 apartments, 70 are dedicated to individuals exiting homelessness and 56 will serve workforce, middle, and low income households. The individuals exiting homelessness will receive ongoing wraparound services through St. Francis House, connecting them with health care, employment assistance, behavioral health services, and other resources to support long-term housing stability.

Building 41 LaGrange Street required an innovative approach to construction on one of downtown Boston's tightest sites. The 19-story, all-electric Passive House building was constructed on a former surface parking lot with extremely limited space for construction equipment and staging. To make the project possible, the construction team placed a tower crane within the footprint of the new building and built around it as the structure rose. Crews also worked nights and weekends to manage the challenges of building in a dense downtown neighborhood. Using this approach, the project went from a surface parking lot to topping off all 19 stories in just seven months.

"41 LaGrange Street represents the City of Boston's continued commitment to increase affordable housing opportunities for residents across every neighborhood," said Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing. "By combining affordable housing with comprehensive supportive services, this development creates lasting stability for residents while helping us build a more equitable Boston where everyone has the opportunity to succeed."

"Respect for the dignity of all people includes doing everything possible to provide every person with a safe home, " said Most Reverend Robert F. Hennessey, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston. Too many members of our community are either homeless or on the verge of homelessness for reasons that include the rising cost of housing and food. The 41 LaGrange Street Grand Opening gives us all hope that, working together, more unhoused men and women have access to a new apartment and the services they need to make this housing a stable home."

The opening builds on Boston's broader strategy to reduce homelessness by expanding permanent housing and supportive services. Since Mayor Wu took office, Boston has created 668 permanent supportive housing units for residents transitioning out of homelessness. In 2025, City efforts helped house 979 individuals and 1,071 families experiencing homelessness, representing 3,261 people. More than 200 unsheltered individuals also moved directly from the street into permanent homes.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Lt. Governor Driscoll along with state and local elected officials, residents, and community partners, gathered to cut the ribbon officially opening of 41 LaGrange Street.

Boston's 2026 Point-in-Time Count showed continued progress in addressing homelessness, with overall homelessness declining 19 percent since 2021 and unsheltered homelessness declining 31 percent. The City has worked to reduce homelessness through sustained investments in permanent supportive and affordable housing, homelessness prevention, expanded shelter-to-housing initiatives, and coordinated outreach. Boston uses the annual census to better understand residents' needs, connect people experiencing homelessness with services, and guide investments in housing, prevention, and supportive services.

"Today is a momentous milestone not just for St. Francis House, but for the entire city of Boston. We are incredibly proud to cut the ribbon at 41 LaGrange Street and finally watch our new residents walk through the doors of their forever homes," said Karen LaFrazia, President and CEO of St. Francis House. "This building is a powerful testament to what we can achieve when we work together. We are deeply grateful to our partners at the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, to Mayor Wu and the City of Boston, and the incredible coalition of partners whose shared vision, unwavering support, and dedication to ending homelessness made this dream a reality."

The development was made possible with funding from the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing, including funds through the Neighborhood Housing Trust. The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, MassHousing, the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation, and Bank of America provided additional capital funding. EOHLC and the Boston Housing Authority provided 70 project based vouchers creating the deeply affordable homes to those exiting homelessness.

"We believe that everyone deserves a place to call home, regardless of their income, background, or circumstances, and that a lack of housing is one of the structural causes of poverty and community instability, and we must work together to effectuate change," said Bill Grogan, President of the Planning Office for Urban Affairs. "We are grateful to amplify the impact of our affordable housing developments by partnering with service providers like St. Francis House, which provides much-needed permanent supportive and workforce housing in a neighborhood of Boston that has become unaffordable to most of its community."

"MassHousing is excited for the residents of 41 LaGrange St. who have brand new apartment homes with an array of support services that will help them live and thrive in this new housing community in Chinatown," said MassHousing CEO Chrystal Kornegay. "We were pleased to partner with POUA and St. Francis House in developing this mixed-income community that will allow its

See AFFORDABLE HOMES Page 7

Affordable Homes // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

residents to live with dignity in safe, quality housing."

