The Italian Heritage/Buddy Mangini Oct. 11 Parade information in next week's issue

East Boston
Times-Free Press

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

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East Boston cheerleaders welcome guests to last year's Joy:us, the East Boston Social Centers' annual celebration, now The Eastie Social.

Social centers to honor the Hestia Fund and Eastie Friends

Special to the Times-Free Press

The East Boston Social Centers will host The Eastie Social on Thursday, October 1, 2026, from 4:30 to 7:30 PM at The Tall Ship Boston, 1 East Pier Drive. For five years, neighbors have known the celebration as Joy:us. This year it has a new name and two parts: a free Family Celebration on the dock, open to all of East Boston, followed by a ticketed Reception & Honors in the tent. The event was originally scheduled for Sunday, September 27 and was moved because of the heavy weather and coastal flooding forecast for that weekend.

The Family Celebration runs from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, with showcases from Social Centers programs, local music, snacks,

See EASTIE SOCIAL Page 7

Boston Public Schools shows steady results on state accountability framework

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released the accountability data and Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) results for the 2025-2026 school year.

Overall, per the state accountability framework, the district remains classified as making Moderate Progress Toward Targets. Additionally, the district is not identified as requiring assistance or intervention and continues to reduce the number of schools receiving such desig-

See SCHOOLS Page 13

ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE COMMITTEE



Parade Committee Chairperson Joe Ruggiero (center) with Nick Restuccia and John Verrengia during the final fundraiser for the 2026 Italian Heritage Parade. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.



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East Boston Times-Free Press

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Forum

AN EXPENSIVE WINTER AHEAD

The war with Iran already has cost U.S. consumers more than $100 billion in direct costs for our gasoline purchases. That's about $800 per family since the war began in February -- and that figure is increasing every day that the war drags on.

However, what we are paying at the pump because of this so-called war is nothing compared to the coming shock of heating oil prices for the 20% of Mass. residents who use oil to heat their homes.

The average price for a gallon of heating oil already is a jaw-dropping $6.15 per gallon, which represents a staggering 75% increase above the average price of $3.52 per gallon at this time last year.

This means that a fill-up of 200 gallons for a family's oil tank will cost about $1250, a figure that is completely unaffordable for many and that will strain the budgets for most.

Natural gas prices are not predicted to increase as much, but the 50% of Mass. residents who heat their homes with natural gas are expected to see an increase of up to 15% in their heating bills this winter.

Even if the war with Iran were to end tomorrow, the significant disruptions to the world's energy supply chains that already have occurred would not bring significant relief from the current elevated prices for gasoline, diesel, and home heating oil.

In short, there is no relief in sight -- and there is the likely prospect (depending on weather around the country and more supply shocks) of prices going even higher.

The only hope we have for making it through the winter heating season without emptying our wallets is to pray for a warmer-than-normal winter. Even so, we still should plan on lowering our thermostats -- and wearing heavy sweaters -- in our homes.

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.

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.

Boston Teachers Union: Homework Help: Thursdays from 4-6 pm

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.

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.

Coffee Cupping with Rob Fitzgiboon: Saturday, Oct. 3rd, at 3 pm

If you love coffee, this event is for you! Learn all about the fascinating world of coffee from coffee enthusiast Rob Fitzgibbon. Participants will then sample three different coffees and review and discuss them. Space is limited and registration is required. Call 617-569-0271 or email mkelly@bpl.org to register.

My Grandma's Legacy/El Legado de mi Abuela: Thursday, October 15th, 6:30-7:30 pm

This is the beginning of the saga, when you will learn how Abuela Angela meets the love of her life, conquers his heart with food, and leaves a legacy to her oldest granddaughter. This is a program for adults.

Space is limited and registration is required. Please call 617-569-0271 or email eastboston@bpl.org to register.

Author Talk: David Kruh: Saturday. October 24th at 2 pm

On August 15, 1945, as Bostonians celebrated the end of World War II, a well-dressed woman asked a teenage boy to watch her newborn baby. She promised to return after performing an errand but never did. Little Mister Victory: A Daughter's Search for the Woman Who Abandoned Her Father on VJ Day is the true story of a lifelong quest, by the baby's daughter, to find the woman who abandoned her father. Join us when author David Kruh visits to speak about this fascinating book.

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Harbor View Neighborhood Association announces October 5 meeting agenda

Special to the Times-Free Press

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on October 5, 2026, at 6pm. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street which is also handicap accessible and an elevator is available for your convenience if needed. which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs.

La proxima reunion de Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en cinco de octubre a las 6pm. La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Puede entrar a la junta por la entrrada principal en la calle Byron la cual puede ser utilizada por personas con discapacidades y tiene un elevador si es que es necesario para evitar las escaleras.

Agenda

Welcome/Introduction (5min)

Station 7 Police Report (15min) Officers Curtis Mosley and Dave Hale, and Sgt. Cintolo.

Announcements: Free Monthly Community Dinner at Sacred Heart Parish, October 14, 2026, 5pm -7pm. The Bennington/ Saratoga Safety Project will conduct a workshop on September 30, 2026, at 6:30pm at YMCA on Ashley Street. Please remember Grace Church Food Pantry for any donations of food or money. DID YOU KNOW?? 33.5% of East Boston households had 0 vehicles. October 4, 2026, St. Vincent de Paul at Sacred Heart will have a Comedy Night Fundraiser at Giggles at 5pm. Jimmy Fund Walk for Ritchie Strangie at Constitution Beach on October 4, 2026 at 10am. The St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive is scheduled for October 17 and 18 at St. Lazarus Parking Lot. Contact Information, Carlos Garcia, East Boston Liaison, Office of Neighborhood Services, ONS, carlos.garcia@boston.gov or 617-308-5725.

691 Saratoga Street (20min) This is the 2nd presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds representing Blackstone Holdings, LLC. The proposal is to Amend ALT1663517 to include a roof deck. Zoning concerns Roof Structure Restrictions.

East Boston Italian Heritage Day Parade (5min) This East Boston favorite event is back Thank You to Joe Ruggiero and his committee. The parade date is October 11, 2026, at 1pm. The parade route is Wally Street to Bennington Street, through Day Square to Chelsea Street to Maverick Square, head up Meridian Street to the Post Office Viewing Stand.

Halloween House Decoration Contest (5min) Once again our annual contest will reward the best houses that are decorated for the Halloween season. Let's get in the spirit of the season and let your house show it!

Save the Date (5min) HVNA will have our Annual Holiday Party at the East Boston Yacht Club on Thursday, December 10, 2026, at 6pm. Please put the date on your calendar. At the November meeting we will share more information about the celebration.

Follow-up items: Byron Street Bridge, Legislation on regulating e-bikes, scooters, mopeds. Byron Street Greenway access.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on November 2, 2026. Visit us at http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna or check our website at harborvieweastboston.com or board@harborviewna.org

Updated Laws

Boston City Councilors Coletta Zapata, Weber and Santana introduce amendments to the surveillance oversight ordinance

Special to the Times-Free Press

During last week's Boston City Council Meeting, Councilors Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) Benjamin J. Weber (District 6) and Henry Santana (At-Large) introduced Docket #1796: "Ordinance Amending City of Boston, Chapter XVI, Section 63, Ordinance on Surveillance Oversight and Information Sharing." This docket seeks to update the City's surveillance oversight law, passed by the Council in 2022.

