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East Boston
Times-Free Press

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

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NeighborHealth hosts Fall Family Health Fair

Young East Boston residents decorating pumpkins at NeighborHealth Fall Family Health Fair. See Page 4 for story and more photos.

Community event examines school closure, displacement, and gentrification in East Boston

Special to the Times-Free Press

Last month, researchers from Boston University's Initiative on Cities convened over 25 members of the East Boston community to share findings from a research project examining the history of the Dante Alighieri elementary school and how changes in the school are linked to changes in the neighborhood. The project focused on the Alighieri's merger with the Umana in 2011, amid Boston Public Schools budget cuts, and its reopening in 2014 as the district's first public Montessori school.

The community event brought together former students and parents who experienced the closure, families currently affiliated with the

See EVENT Page 16

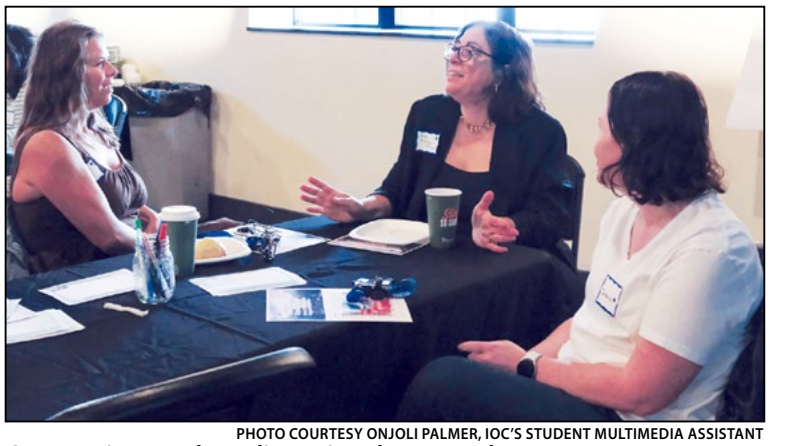


PHOTO COURTESY ONJOLI PALMER, IOC'S STUDENT MULTIMEDIA ASSISTANT

Community members discussing the research.

City opens applications for Boston School Committee

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Boston School Committee Nominating Panel will review applications to fill two four-year terms, all beginning in January 2027

BOSTON, MA – Friday, October 16, 2026 – The City of Boston today announced that applications for two four-year terms on the Boston School Committee are now being ac-

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Forum

EARLY VOTING IS UNDERWAY

Both mail-in and in-person voting is underway in every city and town in Massachusetts.

In-person voting began this past Saturday and will be available every day of the week through next Friday, October 30, excluding Sunday, October 25.

For those who wish to vote by mail, mail-in ballot requests must be received by the local election office by Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:00 PM. Ballots returned via the USPS must be postmarked by Election Day (November 3) and arrive at the local election department by Friday, November 6, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

For those who choose to use an official ballot drop box or hand-deliver it to their local election office, it must be submitted by the close of the polls on Election Day, November 3, at 8:00 PM.

Massachusetts enacted early voting 10 years ago and has proven to be highly-popular with voters, often with nearly 50% of voters taking advantage of the opportunity to cast their ballots ahead of Election Day.

For some of us, the excitement of voting on Election Day itself -- with the hub-bub at the polls of campaign volunteers and election workers -- has a certain nostalgic attraction.

On the other hand, the incredible convenience of voting early in-person on a day that works best for us has become a great way to bypass the Election Day rush, avoiding the hassles of finding a parking spot close to the polls or dealing with the possibility of bad weather on Election Day.

The midterm elections always serve as a referendum on the party and the President in power. The 2026 election will determine the make-up of the U.S. Congress and the Senate, as well as the governorship in Massachusetts.

Voters will have a clear choice in every race, including at the state level, between choosing candidates who are supporters of the current administration in Washington or candidates who believe that changes in the country's direction are needed.

But regardless of how one chooses to vote or which candidate one supports, the most important thing is that we all vote. Our democracy will not work unless every American exercises our right to vote, especially in this perilous time.

LETTER *to the Editor*

WE ARE MOVING TO 5 WINNISIMMET ST.

To the Editor,

I am excited to inform our North Suffolk Community Services clients, families, elected and municipal officials, neighbors and other valued community partners that effective Oct. 26, 2026, NSCS is relocating many of our programs and services – including our Community Behavioral Health Center and Mobile Crisis Intervention services – to a state-of-the art facility at 5 Winnisimmet St. in Chelsea. Our business and billing address continues to be 301 Broadway.