Under Mayor Michelle Wu's leadership, Boston has made historic progress toward creating and preserving homes that residents can afford. Since the start of her first term, the City has produced or begun construction on more than 18,000 new homes, including thousands of income-restricted units. The Mayor has launched new policies to make it easier, faster, and less expensive to build housing across every neighborhood. In addition to producing new housing, Mayor Wu has directed record levels of investment to expand affordable homeownership and support renters and homeowners who face housing instability.

Through innovative programs like the Housing Accelerator Fund, Welcome Home Boston, and the Housing with Public Assets initiative, the City is finding new ways to create housing on public land, convert vacant buildings into homes, and support residents in building wealth and stability. The Mayor's focus on climate and health has also made Boston a national leader in green and energy-efficient housing. Together, these efforts are helping to make Boston a city where every resident can have a safe, stable, and affordable home, and where communities can grow stronger for generations to come.

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) is to foster healthy, vibrant, and welcoming communities for all by ensuring stable, green, accessible housing and sustainable use of land. The MOH achieves this by creating and preserving income-restricted housing, supporting residents in buying and maintaining their homes, and developing housing policies that promote access and long-term stability. MOH also works to prevent evictions, implements housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness, and works to make Boston's housing stock healthy, resilient, and environmentally sustainable. For more information, please visit the MOH website.

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OBITUARIES

Stephen J. Licari

Of East Boston



Licari, Stephen J. of East Boston, passed away at Mass. General Hospital on September 4, 2026. Beloved son of the late Mary V. (Hennessey) and A. Leonard "Lenny" Licari.

Loving brother of Richard L. "Rick" Licari and his wife Nancy of Quincy, Michael P. Licari of Tustin, CA and the late Robert A. Licari and James G. Licari.

Uncle of Molly Belovarac, Matthew Licari, James Licari and Doreese Licari. Grand uncle of Harper and Luke. Also survived by his dear sister-in-law Charlene Deveney.

Stephen was born in Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford, but was raised and lived his entire life in East Boston. He attended Sacred Heart Grammar School, Christopher Columbus High School in the North End, class of 1972 and received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Suffolk University in 1976.

Stephen worked for United States Government Accountability Office as an auditor for his entire career, retiring in 2018.

Stephen was involved in many activities in Sacred Heart Parish and was very well known throughout the community.

In lieu of flowers donations in his memory to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o Sacred Heart Church, 303 Paris St., East Boston, Ma 02128 would be greatly appreciated by his family.

Stephen's Funeral Mass was celebrated in Sacred heart Church

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East Boston Football home opener this Friday

Photos and story by Patrick O'Connor

The East Boston High School football team trekked over to Clemente Field in the Fenway last Friday evening and got pummeled by the Boston Latin Wolfpack 35-6. At halftime, Latin lead 28-0. Having a good game for Latin was Sammy Tshimuanga scoring three touchdowns in the first half. The Jets got on the board in the fourth quarter. Senior Gio Shire scored a touchdown as the clock wound down.

The first home game is this Friday at 6 p.m. The Brighton Bengals will be the visiting team. Both teams are 0-1.



Captains head for the coin toss.



The Jets led off the kick off at the start of the game.



Start of game huddle.

Sept. 11	Boston Latin (Clemente) L 35-6
Sept. 18	Brighton (H)
Sept. 25	Minuteman (H)
Oct. 2	English (H)
Oct. 9	O'Bryant
Oct. 16	Latin Academy
Nov. 6	TBA
Nov. 13	TBA
Nov. 20	TBA
Nov. 25	Chelsea



Senior cheerleaders and Coach Beatrice get together for picture at the game on Friday, September 11 at Clemente Field in the Fenway.

Bernard Mack Sanchez shines in Boston Baseball Association Fall League

On a lively Wednesday night at East Boston Memorial, St. Louis Cardinals minor leaguer Bernard Mack Sanchez took the mound for the Boston Baseball Association (BBA) Fall League. Coming off an arm injury, Sanchez has chosen this league as a rehabilitation opportunity to gear up for the upcoming minor league season.