The 2022 ordinance was put in place to ensure accountability and transparency around how the City and its agencies acquire and use surveillance technology. Pursuant to the ordinance, in 2022, the Council was notified of the surveillance technologies in use by the City and voted on their approval. The City was required to obtain Council approval before adopting any new technologies, except in exigent circumstances when it could act immediately to address an imminent threat and then notify.

On August 27, 2025, the City Council voted to deny approval of the use of social media monitoring tools that were used under exigent circumstances during the prior year, as reported in the 2024 City of Boston Annual Surveillance Report. The arguments to deny approval included concerns that the tools risked curtailing speech without a tangible increase in public safety; lack of clarity about whether exigent circumstances actually existed; and the BPD's failure to follow the notice provisions of the Surveillance Ordinance governing the use of a technology due to exigent circumstances.

The 2025 City of Boston Annual Surveillance Report, released on September 14, 2026 reveals, however, that the social media surveillance tools continued to be used despite the City Council's denial, and that the BPD added another social media surveillance technology.

The report also contained a section on the City's use of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs). While the Council approved the use of ALPRs in 2022, this was before the national debate around Flock cameras, the growth of AI, and the civil rights abuses of the Trump Administration. The report shows that while the City engaged in a pilot with Flock from April 1, 2025, to September 4, 2025, it started a new program using ALPRs with two other contractors, Motorola Solutions and Axon Enterprise. The report also stated that even though the City's contract with Flock "clearly noted that data sharing was to be disabled . . . [w]ithin three days of initiating the Pilot, BPD became aware that other law enforcement agencies were able to access" the data collected in Bos-

See OVERSIGHT Page 14

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18th annual ALS & MS Walk for Living to be held October 18

Special to the Times-Free Press

For people living with ALS, MS, and other disabling conditions, life can change dramatically after a diagnosis. But at the Leonard Florence Center for Living in Chelsea, a diagnosis does not mean giving up the things that bring joy, adventure, independence, and connection.

That spirit will be celebrated at the 18th Annual ALS & MS Walk for Living, taking place at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 18, 165 Captains Row on Admiral's Hill in Chelsea.

The annual event brings together residents, families, friends, caregivers, staff, community members, and supporters for a two-mile, dog-friendly walk benefiting the Center's residents. Remarkably, many of the residents who participate do so in wheelchairs, while others are dependent on ventilators. Their presence makes the Walk for Living much more than a fundraising event -- it is a powerful celebration of living life to the fullest.



Paul Koch on a ski trip.



Martha Waite on a ski trip.

Embracing Life

As avid ski racers, Martha Waite and Paul Koch loved skiing down a snowy mountain. After they were diagnosed with ALS—Martha in 2018 at age 67 and Paul in 2024 at age 63, they assumed their skiing days were over.

Then they became residents of the Leonard Florence Center for Living.

Last winter, Leonard Florence Center staff made it possible for Martha and Paul to return to the slopes for a ski outing in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. It was a trip they will never forget.

"Participating in activities I love is something I never thought possible after my diagnosis," said Martha Waite. "The skiing trip was everything I had hoped for—fun, exciting and exhilarating. My brother and his wife, Karen, came from Canada to ski with me. We laughed when we realized we hadn't skied together since high school. I am so proud to be a resident of the Leonard Florence Center for Living."

Paul passed away on June 20, 2026, making the February ski outing even more meaningful.

The ski trip is just one example of the extraordinary experiences made possible at the Leonard Florence Center for Living. Through advanced technology, a highly skilled and compassionate staff, and a robust calendar of activities and outings, residents living with ALS, MS, and ventilator dependence are able to experience a level of independence and engagement that is not possible in a traditional nursing home.

As the country's first urban model Green House® skilled nursing facility, the Leonard Florence Center for Living provides residents with a level of choice, dignity, and independence that sets it apart. The Center cares for more people living with ALS than any other facility in the world. In 2020, the Center also opened the Stein Family Center for Well-Being, the only Green House® ventilator program in the country.

Honoring the Hackel-Remis Family

The 2026 ALS & MS Walk for Living will honor the Hackel-Remis family, including Michael Hackel and Danielle Remis Hackel, longtime friends

See ALS Page 5





ALS // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and supporters of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare who are deeply involved in the local community.

Michael's father, Richard Hackel, is a resident of the Leonard Florence Center for Living and is living with ALS. A former attorney, Richard has not allowed his diagnosis to define his life.

Richard is an active participant in life at the Center and is known for his enthusiasm, generosity, and willingness to encourage those around him. He is often among the first to sign up for trips and activities and is always eager to lend a hand or help another resident.



Richard Hackel at a Red Sox game.

"We are delighted to honor the Hackel-Remis family at this year's Walk for Living," said Barry Berman, CEO of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare. "Richard is an inspiration to everyone who knows him. He embraces every opportunity to participate, whether it's a trip, an activity, or simply helping another resident. His determination and positive spirit embody everything the Walk for Living represents."

A Celebration for the Entire Community

The ALS & MS Walk for Living begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 18, at 165 Captains Row on Admiral's Hill in Chelsea. Every dollar raised goes directly toward patient care and programs for residents living with ALS and MS.

Following the two-mile walk, participants will enjoy a community celebration featuring a BBQ hosted by Chili's, face painting, live dance performances, a petting zoo, and more.

The $20 registration donation includes a Walk for Living T-shirt, food, and all activities.

M&T Bank is the Platinum-level sponsor. A.H.O.A., ACS Development Corporation, and Geriatric Medical are Gold-level sponsors. Eastern Bank and Eastern Salt Company are Silver-level sponsors. Independent Newspaper Group is the media sponsor.

To register for the Walk or make a donation, visit www.walkforliving.org.

For more information, contact Walk Director Maura Graham at mgraham@chelseajewish.org or 617-409-8973. All donations are tax deductible.

About Chelsea Jewish Lifecare

Chelsea Jewish Lifecare is redefining senior care and re-envisioning what life should be like for people living with disabling conditions. Its eldercare community includes skilled nursing and short-term rehabilitation residences; specialized ALS, MS, and ventilator-dependent care; traditional and specialized assisted living; memory care; independent living; adult day health; and homecare and hospice agencies—all dedicated to delivering customized, compassionate care.



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Prepare your home for winter with Boston's 'Seniors Save' program. If you're 60 or older, you can receive up to $12,000 in grants - plus in-house contractor support - to repair or replace an aging heating system. Need additional funding? 0% interest, deferred loans are available to cover the rest of project costs.

In addition to grants for heating system repairs or replacements through the Seniors Save program, The City of Boston's Home Center partners with NOAH to provide income-eligible seniors with hands-on assistance for urgent home repairs. An approved, licensed and insured contractor will perform all work.

If you own a home in East Boston, Charlestown, the North End or the West End, contact Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) to schedule a free, no obligation, in-home assessment! Income eligibility and other restrictions may apply.

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Wu officially launches annual Legacy Business Award nominations

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the nomination period for the fifth annual Legacy Business Awards. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, October 30, 2026. Residents are encouraged to nominate long standing businesses that have been located within the city of Boston for at least 10 years and contribute to the cultural, historical, and societal fabric of their community or neighborhood.