The new site in a refurbished warehouse building on the Chelsea waterfront represents the past, present and future of North Suffolk and our commitment to the individuals we serve and employ.

The renovations honor the past by maintaining the historic integrity of the building, which dates back to the 1900s, reflecting a continuous commitment to hard work, being a place for everyone, and growth and evolution that keeps pace with community needs – much as NSCS has evolved throughout our seven decades serving Chelsea, Revere, East Boston, Winthrop and beyond.

The expanded space allows NSCS to bring together our wide array of existing services under one roof to meet present need, creating a true integrated behavioral health network of care through increased accessibility for all. In addition to the CBHC therapy and crisis teams, the location will be home to a pharmacy, our medical team, and many community-based programs such as Community Support Program, ACCS, and Children's Behavioral Health Initiative services. This is where our Recovery Coaches will be based, as will some administrative offices and our Training Center. Bringing these diverse employees and programs under one roof will inspire greater collaboration and connection, which will ultimately benefit the individuals and families we support.

Moving to 5 Winnisimmet also puts NSCS in a strong position for the future. This investment highlights our goals and long-term commitment to communities we have been a part of for nearly 70 years. It creates space for innovation and greater community engagement. And it is a fiscally responsible decision that allows for financial stability as we navigate a tumultuous economic climate.

From the outset of this project – the first major relocation of our services in decades – every decision we made was primarily influenced by how we can best serve our clients and best support our employees.

When we open the doors to 5 Winnisimmet on Oct. 26, we believe we are opening the doors to opportunity and possibility. We are excited to welcome you!

Judi Lemoine, President and CEO North Suffolk Community Services

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News in Brief

BOSTON BASEBALL ASSOCIATION SETS OCT. 21 TRYOUT IN EAST BOSTON

The Boston Baseball Association (BBA) will hold an outdoor tryout at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at East Boston Memorial Park. The tryout fee is $20 per player.

The BBA has more than 30 teams across four divisions and offers adult wood-bat baseball at a range of skill levels. The 18-and-over division plays Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; the 28-and-over division plays Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; and the 35-and-over division plays Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Be Clutch Sandlot games are held Saturdays.

For information or to arrange a tryout, call or text 617-816-0750.

HALLOWEEN IS TWO WEEKS AWAY!

On Saturday, October 31, starting at 10 a.m., families can trick-or-treat at five historic Freedom Trail sites—Old South Meeting House, Old State House, Paul Revere House, King's Chapel and Old North Church—collecting Halloween treats along the way. The event is free and open to the public.

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.

Little Groove Concert Series: Tuesdays at 4 pm

Enjoy some lively and interactive music for babies, toddlers and preschoolers!

Lego Builders: Wednesdays at 4 pm

Drop in anytime during the hour for free-building with Lego bricks . See what you can create. We will have Mega Blocks available for younger kids.

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.

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.

Author Talk- Anthony Sammarco on The Christmas Tree Shops: Thursday, Oct. 29th at 6 pm

Don't you just love a bargain? Author Anthony Sammarco will delve into the history of the iconic Christmas Tree Shops. Presented by the Pirandello Lyceum.



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NeighborHealth celebrates health, wellness and community at Fall Family Health Fair

Special to the Times-Free Press

NeighborHealth hosted its annual Fall Family Health Fair on Wednesday, October 7 at Central Square Park in East Boston, bringing together families, patients, and community members for a day full of seasonal fun and preventive care services.

Joining forces with the East Boston Farmer's Market, the Health Fair offered free flu and COVID vaccines, health screenings, educational resource booths, and hands-on activities including pumpkin decorating, face painting and music designed to engage attendees of all ages while fostering community wellness.



East Boston neighbors enjoying healthy snacks from Equitable.



Courtney Senechal, Director of Nursing, and NeighborHealth nurses provided nearly 100 flu shots and COVID vaccines at the East Boston Fall Family Health Fair.

Attendees also enjoyed healthy snacks donated by Farmer's Fridge, Stop and Compare Market, La Hacienda and Pollo Campero.

"The Fall Family Health Fair is a meaningful opportunity to meet our communities where they are with preventative care, trusted health information and fun, family-friendly activities for the kids" said Courtney Senechal, Director of Nursing at NeighborHealth. "By connecting with families in person, we can help them feel informed, supported and prepared to protect their health during flu season and throughout the winter."

NeighborHealth volunteers, staff and community partners connected with visitors, offering families opportunities to learn more about services and resources available year-round from health educators, behavioral health clinicians, and community outreach teams. The event also provided opportunities for new patients to connect directly with staff and explore NeighborHealth's broad network of family care, radiology, dental, recovery, older adult and behavioral health programs.