As a left-handed pitcher known for his impressive velocity, Sanchez has shown steady improvement week by week. With each game, his speed on the mound has noticeably increased, showcasing his determination and commitment to his craft.

The BBA community is thrilled that Sanchez has selected their league as a crucial part of his journey toward realizing his dreams of playing in the major leagues. His talent is undeniable; he possesses all the essential skills to excel in professional baseball. Beyond his athletic abilities, Sanchez is recognized for his humility and sportsmanship off the field, earning the respect and admiration of his teammates.

With his eye on the prize and a promising future ahead, Sanchez is a player to watch. His journey reflects the dedication and hard work necessary to make it in the competitive world of baseball, and the BBA is proud to support him during this important phase of his career.

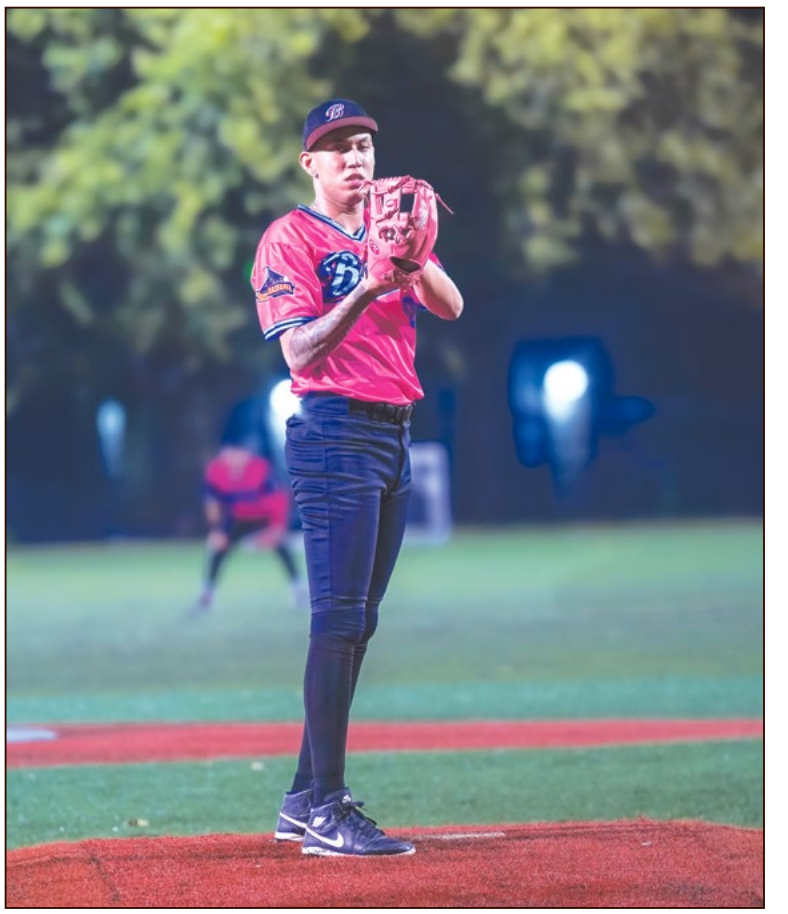
Catch a game every Monday and Wednesday in East Boston at Memorial Park at 8PM.

The Boston Baseball Association (BBA) is an exciting adult baseball league featuring four divisions to match any desired level of competition:

Collegiate play for current and former college and professional players. Enjoy a regular season of 20 games on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The season kicks off in the first week of May, culminating in playoffs in August. Champions receive rings and a team trophy!

Competitive play for those 28 and older. This division also has a 20-game regular season, with games on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. The season begins in mid-April, with playoffs in September. Champions will be awarded rings and a team trophy!

Recreational play for those looking to ease back into the game or enjoy a more relaxed atmosphere. This division features a 14-game schedule with doubleheaders on Saturday afternoons/evenings. The season starts in mid-May, with playoffs in August. Champions receive rings and a team trophy.