"Boston's long-standing businesses are more than economic drivers–they are community anchors and neighborhood hubs," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Nominations are now open for the Legacy Awards, and we are excited to celebrate the fifth cohort of awardees. We encourage residents to nominate the local businesses that serve their communities every day and help make Boston a home for everyone."

To nominate a business, residents can use the online form or call the Office of Small Business at 617-635-0355 for assistance. To date, 120 local businesses representing over 4,500 years of service to Boston's neighborhoods have been honored through the Legacy Business Program. By recognizing and supporting legacy businesses on an annual basis, this program supports Mayor Wu's vision for Boston being a family-friendly and vibrant city that creates more opportunities for residents to build generational wealth.

"Legacy businesses are the true heartbeats of our communities," said Interim Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Donald Wright. "They are far more than commercial storefronts. They are emotional anchors and living archives of our shared history. From the memories of shopping alongside a parent or grandparent to the pride of buying your very first item with your own money, these long-standing establishments hold generations of local life within their walls."

After the nomination period closes, the Office of Small Business verifies eligibility for all nominees and submits a list of nominated, eligible businesses to the City Council. City Councilors then create a shortlist of potential awardees. Next, a committee—led by the Office of Small Business—will review this shortlist and submit a list of finalists to Mayor Wu. Selections are based on application scoring and community support. The committee ensures the list is representative of Boston by industry, neighborhood, gender, and race.

"Our office is committed to supporting our small businesses: start, grow, and stay in Boston," said Aliesha Porcena, City of Boston Director of Small Business. "This program honors businesses, who have done just that and continue to be staples in our community. Our legacy businesses provide jobs, generate dollars for the local economy, and contribute to the vibrancy of Boston. Honoring businesses that have given our city, neighborhoods, and families so much does not get old, it gets more exciting each year."

The City of Boston will recognize the 30 Legacy Business Award winners at a public awards ceremony in early June 2027. The Office of Small Business will provide awardees with a commercial lease toolkit, free legal consultation, support with succession planning, and other technical assistance related to the health and success of long-term businesses.

"We have been serving children and families in Boston for many years, and it meant a lot to know that our work and commitment to the community were recognized by the City," said Cindy Liao, Center Director of 2026 Legacy Business Winner Little Panda Early Learning and Care Center. "After the news came out, many of our current and former parents saw that Little Panda had received the award and reached out right away to congratulate me. That was especially touching because these families have been such an important part of Little Panda over the years. It made me feel that this recognition was not only for us, but also for the families and community who have supported us along the way. The ceremony was a very special moment for us and made me proud of how far Little Panda has come. It also encouraged us to keep doing what we love—supporting children, families, and our community."

"We were both surprised and delighted to have been chosen for the Legacy Business Award," said Lisa Weller, Owner of 2026 Legacy Business Winner Helen's Leather Shop. "We have grown, evolved, and loved every minute of the past 53 years. The Legacy Business Awards gave us such a special evening to celebrate together and truly realize what my parents built. Helen's Leather was joyfully represented at the event by four generations, our manager for the past 45 years, and our best customer cowboy Rob, who has almost as many boots as we do! It was a night we'll never forget."

The nomination form is available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, Somali, Russian, and French. Nominations are limited to one per resident. To learn more, visit the Legacy Business Program website.

OBITUARIES

Julia Adela "Julie" Markakis

Of Winthrop



Julia Adela "Julie" Markakis, age 81, of Winthrop, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Friday, September 25, 2026, at Massachusetts General Hospital. Born in Lynn in 1945, she was the daughter of the late Leonidas and Julia (de La Vega) Markakis. Raised and educated in Lynn, Julie graduated from Lynn English High School in 1963, where the popular teenager became Co-Captain of the cheerleading Team, Queen of the Sr. Prom, and Miss Lynn English High. Julie then attended and graduated from The Academie Moderne, a finishing school created by the late Mildred Albert, where both Julie and her sister Olga graduated. As simple as it may seem, Julie often said that the academy prepared her well for her career in the airlines and beyond.

Although she never married, Julie was the high school sweetheart of the late Boston Red Sox great Tony Conigliaro. Although the young couple went to rival schools, they dated for many years. Their

love and respect for one another lasted well beyond high school, and is well documented in all three books written about the Red Sox slugger.

Post-Academie Moderne, Julie was hired by Eastern Airlines as a Flight Attendant, where she enjoyed an illustrious career spanning more than two decades. When the airline was sold, Julie worked at the State House in Boston, and later transferred to the Department of Public Health, where she retired after 25 years of public service.

"Jules" often stated that she "loved her adventures traveling the world," and one of her fondest memories was traveling to Greece and Israel with her Mom. Like her Dad, "Big Lou," Julie was philanthropic, donating money to causes she believed in, such as the Jimmy Fund, Wounded Warriors Project, DAV, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Red Cross, American Cancer Society, ASPCA, National WWII Museum, and, fondly, as a member of Silverliners, an airline group of current and former Flight Attendants supporting good causes.

Julie is survived by her loving siblings, Olga Sherry of Brewster, Alexander "Alex" Markakis of Revere, Nora Markakis of Lynn, and Louis "Lou" Markakis of Revere; her nieces and nephews: Julie Cowles, Angel Melnik, Laura Sherry, Sean Sherry, and Alex "Robert" Markakis.

Julie will "surely be missed" by many cousins and dear friends.

A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, October 2, 2026, at the SOLIMINE FUNERAL HOME, 67 Ocean St. (Rt. lA), Lynn, at 11 a.m. The burial will be at Pine Grove Cemetery, Lynn. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Visiting Hours are Friday from 9-11 a.m., before the Funeral Service. Donations in Julie's memory may be made to a charity of one's choice, as Julie herself was philanthropic to multiple charities throughout her life. Directions and online guestbook at www.solimine.com

OBITUARIES

William J. "Billy" Gleeson, Sr.

He will be remembered as a kind, humble family man, who truly knew what mattered most in life

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Visiting Hours today, Wednesday, September 30, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for William J. "Billy" Gleeson, Sr., who died on Saturday, September 26, surrounded by his loving family at the Lahey Medical Center in Burlington following a long illness with multiple health problems. He was 83 years old. His Funeral will be conducted from the funeral home on Thursday, October 1, beginning at 9 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere at 10 a.m. Interment will immediately follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Billy was born on November 10, 1942, in Boston to his late parents. Francis "Frank" and Josephine (Cahill) Gleeson. Billy began his life living in Roxbury along with his eleven brothers and sisters. Billy was educated in Boston Public Schools. At the age of 10 the family moved to East Boston, where he made his home for over 70 years.

Billy married the love of his life, Josephine M. "Joanne" (Russo) on July 28, 1963. They had one son, William, Jr. and happily raised their son together. Billy was always dedicated to his family and worked to provide for them. He began



working in a shoe factory and then later worked in the Security Business. Throughout Billy's life, he had some health struggles, but he marched on with his wife by his side and worked until this past year. He enjoyed a career with Alliance Security for 32 years.