NeighborHealth plans to continue to support healthier, more connected communities across Boston through education, prevention and care and will be hosting a second Fall Family Health Fair at Blackstone Square Park, 1535 Washington St, South End, Boston on Saturday, October 17 from 10am- 2pm.

This year's health fairs are made possible thanks to the generosity of presenting sponsor Mass General Brigham Health Plan as well as Quest Diagnostics, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Santander Bank, Beth Israel Lahey Health Mt. Auburn OBGYN Dept., Boston Children's Hospital, Boston Medical Center, Boston Public Health Commission, Cataldo Ambulance, and Rockland Trust. Other in-kind sponsors include Farmer Dave, Costco, Wegman's, and Whole Foods Market.

To learn more about upcoming community events, visit NeighborHealth Events.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 120,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 55 years, NeighborHealth has

See HEALTH FAIR Page 5



From left to right: Maria Coppenrath, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Hazard, president and CEO of NeighborHealth; Dr. Julio Mazul, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, NeighborHealth; Eugenia Coronada, Vice President, Specialty Services and Patient Experience, NeighborHealth.



Sammy Carlo's honored as the recipient of the 2025 Elf of the Year Award

Special to the Times-Free Press

East Boston local business staple Sammy Carlo's was presented with a plaque recognizing the popular restaurant as the 2025 Albert "Junior" Lombardi Elf of the Year recipient by Eastie's Elves.

The plaque was presented by Eastie's Elves' Representative Adrian Madaro and his wife Ariel Madaro, who run the annual toy drive, and Rita Lombardi, wife to the late Junior Lombardi, a longtime community activist in whose memory the award is named.

On hand to accept the award was longtime Sammy Carlo's operator Steve Scire, who owns the restaurant alongside his wife Kathy.



State Rep. Adrian Madaro and his wife, Ariel Glantz Madaro (second from right) join Rita Lombardi (left) in presenting the Albert "Junior" Lombardi Eastie's Elves Elf of the Year Award to Steve Scire, owner of Sammy Carlo's restaurant, located at 567 Bennington Street.

For years, this multi-generational, family-owned eatery has been a fixture in the East Boston community. In addition to being a local favorite where residents can get a delicious and affordable breakfast or lunch, Sammy Carlo's is also present at many of the events around the community, donating food or offering catering services to local organizations and activities. Sammy Carlo's has donated food and supplies to East Boston's annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner, which serves free meals to members of the community on Thanksgiving Day. For Eastie's Elves, Sammy Carlo's has participated in the annual toy collection drop box program since it was introduced in 2020. Each year, Sammy Carlo's continues to deliver multiple overflowing boxes filled with toys, donated by patrons, staff, and the Scire family themselves. This generosity has gone a long way toward brightening the holidays of children and their families in East Boston, Winthrop, and Revere.

"I'm proud to honor Steve and Sammy Carlo's with the recognition they deserve with the 2025 Albert "Junior" Lombardi Elf of the Year Award," said Rep. Madaro. "Sammy Carlo's is a true community-oriented business, and the Scire Family has long been deeply committed to causes that help enrich our community and serve its most vulnerable residents. They embody the spirit of community service that is Junior Lombardi's legacy. I'm proud to be both a loyal customer and a partner in these efforts".

Eastie's Elves is an annual toy drive held in East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop annually by the Madaro Family Community Fund. Comprised of toy collection boxes in local businesses and community organizations and capped with a toy collection gala, Eastie's Elves collects thousands of toys per year which are distributed along with holiday assistance funds to local community organizations to distribute to families across the three communities.

The Junior Lombardi Elf of the Year Award is awarded annually at Eastie's Elves to an exemplary member of the community who embodies the spirit of community service exemplified by local activist and volunteer Junior Lombardi. Starting in 2025, the Award is given to local organizations and businesses that embrace these ideals.

The next Eastie's Elves Celebration and Toy Drive will be held Friday, December 11, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Logan Airport. Admission is a donation of at least one unwrapped toy.

Health Fair // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston's South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit neighborhealth.com/en/.

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Six recipients of the 2026 Community Clean Air Grant Program announced

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston's Environment Department announced the selectees of the 2026 Community Clean Air Grant Program. A total of $1,028,871 will be distributed over the next two years to support six community-based projects designed to reduce air pollution and improve public health, with a focus on Boston's low income neighborhoods and communities of color.