Bernard Mack Sanchez

City of Boston Weekly Neighborhood Infrastructure Projects

The City of Boston Construction Management team is providing this weekly update on infrastructure improvements taking place in the Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Charlestown, East Boston, Jamaica Plain, neighborhoods. The work is part of the City's ongoing efforts to maintain and improve Boston's streets and sidewalks, enhance accessibility, upgrade street lighting fixtures, support bridge improvements, and invest in safer, more reliable neighborhood infrastructure.

This Week's Construction Activity:

Street Lighting:

• Crews continue to upgrade lighting fixtures around the Charlestown Navy Yard.

Crews are rebuilding ramps on the following streets in East Boston:

• Chelsea Street (Prescott Street - Border Street) - Sidewalks & Ramps

• Meridian Street (White Street - London Street) - Sidewalks

• Orleans Street & Maverick Street - Sidewalks & Ramps

Residents, businesses, and visitors should expect possible impacts to parking, traffic and pedestrian access. The City appreciates the patience and partnership of residents and businesses and we will continue to minimize disruptions wherever possible as important infrastructure improvements move forward.

*Please note that this work is weather dependent and schedules could change.

For questions, please contact Public Works Public Information Officer Chris Coakley at Christopher.Coakley@boston.gov



SAINT DOMINIC SAVIO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Saint Dominic Savio High School held an Alumni Golf Tournament Monday, Sept. 14 at the Winthrop Golf Club.

Several alumni enjoyed a round of golf, a luncheon, and a glorious late summer day reminiscing about their years at the proud East Boston college preparatory high school on Byron Street known for its academic and athletic excellence.



Representing the Dom Savio Class of 1989, from left, Brendan Gill, Jimmy Olson, Dom Marinelli, and Patrick Jones.



Savio alumni Kevin Adamson, Chris Ford, Kevin Dalton, and John Langone.



Peter Gravallese, former Senate President Robert Travaglini, former Savio head basketball coach Jim Doherty, Ronnie Scala, Frank Scarpa, and Tom Bagley.



Kevin Adamson, who is an assistant coach in the Winthrop High School girls basketball program, and Mark DeGregorio, Winthrop High athletic director, pictured at the Savio Alumni Golf Tournament Monday at the Winthrop Golf Club.



Ronnie Vitale, WGC Head Professional Ed Montone, and Ronnie Vitale.



Dom Savio alumni are pictured before heading out to participate in the tournament Monday at the Winthrop Golf Club.



Repeating as champions of the Dom Savio Alumni Golf Tournament, the foursome of Frank Colleran, Chris Beranger, Dave Belcher, and Frank Scarpa.

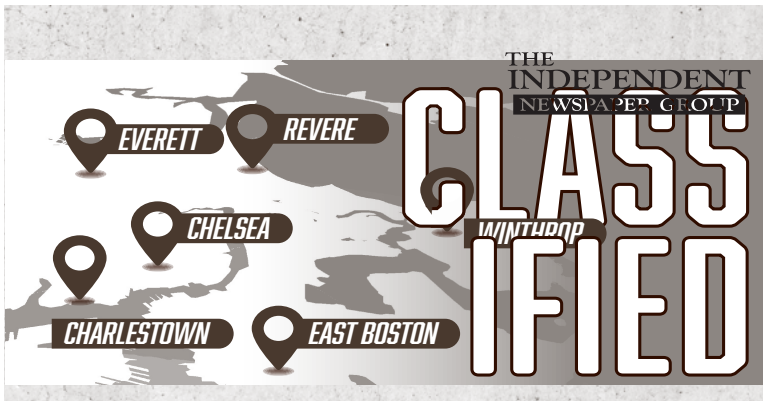
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EAST BOSTON IN SOCCER ACTION AGAINST CHELSEA

BOB MARRA PHOTOS

The neighboring rivals never gave an inch to each other, and the result was what one might expect, a 1-1 tie between East Boston and Chelsea in boys soccer action Friday, September 11 at East Boston Memorial Stadium.