Billy enjoyed traveling all over the country and especially had a few places that he truly liked such as Niagara Fall's and Dolly Wood in Tennessee. Billy also enjoyed taking the entire family on a yearly vacation so they could all enjoy it together. He also enjoyed his trips to Atlantic City and Foxwoods. Billy was an avid Boston Sports fan but mostly enjoyed his home and being with his family. He will be remembered as a kind, humble family man, who truly knew what mattered most in life.

The beloved husband of 63 years of Josephine M. "Joanne" (Russo) Gleeson of East Boston and the loving father of William J. "Billy" Gleeson, Jr. and his companion, Julie Nguyen of Dorchester, he was the cherished grandfather of Chenelle M. Gleeson and her fiancée, Jeff Doucette of Belmont, Alise M. Niolet and her husband, Marcus of Concord, New Hampshire and the late William J. "Willy" Gleeson, III and his wife, Krissie Sansaverino – Gleeson and surrogate grandfather of Serena DiSciscio of Concord, NH; great grandfather of Kourtney R. Gleeson and Luciana Niolet; dear brother of the late Joanne Candelora, Frank Gleeson, Edward Gleeson, Mary Thomson, Herbert Gleeson, Joseph Gleeson, Theresa MaQuiggin, Thomas Gleeson, Katherine Gleeson, and Elaine Bates. He is also lovingly survived by his brother-in-law, Frank Candleora and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Lahey Clinic Office of Philanthropy, 529 Main St., 4th Floor, Charlestown, MA 02129. To send your condolences online, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the

Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals.

Eastie Social // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and family activities along the harbor. It is free, and families can sign up at ebsocialcenters.org/eastie-social.

The Reception & Honors, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, brings together the Social Centers' leadership, board, sponsors, and supporters to recognize this year's honorees, the Hestia Fund and the Friends of East Boston. The Hestia Fund, a Boston women's giving circle founded in 2000, and the Friends of East Boston have supported the organizations that serve East Boston's children, families, and residents for years, including BPS Region 1 schools, YMCA East Boston, Zumix, and the East Boston Social Centers.

"East Boston has always been a place where neighbors come together," said Justin Pasquariello, Chief Executive Officer of the East Boston Social Centers. "The Hestia Fund and the Friends of East Boston Circle have shown us what it looks like to invest not for recognition, but because they believe, as we do, that when all give, all gain. None of us can meet this moment alone, but together, as neighbors, partners, and friends, we can."

Funds raised at The Eastie Social support the Social Centers' programs for children, families, and seniors, and keep the Family Celebration free. Tickets for the Reception & Honors are available at ebsocialcenters.org/eastie-social.

Members of the media are welcome to attend. The Family Celebration on the dock, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, is the best time for photos. To attend or to request an interview, contact Aubrey Hartnett (details above).

The East Boston Social Centers, a multi-service agency and community center that cultivates community, belonging, and joy, has been changing lives for 108 years, serving East Boston and its neighbors with services that support community health, well-being, and joy. As reflected in its motto, "When all give, all gain," the Social Centers create a welcoming environment where community members are empowered to lead productive, fulfilling lives. Learn more at ebsocialcenters.org.



To place a memoriam in the
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ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE COMMITTEE HOSTS FUNDRAISER AT BEACHMONT VFW POST 6712

The East Boston Italian Heritage Parade Committee hosted a fundraiser last Friday night at Beachmont VFW Post 6712. The parade is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 12 in East Boston.



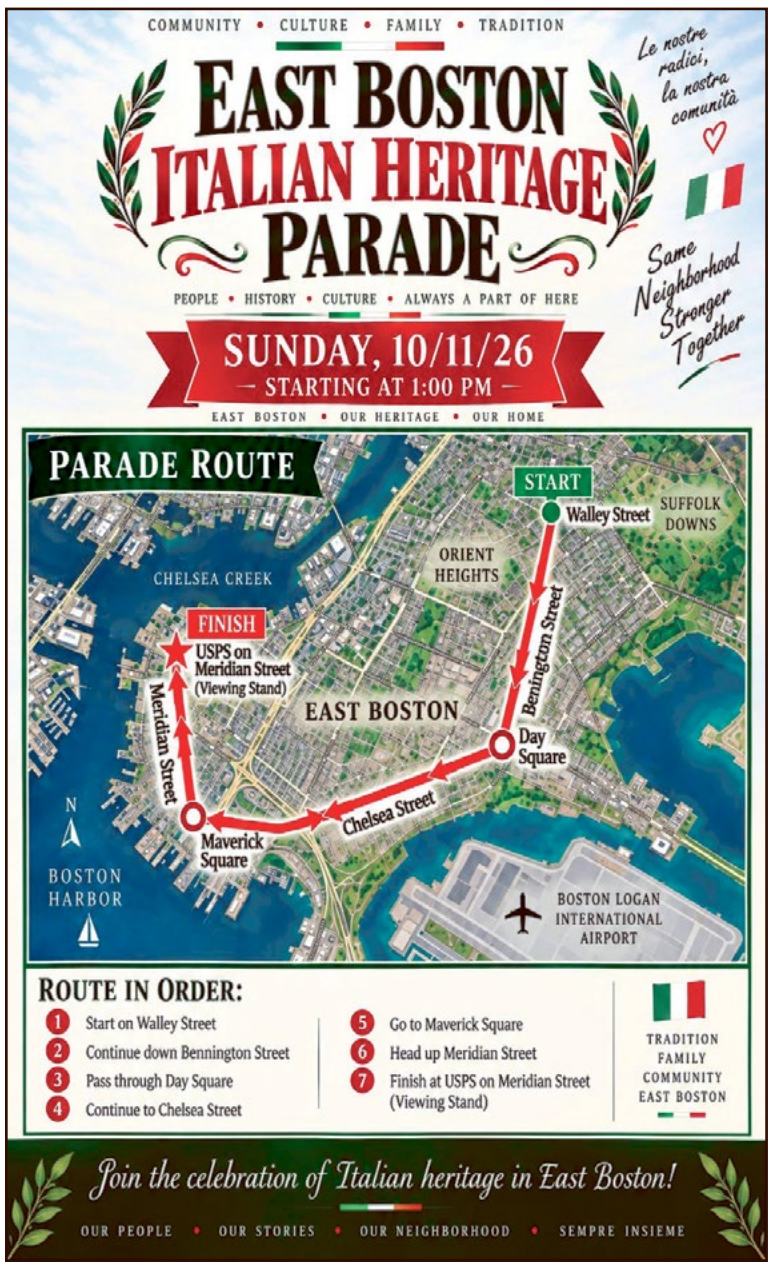
East Boston Chamber President Shirley Fabbo and legendary dance studio owner Beverly Richards.



Nick Moulaison, the sandwich king, Renee Scalfani and Denise Chiaradonna.



Parade Chairman Joe Ruggiero is shown with Colleen Nobles and Rosalie Petralia.





Mark Tescione with the event tee shirt.



Marlene Cronin, Debra Gonzales, Ramona Giuffre, and Jannine Ellis.



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BOSTON HAVOC CAPTURE THIRD STRAIGHT BBA 28+ DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

The Boston Havoc have won the 2026 Boston Baseball Association (BBA) 28+ Division Championship, completing an impressive championship three-peat.