"Whether at daycare, at school, at home or in a park, air quality is fundamental to quality of life for all our residents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These programs give local organizations the resources to put community-driven solutions into action, making all our spaces safer and healthier for everyone."

The six selectees are:

• Mothers Out Front East Boston - $198,352 to utilize new technology to measure ultrafine and fine particles in twenty East Boston daycares and test how well different models of air filters reduce indoor pollution exposure for children and caregivers.

• Chinatown Community Land Trust, Inc. - $150,000 to evaluate the indoor air quality co-benefits of converting historic Chinatown row homes from gas to electric air-source heat pumps through continuous air quality monitoring in ten residences, bilingual resident workshops, and property owner engagement.

• Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Inc. - $200,000 to use heat, noise, and air quality sensor data from the 75-sensor Common Senses network to partner with local businesses in Roxbury and Dorchester on interventions and help residents shape a climate-resilient Urban Village Plan incorporating clean air goals.

• Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health - $94,406 to use schoolyard monitoring, Boston Public Schools' air quality data, nature-based solutions, and community knowledge at two Boston K-8 schools to evaluate how heat and air quality impact outdoor student spaces and identify practical strategies to improve health during outdoor learning and play.

• Museum of Science - $199,974 to establish the "Clearing the Air @ MOS" Living Lab and public engagement campaign at the new Public Science Common, featuring immersive digital visualizations, video storytelling, and educational features highlighting City of Boston grantees and air quality solutions for millions of visitors.

• North American Indian Center of Boston - $184,536 to install air quality monitors and HEPA air purifiers in ten American Indian and Alaska Native households to reduce indoor air pollution, evaluate health impacts, and build a long-term community mitigation plan.

Since the 2021, the Community Clean Air Grant Program has awarded $2,284,748 to 13 organizations. This round attracted 20 proposals, reviewed by a fifteen-member committee representing nine City departments. Applications were evaluated based on alignment with program goals, community and equity impacts, feasibility, organizational capacity, clarity of evaluation metrics, and demonstration of local expertise.

"Tackling urban air pollution requires direct collaboration with the communities bearing the greatest environmental burdens," said Brian Swett, City of Boston's Chief Climate Officer. "These six community-led projects demonstrate how local investments can measure pollution, lower health risks, and collect essential data to improve

See CLEAN AIR Page 11

OBITUARIES

Kathleen F. Hanson

Known for her easygoing nature, she was loved by all who knew her.



Kathleen F. Hanson was born in Winthrop to the late Catherine E. (Forrest) and Edward J. McKenna. She grew up in East Boston before making her home in Winthrop more than 40 years ago.

Before retiring, Kathleen worked for John Hancock Insurance. She enjoyed reading, boating with her husband, and spending time with family and friends on her front porch. She also treasured lunches with her grammar school friends.

Known for her easygoing nature, Kathleen was loved by all who knew her. Above all, she cherished her children and grandchildren, who brought her great joy.

She was the devoted wife of the late Robert J. Hanson, Sr. and the loving mother of Lynne Peppe and her husband, David and Robert J. Hanson, Jr. and cherished grandmother of Nicholas D. Peppe, Justin E. Peppe and Jolee Y. Hanson.

Family and friends are cordially invited to attend the visitation from the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop on Thursday, October 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon followed by a funeral service in the funeral home at noon. Services will conclude with the interment in the Belle Isle section of Winthrop Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

To sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

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12th Year Anniversary



David J. 'DJ' Dillon

Jan. 9, 1980—Oct. 22, 2014

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The hole in our hearts reminds us of how much we miss you.

Always loved, Sadly missed
Ma, Dad, Derek, Michael, Deanna, Grandma & Auntie

OBITUARIES

Fran Piantedosi

Her spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Fran Piantedosi on September 20, 2026. Fran was a beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who left this world surrounded by her loving daughters, just as she had lived her life, enveloped in the warmth of her family.

Fran was born in Boston on November 10, 1935 to the late Frank and Mary Guerra. She spent her formative years in Boston, graduating with the Class of 1953 from East Boston High School. It was there that Fran began to cultivate the compassion and strength that would define her life.