Juan Adarve goes heels-over-head to keep the ball away from Chelsea's Jorge Perez Jr. (17).



Steven Garcia Barrera (right) tangles with Chelsea's Akanni Hernandez for a loose ball.



Ronaldo Paloma gets a pass off in front of Chelsea's Ryan Orellana.

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Ronaldo Paloma (7) works his way between a pair of Chelsea defenders.

EAST BOSTON IN SOCCER ACTION AGAINST CHELSEA

BOB MARRA PHOTOS



East Boston's Amilcar Pena takes control of the ball between a pair of Chelsea defenders.



Brian Alas (21, right) collides with Chelsea's Johnny DePina Alves as they vie for the ball.





East Boston 's Samuel Moreno clear



Steven Garcia Berrera leaps over Chelsea's Akanni Hernandez who broke up Berrera's rush up the sideline.

Wu, Boston Public Health Commission award $3.3 million to support community health centers

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) are awarding $3.3 million to support community health centers ahead of increased demand and financial strain from federal cuts to Medicaid. According to MassHealth, starting in October hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents will be at risk of gradually losing health insurance coverage because of new federal Medicaid requirements. In January 2027, MassHealth projects that new federal work and education requirements alone will impact around 40,000 Boston residents, leaving them at risk of losing coverage. About 40% of those individuals live in Dorchester and Roxbury with another 20% residing in Hyde Park, South End, and Mattapan. Since community health centers see all patients regardless of income and insurance status, many will likely go to health centers for care, causing health centers to see more patients while receiving less payments for services.

"With many of our residents' access to healthcare under attack by the Federal Administration, Boston must rally behind our community health centers, now more than ever," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our community health centers are trusted providers who deliver high-quality care to all residents, regardless of who they are or how much they make. Investing in our health centers is an investment in access for everyone in Boston to live a long and healthy life."

Because of these inequitable impacts, Mayor Wu and Boston Public Health Commission are providing support to 10 health centers as part of the City's Live Long and Well population health equity agenda. Live Long and Well focuses on addressing health inequities and closing the stark gap in life expectancy between Boston neighborhoods. The three leading causes of early death in Boston (cardiometabolic diseases, cancer, and unintentional drug overdoses) disproportionately impact communities of color; and Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan experience the greatest health disparities. This funding will help support health centers that serve disproportionately impacted residents with staffing, operations, and interventions that address conditions that result in premature death, including keeping people connected to health care.

"As a city, we are committed to closing the 23-year life expectancy gap that exists between neighborhoods, and we need our community health centers to accomplish this goal," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "Community health centers are the front door to care, and they are being asked to hold that door open as federal cuts strip coverage from around 40,000 of our residents. An increase in uninsured patients does not mean a decrease in the number of patients needing care. It means more people arriving sicker, later, with conditions we could have managed years earlier. Funding like this will help keep the doors of community health centers open."

Financial support for health centers is vital, and many are still trying to recover from revenue losses and staffing shortages from the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this, Boston Public Health Commission set aside $3.3 million from its last year of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to support health centers. Ten community health centers will each receive $300,000 to support existing staff, increase access to health insurance coverage, and enhance staff capacity. An additional $300,000 will go to the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers to support these health centers in improving long-term financial stability.

"As a trusted health care provider for one in two Boston residents, community health centers have played major roles in Boston's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, closure of Carney Hospital, and our most persistent public health challenges. With so many of our most vulnerable residents set to lose Medicaid coverage in 2027, it is critical that our health centers have the resources necessary to meet even greater health care needs," said Michael Curry, President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. "The Mass League is immensely grateful to Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission for understanding how vital community health centers are in this moment and ensuring they are in the best position possible to care for our city moving forward."