The Havoc faced the North Boston Devil Rays in an exciting best-of-three semifinal series that went the distance. With Game 3 tied 4–4 in the final inning, two outs on the board, and a runner on first, Omar Ortiz delivered the decisive hit—a double over the right fielder's head. The walk-off victory sent the Havoc to their third consecutive BBA championship series.

For the second straight year, the Boston Havoc faced the Lowell Angels in the best of 5 championship series. The Havoc dominated the series, sweeping the Lowell Angels 3–0 to secure another title.

Omar Ortiz was named 2026 BBA Finals MVP after batting .636 in the finals and leading the team in hits and RBI.



Omar Ortiz was named 2026 BBA Finals MVP.

The Boston Baseball Association plays most of its games at East Boston Memorial Park. For more information, visit http://www.bbaboston.com.



The Boston Havoc 2026 Boston Baseball Association (BBA) 28+ Division Championship.

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New proposal before Boston City Council would expand protections for tenants of 2- and 3-family buildings undergoing condo conversion, bringing city ordinance up to date

Special to the Times-Free Press

A proposal before the Boston City Council (docket #1711 – An Ordinance Amending and Extending Protections for Tenants Facing Displacement by Condominium or Cooperative Conversion) would update Boston's Condominium and Cooperative Conversion Ordinance in accordance with changes made to Massachusetts' statewide condominium conversion law, thus expanding protections to additional rental units, including units in two- and three- family properties, and separately improving accountability and implementation processes.

In 2024, under the leadership of Senator Lydia Edwards, then-Chair of the Housing Committee, the Massachusetts Legislature expanded the statewide condominium conversion law to cover certain two- and three- family properties where the owner does not reside in the building (Affordable Homes Act 2024). The change brought tenants of these smaller properties under the state's condo conversion protections for the first time.

Under Massachusetts law, municipalities have authority to adopt condominium conversion ordinances that include tenant notification requirements, relocation costs, eviction protections, permitting requirements, and other measures to protect tenants. The state framework establishes a baseline, while municipalities may adopt additional protections under their local ordinances. The proposal put before the Boston City Council acts upon that authority and expands the protections offered to eligible tenants.

What Does the Proposal Before Boston City Council Do?

• Expands tenant protections to two- and three-family, non-owner-occupied properties built before December 1983.

• Creates a one-year waiting period between preliminary conversion approval and final approval for vacant properties, discouraging owners from intentionally vacating units to avoid tenant protections.

• Strengthens accountability for violations: If a unit was occupied within the previous 12 months, the Owner must still honor tenants' rights—including the first right of refusal to purchase the unit, when possible, and payment of relocation benefits. If an eligible tenant cannot be reached, the relocation payment will still be paid – and will be paid to the City's Mayor's Office of Housing.

• Creates a two-step approval process: The Mayor's Office of Housing grants preliminary conversion approval, while a final conversion permit is not issued by Inspectional Services until required tenant protections and other obligations have been satisfied.

"Updating Boston's condo conversion ordinance is especially important in a city where the majority of residents are renters," said Senator Lydia Edwards, State Senator for the Third Suffolk District. "Strengthening protections across Boston helps ensure that tenants are not left behind and have meaningful safeguards against displacement. I want to thank Council President Breadon and Councilor Coletta Zapata for bringing this important matter before the Council, as well as the housing advocates and experts whose expertise and input helped shape these enhanced protections."

"This ordinance is about ensuring that when a rental property becomes a condominium, the people who already call that building home aren't treated as an afterthought. By providing meaningful notice, relocation assistance, the right to purchase, and stronger protections for seniors, people with disabilities, and low- and moderate-income residents, we are giving tenants greater stability during an incredibly disruptive transition," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1). "These protections are especially important in neighborhoods like East Boston, where smaller two- and three-family homes make up so much of our housing stock and longtime residents continue to face intense displacement pressures. Condo conversions can happen, but they should never come at the expense of basic fairness, transparency, and dignity for the tenants who helped build our communities."

"Boston's Condo Conversion ordinance has been a key anti-displacement tool since it was adopted, but our current protections no longer reflect the reality facing tenants today," said Council President Liz Breadon. "This update strengthens and modernizes our protections by expanding coverage to triple-deckers, improving notice and relocation requirements, and closing key loopholes. Our goal is straightforward: prevent displacement and help preserve stable, affordable housing in every Boston neighborhood. I thank both Senator Edwards and Councilor Coletta Zapata for their work on this, and look forward to working with my colleagues and advocates to finalize these protections and deliver increased housing security for Boston residents."

Data from the City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Housing Condo Master Deeds Tracker shows that over the last two and a half years, a significant number of condominium conversion projects in Boston fell outside the city's current four-unit threshold.

Citywide, 101 two- and three-family properties built before 1983 were converted from rental to condominium units, resulting in 317 new condominium units and 244 apartment units lost. In East Boston, specifically, the data shows 17 two- and three-family properties built before 1983 undergoing condominium conversion, representing 70 new condominium units and 42 apartment units lost as of May 2026.

Under the proposed update to the city's Condominium and Cooperative Conversion Ordinance, tenants of these 101 converted properties in Boston, including the 17 in East Boston, would have been protected. In a city predominantly made up of 2- and 3-family properties, this proposal will expand protections to now cover tenants of over 90% of the residential buildings in Boston.

This proposal ensures that tenants of such properties will no longer be left out of such vital protection and displacement mitigation efforts.

Docket #1711 has been introduced before the Boston City Council and has been assigned to the Committee on Government Operations where it will go to a public hearing. To read the proposal, click here.

These condo conversion rights are not new; they have been in place since 1983, and the City of Boston has updated its condo conversion ordinances previously. What is new is the expansion of these protections to include two- and three-family buildings that are not owner-occupied.

Excel Academy Charter School ranked #31 in Massachusetts Public High Schools

Special to the Times-Free Press

Excel Academy Charter High School is proud to announce its ranking as number 31 in the list of best public high schools in Massachusetts by U.S. News & World Report for 2026-2027. This places Excel Academy among the top 3% of public high schools in the country.

The 2026-2027 national public high school rankings were based on data points such as student achievement on state tests, graduation rates, and college readiness measures, including student participation and performance in Advanced Placement exams – with a focus on evaluating how well schools serve all students, including underserved populations.

Once again, there are more Massachusetts schools represented in the top 25% of all public schools ranked nationally than any other state. Massachusetts Charter Public School Association (MCPSA) member schools represent 12 of the top 100 public high schools in the Commonwealth.

Excel students predominantly identify as Latino or Hispanic, and many will be the first in their families to graduate from college. Year over year, Excel students consistently achieve at high levels, outperforming their peers in academic growth and achievement across the state.

"This data proves that college-level coursework belongs to every student in East Boston and Chelsea, not just some," said Sarah Stuntz, Excel Academy Charter High School Head of School. "Ninety-four percent of our students take an AP exam, and we rank in the top 20 schools in the state for both College

See EXCEL Page 13

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THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

Bank of America gives $200K Neighborhood Builder Grants to Camp Harbor View, Urban Edge

Special top the Times-Free Press

Two Boston non-profits, Camp Harbor View and Urban Edge, were each awarded $200,000 over a two year period through Bank of America's 2026 Neighborhood Builders program. Bank of America provided the grants to support year-round operations and leadership development initiatives, recognizing those organizations' impact on the community.