On April 28, 1957, Fran married the love of her life, Paul C. Piantedosi, at St. Lazarus Church in East Boston. Together, they built a beautiful life, raising their three cherished daughters in a home filled with love, laughter, and unwavering support. Though Paul predeceased Fran, their love story continues to inspire all who knew them. Fran was predeceased by her devoted sisters, Ann Gilberto, Mary Valenti, Rose Sacco, and Lil Guerra, who now join her in the embrace of eternity. She is survived by her children, Paula and her spouse, David Palmisano, Debra and her spouse, Daniel Gibbons, as well as Debra's late-husband, Kenneth LaMalfa and Lisa and her spouse, Joe Bradford. She also leaves behind her beloved grandchildren: Diana and Bill Pyne, Marissa Palmisano and her partner, Tony Grilo, Paul S. LaMalfa and his wife, Melissa,



Ashley Pelletier and Jon Ryba, Juliana Correia and her spouse, Kevin Correia, Christopher Bradford, Crystal Janelle and Joseph Bradford and his spouse, Margaret. Fran's legacy is further carried on by her eight great-grandchildren, who were the light of her life.

Fran's family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff at All American Assisted Living and Memory Care, as well as Brookhaven Hospice, for their compassionate care and support during Fran's final days.

A private ceremony was held in honor of Fran's life, in accordance with her family's wishes. Fran has been buried alongside her husband at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everet, In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Fran's memory are invited to make a donation to a charity of their choice, as a tribute to Fran's generous spirit and love for her community.

Fran will be remembered for her kindness, her unwavering dedication to her family, and the countless lives she touched with her warmth and grace. Her spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Frederick E. Holden

January 22,1934 – October 11, 2026



Frederick E. Holden, of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, Revere and Delray Beach, FL, passed away on October 11, 2026, at the age of 92. He was born on January 22, 1934, in Boston., the son of the late Frederick D. Holden of Boston and Blanche (Poirier) Holden of Canada. He was the brother of the late David Holden and Robert Holden.

Fred served his country with honor as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army during the Korean War (1952–1955), including active combat duty. A decorated veteran, he received the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Service Star, United Nations Service and National Defense Service Medals. After his military service, he continued a life of public service as a police officer with the Boston Police Department for more than twenty years. In later years, he remained in the security field working as a detective.

He was the loving husband for 68 years of Barbara (Festa) Holden; the devoted father of Cheryl Holden Cuddy and her husband, Brian of Milton and Frederick "Rick" A. Holden and his wife, Jennifer of Bev-



erly. Fred was the proud and adored "papa" of Adrienne (Cuddy) Gerrity and her, wife Colleen Gerrity of Brookline and Lauren Cuddy of Boston and was further blessed with three great-grandchildren, Finnegan, Oliver and Lennon Marie.

An avid sports enthusiast, he loved watching ice hockey especially when the Boston Bruins played the Montreal Canadiens. Fred was always up for playing a game of indoor or outdoor street hockey with his kids and brother-in-law, Al Festa. He was also a loyal Patriots and Red Sox fan. Fred enjoyed watching horse racing at Suffolk Downs and at Gulfstream. He loved the outdoors in Maine and enjoyed his winters in Florida. "Uncle Freddie" was always a favorite of his many nieces and nephews as well as sisters in law, Beverly Pacheco and Elaine Festa.

Fred was always there to lend a helping hand and was known as "Mr. Fix It." He will always be remembered for his steady sense of duty, his wonderful sense of humor and the care and love he showed for his family.

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere on Sunday, October 25th from 1 to 3 p.m. A Funeral Service will be conducted in the Funeral Home at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the West Roxbury VA Medical Center, 1400 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132 where Fred received the most loving and wonderful care during the last few months of his life.

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

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EAST BOSTON GIRLS IN SOCCER ACTION AGAINST CHELSEA

The Jets were grounded by a Chelsea's attacking offense and tight defense, losing 2-0 Friday, October 16 at Chelsea Stadium. The Jets record stands at 3-7-2 as the season enters its final two weeks.

BOB MARRA PHOTOS



Valentina Giraldo (12) fights Chelsea's Katherine Benitez for control.



Jackie Argueta (11) kicks a clearing pass in front of Chelsea's Katherine Benitez (10).



Genesis Ortiz (18) breaks up an offensive rush by Chelsea's Katherine Benitez (10).



Goalkeeper Kasy Perez makes a save on a Chelsea penalty kick.



Isabella Gomez (16) and Chelsea's Kimberly Contreras Mendoza compete for a loose ball.



Quinn Patten (4) Argueta gets away from a Chelsea defender.



Ana Restrepo (22) gains control of the ball as she breaks between Chelsea Sharon Graterol Rodriguez (17) and Dayana Soriano (22).



East Boston's Denisse Olivia (13) and Chelsea's Sharon Graterol Rodriguez (17) chase a free ball.