The selected community health centers are:

- Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program
- Charles River Community Health
- Codman Square Health Center
- The Dimock Center
- DotHouse Health
- Harbor Health Services
- Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center
- Mattapan Community Health Center
- NeighborHealth
- Whittier Street Health Center

"At DotHouse Health, we see every day how deeply health inequities shape the outcomes of patients living with diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and other cardiometabolic conditions. Those disparities are at risk of widening as many patients face uncertainty about their health insurance coverage. This funding will allow us to strengthen and scale a team-based approach to improving cardiometabolic health that includes clinicians working alongside community resource specialists and staff dedicated to helping patients enroll in and maintain insurance coverage. By investing in both care and coverage, we can reduce disparities in cardiometabolic health and help our patients stay healthy. We are deeply grateful to Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission for this investment in health equity," said Dr. Monica Vohra, Chief Medical Officer at DotHouse Health.

"Health center patients deserve the same support as all patients in managing chronic conditions like diabetes," said Dr. Klavdia Brisson, Chief Clinical Officer at Charles River Community Health. "This support will help us engage more intensively with patients who only see their primary care physician one to two times a year and have A1c levels of 9, 10, 11, or higher, which puts them at extreme risk of debilitating complications."

"This supplemental funding allows Whittier Street Health Center to expand our Mobile Health Program at a critical moment for the communities we serve," said Frederica M. Willams, President and CEO of Whittier Street Health Center. "By bringing services directly into neighborhoods and strengthening partnerships with community organizations, we can keep more residents connected to the screenings and preventive care that protect long-term health and reduce the barriers that too often stand between patients and the care they need and deserve. We are grateful for this investment in health equity from Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission – one that speaks directly to the well-being of Boston's most vulnerable individuals and families."

Even though this $3.3 million is a one-time fund, it is not the only time Boston Public Commission provides financial assistance to community health centers across the city. In May 2023, BPHC awarded $1.4 million from ARPA funds to seven organizations who experienced revenue losses and increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. BPHC also provides annual support to community health centers in Boston through its annual City appropriation and other grant funds.

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is the country's oldest health department. We envision a thriving Boston where all residents live healthy and fulfilling lives. To accomplish this, BPHC works in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, especially those impacted by racism and systemic inequities. Learn more about our work at boston.gov/bphc.



ZUMIX announces 2026 Muze gala and honorees

Special to the Times-Free Press

ZUMIX, a local nonprofit providing creative opportunities for young people through music and technology, will host its annual Gala, The Muze, at City Winery on Thursday, Oct. 29. The event, a major fundraiser for the ZUMIX community, will include multiple performances by ZUMIX youth ensembles and participants. ZUMIX will also present its annual Luminary Awards to two community members: ZUMIX alumnus Dawry Ruiz, Artist-in-Residence & Youth Arts Ambassador, Madison Arts Commission & Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison, Wis., and Alec Waugh, Revere High School Music Teacher, Revere Public Schools, Revere, Mass.

"We're excited to welcome the community to this year's Gala," said Madeleine Steczynski, co-founder and executive director of ZUMIX. "As we continue to celebrate our 35th anniversary, we're throwing it back to 1991 and invite anyone to come and party with us! All proceeds from the event will go to support our work." Tickets are available through the event's GiveLively page: https://secure.givelively.org/event/zumix-inc/the-muze-2026/the-muze-2026.

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 Esther Austin, Director of Development, at esther.austin@zumix.org.

Aquarium offering discounted tickets for homeschooling families

The New England Aquarium is offering discounted admission this fall for homeschooling families to experience its educational programs and exhibits.

Every Tuesday through December 22, 2026, homeschool families have access to special ticket prices: $12 for children and $21 for adults. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Aquarium's Reservations Department at 617-973-5206 daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. More information is available on neaq.org.

Included in admission, the Aquarium offers a variety of programs, presentations, and feedings each day:

• Guests can stop by an interactive educational space on the third floor called the Exploration Station, which offers both guided and self-led themed activities. Families can engage with sensory activities, pretend to be an Aquarium veterinarian, and spend some down time reading books.

• Join an educator along the exhibit path for an up-close experience with one of the Aquarium's animal ambassadors. Learn more about jellies, local turtle species, or axolotls during animal encounters happening daily at 10:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

• Aquarium guests can enjoy daily presentations with the penguins, sea lions, harbor seals, and residents of the Giant Ocean Tank, including Myrtle the green sea turtle. Full schedule available here.