The grant will help Camp Harbor View -- which offers a unique summer camp for thousands of city youth on Long Island in Boston Harbor and provides comprehensive family services, all at no cost -- expand its year-round programming model, leveraging its newly expanded facility to deepen engagement with children and families beyond the summer months through workforce development, postsecondary planning, financial coaching and economic mobility programming. The funding will also support Camp Harbor View's dual-generation approach to economic mobility, providing paid employment and career readiness opportunities for youth while helping families build financial resilience through coaching, navigation services and emergency assistance.

The award will support Urban Edge's merger with the organization Nuestra Comunidad, who together are working to expand access to housing stability, financial resilience, economic mobility and homeownership programs for urban Boston residents. The funding will also help the combined organization strengthen its long-term operations, preserve affordable housing, expand community wealth-building programs and position its affordable-housing and homeownership pipeline for future growth.



Bank of America Worcester President Michael Garand (back row, left) and Bank of America Boston President Miceal Chamberlain (back row, right) stand with representatives of Camp Harbor View, Urban Edge, and Habitat for Humanity at the Sept. 20 announcement of grant awards to all three organizations. The awards were announced before the Patriots-Steelers game at Gillette Stadium.

"Congratulations to two truly remarkable organizations, Urban Edge and Camp Harbor View, on being selected as Bank of America Neighborhood Builders. Both organizations are making a lasting impact on our communities by creating greater opportunities and helping families to thrive," said Miceal Chamberlain, president, Bank of America Greater Boston. "We are proud to support their important work and look forward to seeing all that they accomplish through this well-deserved recognition."

Michael Garand, president of Bank of America Worcester, added, "Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester has demonstrated an incredible commitment to strengthening neighborhoods by creating safe and affordable housing and giving families the opportunity to build brighter futures. It is a privilege to honor their hard work, and I congratulate the entire team on being recognized into the Neighborhood Builders program."

Neighborhood Builders is part of the bank's longstanding efforts to build thriving communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic opportunity. Since the program's inception in 2004, 69 nonprofits have been selected as Neighborhood Builders in Massachusetts, with the Bank investing over $10 million into these nonprofits.

"What started as a summer camp nearly 20 years ago has blossomed into a robust year-round program that has served thousands of young people across Boston," said Camp Harbor View CEO Sharon McNally. "An integral part of that growth was recognizing that our youth can truly thrive when the entire family is supported. Thanks to the Neighborhood Builders Program, we will continue partnering with our families to build financial resiliency, economic mobility, and a connected community. We are so grateful to Bank of America for this support."

Added Urban Edge CEO Emilo Dorcely: "Being named a Bank of America Neighborhood Builder is a recognition of the people we serve as much as it is of Urban Edge. For more than 50 years, our neighbors have made clear what they need: homes they can afford, a real stake in the decisions that shape their communities, and the chance to build wealth where they already live. This investment tells us that Bank of America sees that work and is willing to stand behind it at a moment when the pressure on families across Greater Boston has never been greater."

Bank of America also announced a third Neighborhood Builder award, $100,000 over two years, to Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester. The announcements were made at Gillette Stadium during the Patriots game on Sunday, Sept. 20. In total, Bank of America is investing $500,000 across the three organizations. In addition to the funding, each organization's executive director and a selected emerging leader will participate in a leadership development program.

The grant will help Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester serve more families by launching its FY2027–FY2029 strategic plan and invest in new leadership positions. These investments are intended to help the organization scale its operations, grow its housing pipeline and reach a goal of improving housing conditions for more than 20 families annually by the strategy's third year. The funding will also help Habitat sustain its increased pace of home construction and repair, develop new revenue sources and expand its ReStore operation, with a goal of generating more than $1 million in annual net revenue by FY2029 to support its mission.

"We are incredibly honored to be selected as a Bank of America Neighborhood Builder," Habitat MetroWest/Greater Worcester CEO Debbie Maruca Hoak said. "This investment comes at an important moment as we work to expand the number of families we serve across our communities. The flexible funding and leadership development will strengthen our capacity to create more opportunities for families to achieve the stability and security of a safe, affordable home. We are deeply grateful to Bank of America for investing not only in the homes we build, but in Habitat's ability to serve more families for years to come."

Bank of America is one of the world's leading financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States, serving more than 69 million clients with approximately 3,500 retail financial centers, approximately 15,000 ATMs (automated teller machines) and award-winning digital banking with approximately 60 million verified digital users. Bank of America is a global leader in wealth management, corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes, serving corporations, governments, institutions and individuals around the world. As the #1 small business lender in the United States (FDIC), Bank of America offers industry-leading support to approximately 4 million small business households through a suite of innovative, easy-to-use online products and services. The company serves clients through operations across the United States, its territories and more than 35 countries and/or jurisdictions. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.



Schools // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nations. This past school year, eight more schools were rated as making substantial progress towards their targets.

"Boston is home to the first public schools in the country, and we're determined to make them the first choice for all our families," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Public education always reflects what our families are facing at home and in the community, and in this challenging moment BPS is doubling down on creating the pathways and opportunities to set the standard for learning that extends far beyond the school building. The district's steady progress across critical measures such as attendance, middle-grade math and science, graduation, and advanced coursework completion reflects the dedicated focus and close partnerships between students, families, and BPS over recent years. We look to continue creating opportunities for academic rigor, enrichment, and support in and out of the classroom."

"These results reflect steady progress across Boston Public Schools, while also reinforcing the importance of our continued focus on improving student academic performance and accelerating learning for specific student groups," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "We are proud to meet our target for four-year cohort graduation rate and chronic absenteeism, while exceeding our target for students completing advanced coursework before graduation. At the same time, we recognize the need to improve proficiency levels across the district and ensure each student is prepared for success beyond the classroom. We will continue to invest in resources that support instructional improvements, expanding access to advanced and rigorous academic programs, and creating more learning opportunities to move this work forward."

Four Boston Public Schools, including two in-district Horace Mann Charter Schools, were named School of Recognition: Grew Elementary School, Boston Latin School, Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, and Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers. DESE identifies schools of recognition as schools that met or exceeded their targets and also had both high achievement and high growth.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students, educators, and staff, as well as the high expectations we maintain for every student at EMK," said Dr. Caren S. Walker Gregory, Head of School at Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers. "We are incredibly proud of the academic growth our students have achieved. As we celebrate this accomplishment, we remain focused on building upon this momentum and providing rigorous, meaningful learning experiences that prepare every student for success in college, careers, and life."

Region 1 School Superintendent Claire Carney said, "I am proud of the progress our East Boston students are making across our schools. We are seeing meaningful gains in both ELA and math, along with strong academic growth in many of our schools. These results reflect the hard work of our students and the commitment of our educators, families, and school communities. It is exciting to see this progress, and we will continue to build on this momentum to ensure our students have the support and instruction they need to thrive."

Chronic Absenteeism

The district continued to show great progress in reducing chronic absenteeism and exceeded its targets for reducing chronic absenteeism for non-high school grades and met its targets for reducing chronic absenteeism in high school grades, for all students. Non-high schools experienced a reduction of 2.1 percentage points and high schools saw a reduction of 1.7 percentage points.

MCAS & Academic Performance: Grades 3-8

Grades 3-8 & Non-High School

In grades 3-8, across both ELA and Math performance, there were increases in the percent of students meeting and exceeding standards, where performance was either stagnant or declined at the state level. Students across BPS also demonstrated typical growth, or academic progress, as compared to their peers across the state.

The percent of students meeting and exceeding standards for 3-8 Math was more notable, increasing by 1.4 percentage points. Students in grades 6 and 8 also demonstrated significant year-over-year increases in proficiency by 3.9 and 4.8 percentage points, respectively, a bright spot for the district.

Science performance in grades 5 and 8 saw an increase of 2.9 percentage points of students meeting or exceeding expectations. Grade 8 was a particular bright spot experiencing a 6 percentage point increase.

Students in grade 8 participated in the Civics MCAS test for the second year in a row. There was a notable increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations by 3.3 percentage points from the first test-taking year in 2025.

Grades 10 & High School

The district either met or exceeded the target for the following measures on the accountability framework: four-year cohort graduation rate (met), dropout rate

(exceeded), and advanced coursework completion (exceeded). For each of these measures, BPS increased points earned from 2025 to 2026.

"We are encouraged by the areas where we are seeing stronger results, including continued progress in reducing chronic absenteeism and expanding access to advanced coursework for our students," said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. "These results reinforce the importance of continuing to raise the bar for student achievement across the district. The School Committee will remain focused on understanding where additional improvement is needed, while building on the practices and investments that are helping our schools succeed."

Students also demonstrated moderate growth, indicating solid academic progress, as compared to their peers across the state, in Grades 10 ELA and Math. Boston experienced a decrease in the percentage of students who met and exceeded expectations for Grade 10 ELA and Math by 7 and 4.3 percentage points, respectively, similar to the state.

Beginning with the Class of 2026, Massachusetts has changed its graduation criteria, eliminating the need for students to earn a required MCAS score to graduate high school. While MCAS continues to be required in Grade 10, MCAS performance no longer determines whether students earn the Competency Determination (CD). Grade 10 MCAS trends should therefore be interpreted with this change in context in mind and examined alongside other evidence of student learning.

BPS continues to work in close partnership with DESE and the Governor's Office to ensure all graduates demonstrate mastery of the state's academic standards through rigorous and meaningful coursework.

For more information, please visit https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/results.html.

The Boston Public Schools (BPS), the birthplace of public education in the United

States, serves approximately 46,000 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in 104 schools. BPS is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with the community, families, and students to develop in every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.

Excel // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Readiness and state assessment performance. Recognition like this is a wonderful moment for our students and all the staff who show up for them every day."

As a result of this rigorous education, Excel students are four times more likely to earn a college degree than their peers. For six years after graduation, the Excel College and Post-secondary Success (CAPS) Team ensures graduates have the guidance and support necessary to thrive in their chosen path.

Excel Academy high schoolers returned to school for the 2026-2027 academic year on August 19th.

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.

Atlantic Works Gallery hosts 'DOODAH!' an exhibition by Rick Dorff and Walter Kopec

On October 2 to October 24, artists Rick Dorff and Walter Kopec present DOODAH! an exhibit of wanderlust exploring a wide range of possibilities, some serious, some not so much…but each from a unique point of view… a bit of excitement, perhaps some trouble and possibly a gadget or two at the Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, East Boston.

Opening reception: Saturday, October 3, 4-7 p.m., Third Thursday reception: October 15, 6–9 p.m. This is Free and open to the public.

DOODAH!

Make of it what you will.

Kinda, sorta, a nonsense word from a meaningless musical phrase that has evolved into a bit of slang meaning an unnamed gadget, a state of excitement, or trouble.

Walter Kopec, with a background in graphic design, uses strong graphic sensibilities in drawing, painting and sculpture to explore the conundrums of "sense-making" within the turmoil of the day-to-day. With play and puzzle-making in full spirit and using appropriate, minimal material, the work addresses wide-ranging issues… from the ramifications of the overtly political to the subjectively personal; the act of thinking and how we say what we say.

Kopec's love of letterform and typography, linguistics and wordplay drives much of his work. By splitting and manipulating letterforms, the creation of invented words, and the use of real words in new ways, he leverages the endless elasticity of language and creates new forms and whimsical words that put on display the duplicity of language. www.walterkopec.com

Of his work, artist Rick Dorff says: My found objects have evolved into something beyond their original use and identity, shaped by entropic processes like rust, decay, fading, or being run over in the street.

My constructed objects illustrate ideas I want to explore further, ranging from concepts and dialogues to experiments with form.

Rick Dorff is a self-taught artist working mainly in the realm of three-dimensional images. His work has been shown at the AMP: Art Market Provincetown, Atlantic Works Gallery and Fort Point Theatre Channel.

Gallery Hours: Fridays and Saturdays, 2–6 PM, and by appointment

For more information, please visit: www.atlanticworks.org

Healey-Driscoll Administration announces Violence Against Women Act Grants

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Healey Driscoll Administration invites qualifying nonprofits and public agencies to apply for $3.4 million in federal grant funding to support victim services and efforts to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The funding is available through the FFY26 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program, administered through the Massachusetts by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR). The competitive grant process is held once every four years, and organizations selected through this round may be eligible to receive funding for up to four years, through the next competitive process in 2030.

"Massachusetts stands with victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking," said Governor Maura Healey. "We are committed to making sure victims and survivors across Massachusetts can get the support they need when they need it. These grants will strengthen the organizations doing this critical work every day and help keep people and communities safe."

"Victims and survivors deserve access to strong, trusted support in their communities," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This funding will help organizations across Massachusetts strengthen services, support survivors and improve how we prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking."

"This funding strengthens the partnerships that are essential to supporting victims and preventing violence," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Gina Kwon. "By investing in law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers and community organizations, these grants help ensure that every part of the system has the resources to work together, respond effectively and better support survivors."

"This grant program allows police, prosecutors, service providers and other critical partners the opportunity to secure sustained resources needed to build their capacity to address domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and to better serve victims of these crimes," said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton. "We're committed to ensuring these organizations have access to funding and grant support over the full lifetime of their grant."

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has continued to strengthen support for victims and survivors across the public safety system, with a focus on improving access to services, coordination and trauma-informed responses. Recent efforts include investments in services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, expanded victim-centered training for law enforcement, and resources that help victims stay informed and supported as they navigate the criminal justice system.

The last competitive application process for VAWA funding was held in 2022. That process resulted in 42 organizations receiving a combined total of nearly $12.8 million in VAWA grant funding between 2022 and 2025.

Interested agencies can learn more and apply on the VAWA program page of OGR's website. Applications are due no later than 4 p.m. on October 23.

Oversight // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ton "using a nationwide lookup feature that was enabled by the vendor in error." Even though the report states that the data-sharing feature was disabled, it demonstrates potential issues arising from the use of ALPRs in Boston.

The amendments introduced today seek to strengthen the Council's oversight of future technologies by clarifying the use of technology under exigent circumstances, requiring notification of new vendor agreements for surveillance technologies with prior Council approval, and strengthening reporting on Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs).

"The Boston Surveillance Ordinance is an important tool in how we keep our residents safe, not just from dangerous threats, but also from threats to their civil liberties. And as surveillance technology evolves, we need to ensure that the Ordinance is working as intended, which means clearer rules for how these tools are acquired, used, and overseen," said Councilor Weber, member of the Surveillance Oversight Advisory Board.