The Aquarium also has a host of fun and educational activities on its website that can engage young learners before or after a trip to the Aquarium. The activities help visitors explore the Aquarium more deeply, encourage content learning, and improve science skills as well as support math and literacy development.

The New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.

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Docket No.
SU26D1495DR
Ana Olinde Benitez
Plaintiff
vs.
Jose Domingo Burgos Medina
Defendant
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party.
SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Ana Olinde Benitez 75 White St. Apt #1 Boston, MA 02128 your answer, if any, on or before 10/13/2026. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Judge of this Court.
Date: August 31, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

9/16
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Docket No. SU26P1489EA
Estate of:
Doris Ditomaso
Date of Death:
07/25/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Steven Ditomaso of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Steven Ditomaso of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/07/2026.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 02, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

9/16
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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK WITH THE COURTS TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER

Project Bread taps SNAP policy veteran Alex Dery Snider as Chief Policy Officer

Special to the Times-Free Press

Alex Dery Snider caught the policy bug in high school, competing in New Hampshire's Youth in Government program. She's carried it through stints on Capitol Hill, at The Pew Charitable Trusts and at a civil legal aid nonprofit in New York, and now brings it home to Massachusetts as Project Bread's new Chief Policy Officer.

In this role, the Salem resident leads Project Bread's policy team as the East Boston-based statewide food security organization continues its advocacy for state and federal investment in food security programs, including its push for increased staffing at the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance to improve SNAP access. In her first months, she is focusing on building relationships across the nonprofit's team and partners, including U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern and U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, co-leaders of the Make Hunger History Coalition, while preparing the organization's advocacy strategy for the upcoming legislative session.

"Access to food is such a universal, fundamental need, and food insecurity has such long-term, cascading effects on people's lives," says Dery Snider, a Dracut native. "I've always loved policy work and advocacy, and I'm glad to be able to focus that work on food security here at home in Massachusetts."



PHOTO COURTESY PROJECT BREAD
Alex Dery Snider

Dery Snider joins Project Bread from Empire Justice Center, a civil legal services nonprofit in New York, where she directed policy and communications work on a broad range of issues, including civil rights, disability advocacy and public benefits, including SNAP. Earlier, she worked at Bennington College in Vermont and, in Washington, D.C., at The Pew Charitable Trusts, where she worked on a partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to bring health into decisions in other sectors, including grantees nationwide, and a report examining the health impacts of proposed SNAP cuts in a Farm Bill reauthorization. In 2024, Dery Snider was recognized for her policy and communications work with Empire Justice Center in New York; she worked as part of the New York Legal Services Coalition, which was recently named one of the most effective coalitions in the state. At Empire Justice Center, she crafted the organization's policy agenda to protect vulnerable New Yorkers, including their response to a proposed budget cut for legal services for low-income residents. She previously served as communications director for the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology and holds a degree in English writing and Speech and Theater from St. Lawrence University.

"Alex has spent her career on the frontlines of strategic policy campaigns, successfully changing policy from Capitol Hill to New York State, and she knows firsthand what it takes to get SNAP access right and to make sure constituents know why these policies are urgent and relevant to them," says Erin McAleer, Project Bread CEO. "That's exactly the expertise we need as we push Massachusetts to become the first state in the country to permanently end hunger."

People experiencing food insecurity should call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential, free assistance getting connected to a variety of food resources in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. Counselors can prescreen families and help them to apply for SNAP. Learn more at www.projectbread.org/get-help.

Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible so that no one goes hungry. Summer Eats is one of the many nutrition programs they support. Any resident of Massachusetts struggling to afford food or worrying they might run out before they have money to buy more can call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline for help in 180+ languages (1-800-645-8333) or send a confidential chat on www.gettingsnap.com for compassionate, personalized assistance. Counselors are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is also a dedicated line available to those who are hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

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