"As surveillance technology evolves, our safeguards and oversight must evolve with it. These tools can play an important role in public safety, but residents deserve transparency about what technology is being used, who has access to their data, and how that information is protected. The recent use of new vendors and technologies without clear Council notification has exposed gaps in the existing ordinance that we have an obligation to address," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "I'm proud to join Councilor Weber as the second co-sponsor of this amendment to strengthen accountability, close those gaps, and ensure that public safety and civil liberties remain at the center of how Boston uses surveillance technology."

"The current loophole violates the original purpose of the 2022 ordinance, and its use has led to rising public concern about the Boston Police Department's usage of both automated license plate readers (ALPRs) and social media monitoring tools," said Councilor Santana, Chair of the Committee on Public Safety & Criminal Justice. "In closing this loophole and requiring stricter reporting requirements, we are meeting the Council's original intent and ensuring that the public remains accurately informed about these tools and technologies used by the Boston Police Department. At a time when people are very rightfully concerned about data collection, surveillance, and the possible misuse of government tools, it is vitally important that we maintain and grow public trust. This ordinance does just that."

City Paws

Fall fitness adventures with dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

While we may have a few warmer-weather days in the weeks ahead, now's the time to think about outdoor activities with your dog in lower temperatures and humidity. Pull out your calendar and set aside dates for long walks and favorite frolics with your pal.

Canine and human winter weight gain is something we often address in spring. How about doing a bit of prevention in the weeks ahead to slim down your dog and get them in better condition with more muscle to burn calories before the winter arrives? You might also start tapering off those extra treats that add pounds in winter.

Fun Time Frolics

While you can simply extend the length and pace of daily walks, your dog might love it if you spend time doing their favorite activities and going to their favorite places. More running free in a dog park with pals is a great way to make certain dogs happy. Joining you for that run or fast-paced walk you normally take alone could be a treat. A hike along wooded trails may be the perfect activity for your dog's nose to explore.

Doggie Destinations

Halibut Point State Park in Rockport has easy hiking trails, foliage, water views, wildflowers, rocks to scamper over, and nearby places where you and your dog are welcome for lunch.

We love this 12-acre site, jointly managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Trustees of Reservations. You enter through a wooded area with soft mulch paths leading you through the remains of decades of quarry work. As the paths begin to fork, you can choose between views of the calm, reflective, fresh water-filled quarry or the salty Atlantic crashing onto the rocks lining the shore.

The DeCordova Museum in Lincoln is another favorite spot for a civilized stroll with your favorite canine. The Trustees of Reservations also manage this dog-friendly resource. As long as you and your dog respect the sculpture, use a lead, and clean up any mess you make, your pal is welcome here.

Concord and Lexington are often overlooked as fall foliage destinations. These nearby towns offer recreation and conservation areas where you can stroll, hike, and in some cases let your dog off leash.

Minute Man National Park in Lexington welcomes leashed dogs in all the outside spaces. Lexington has also set aside 26 conservation areas with trail access. The current rules for dogs are on the town website.

While we are offering guidance on this area, you should know that at Walden Pond State Reservation, "Dogs, bicycles, flotation devices and grills are prohibited."

As Always …

Increase conditioning and activity gradually. Add 15-30 minutes at a time and evaluate how your dog recovers from the new norm before adding more. Think about how sore you can be when you increase your exercise. And since our dogs are bare-pawed, check those pads to make sure they aren't being overworked.

If your time is spent in new locations, like wooded areas, be sure you are doing tick checks and know how to remove ticks safely. We've found ticks on dogs walked on the Charles River Esplanade, so even city walks in places with more trees and shrubs warrant post-walk grooming.

Before any change in diet or exercise, consider both your and your dog's health and ability, and check with your doctor and veterinarian for any issues that might add more conservative guardrails for your adventures.

Finally, always check each destination for availability, special events, fees, and any rule changes when planning your

LEGAL NOTICE

Submit notices to legals@eastietimes.com

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU24P0593EA
Estate of:
Cynthia Lee Rawson
Date of Death:
11/24/2023
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Carole A. Palmer of Penacook NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Carole A. Palmer of Penacook NH 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 10/26/2026.
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 21, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

9/30/26
EB

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston MA, 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT
TO G.L. c. 190B,ss5-304
Docket No.SU26P1843GD
In the matter of: Charmarko Sanford
Of: East Boston, MA
RESPONDENTAlleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Charmarko Sanford is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/15/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

9/30/26
EB

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston MA, 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION
FOR REMOVAL OF A GUARDIAN
OF
AN INCAPACITATED PERSON
Docket No. SU18P1436GD
In the matter of: Charmarko Sanford
Of: East Boston, MA
RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Remove the Guardian of the respondent.
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 10/15/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

9/30/26
EB

Pizzi will receive Tony DeMarco Award at Italian American Hall of Fame Banquet

By Cary Shuman

East Boston's Johnny Pizzi is widely known for his professional talents as a comedian and magician, appearing in venues across the United States, including Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

Pizzi, also highly regarded for his philanthropy - often lending his hand as a master of ceremonies for charity events - will be receiving the prestigious Tony DeMarco Founders Award at the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Oct. 25 at the Kowloon Restaurant.

"We're honored to present this important award to Mr. Pizzi in recognition of his stellar contributions to our organization and many others," said event chairperson Paul Solano. "Like Tony DeMarco for whom the award is named, Johnny Pizzi is a champion in every sense of the word."

As one would expect, Pizzi was excited and humbled to learn of the immense honor that will be bestowed upon him at the annual induction ceremony.

"I'm very proud and honored to accept this award," said Pizzi. "I've met [former world welterweight champion] Tony DeMarco, and he was a great guy. It's always wonderful to be recognized. When people choose to acknowledge your efforts, it really means the world. For 40 years, what I've always liked to do is helping people."

Eastie roots

The son of former opera singer Don Carlos Pizzi and Barbara Pizzi, Johnny grew up in the Jeffries Point neighborhood in East Boston and graduated from East Boston High School in 1970. He was a teammate of the great Dennis Dent on the East Boston Fittons semi-professional team.

A 40-year employee of the United States Postal Service, he began his comedic career in the 1990s. Pizzi and Mike Clarke are co-founders of Giggles Comedy Club in Saugus.

A courageous battle

Pizzi is currently in a battle against pancreatic cancer and has begun treatment.

"One day after I was diagnosed with cancer on July 23, I was notified that I was getting this [DeMarco] award," related Pizzi. "I went from the devastation of being told that I had pancreatic cancer to hearing that I was going to get such a wonderful award. It kind of helped me balance out what my feelings were at that time. My entire family has been instrumental in helping me deal with this illness."



Pizzi has "a very positive attitude" about his health situation.

"I think I have a second lease on life – God's given me a second chance, so I'm happy about that," he said.

Pizzi's friends, colleagues, and many fans will be gathering at two fundraisers in his honor on Oct. 15 at Giggles Comedy Club in Saugus.And on Oct. 25, Pizzi will step to the podium – a familiar place for the excellent emcee – to receive an award recognizing a lifetime of kindness and generosity to others.



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