Wu announces Elsie Diaz as new Cape Verdean Cultural Advisor

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Elsie Dias as the City of Boston's new Cape Verdean Cultural Advisor within the Office of Cultural Affairs. The office, within the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, is composed of Cultural Advisors who engage and partner with communities across Boston to support cultural programs, partnerships, and policies that reflect the needs and experiences of Boston residents.

"Boston has been shaped by generations of residents who have worked to bring our neighborhoods together," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Elsie's service and leadership has made a lasting impact across many City departments, and I am excited that she will continue to be a strong voice for our Cabo Verdean community, so every idea is heard and City programs reach all our residents."



Elsie Dias

Born and raised in Boston, Dias has deep roots in Dorchester and a lifelong connection to the City's Cape Verdean community. Her grandparents immigrated to Boston from Cabo Verde in 1975. Their journey and commitment to family and community helped shape Dias's values and her commitment to public service.

As Cultural Advisor, Dias will help connect Cape Verdean residents with City services, resources, programs, and opportunities. She will also work with community members, organizations, and City departments to strengthen connections and support culturally responsive programs and services.

"I am honored to serve as the City of Boston's Cape Verdean Cultural Advisor," said Elsie Dias. "My family's journey from Cabo Verde to Boston shaped who I am and taught me the importance of community, service, and staying connected to our roots. I look forward to listening to residents, building relationships, and helping make sure Cape Verdean residents feel welcomed, valued, and connected to the City."

Dias began her career in community service as a Community Outreach Coordinator with the Cape Verdean Association of Boston. In that role, she connected residents with resources, services, and opportunities. Before starting as a Cultural Advisor, Dias worked at the City's Age Strong Commission, where she advocated with and supported older residents to ensure housing and access to essential resources.

"Boston is proud to welcome Elsie Dias to this important role," said Alexandra Valdez, Director of the Mayor's Office Cultural Affairs. "Elsie brings a deep connection to Dorchester, Boston, and the Cape Verdean community, along with years of experience serving residents. Her knowledge, relationships, and commitment to community will help strengthen the connection between City Hall and Cape Verdean residents across Boston."

Dias is also a fluent speaker of Kriolu. Her grandmother, Isabel Daveiga, helped nurture her connection to the language and the cultural traditions of her family. For Dias, speaking Kriolu is a way to stay connected to her family, her heritage, and generations of Cape Verdeans who came before her.

The City of Boston has a long history of supporting and celebrating its Cape Verdean community. Boston continues to offer programs and services that recognize the importance of Cape Verdean language and culture, including the City's Cabo Verdean Language and Culture Preservation Program.

Harboring Creativity returns for its fourth annual celebration of East Boston artists

Special to the Times-Free Press

The East Boston Artists Group (EBAG) is proud to announce the return of Harboring Creativity, its fourth annual exhibition and art sale, taking place November 7–8, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at the ICA Watershed in East Boston. This free, family-friendly event will showcase the work of more than 20 established and emerging artists, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the creativity, diversity, and artistic talent flourishing in East Boston.

More than an exhibition, Harboring Creativity is a celebration of the people, stories, and creative connections that make East Boston such a vibrant community. Visitors will discover an exciting range of original artwork, including painting, photography, mixed media, fiber art, sculpture, jewelry, public art, and more. With artwork available for purchase directly from participating artists, the event provides an opportunity to support local creatives while finding something truly one of a kind.

Since its inception, Harboring Creativity has quickly grown into one of East Boston's signature arts events. The inaugural exhibition welcomed more than 600 visitors, attendance surpassed 1,000 in its second year, and the event continued to grow in 2025. Now entering its fourth year, Harboring Creativity continues to build momentum, drawing art enthusiasts, collectors, families, and curious visitors from our neighborhood and across Greater Boston.

At the heart of the event is a simple but powerful idea: art brings people together. By creating opportunities for artists and audiences to connect, Harboring Creativity helps strengthen the local arts community, increase visibility for working artists, and make original art accessible to everyone.

"Harboring Creativity is about so much more than displaying artwork. It's about creating connections between artists, neighbors, and visitors, while celebrating the incredible creative talent that exists right here in East Boston," said Kristen Freitas, Interim President of the East Boston Artists Group. "There's something really special about meeting the person behind a piece of art, hearing their story, and taking home something that carries that connection. We want everyone who walks through the doors to feel welcome, inspired, and part of our creative community."

The public is also invited to a special Meet the Artists Reception on Saturday, November 7, from 4–6 p.m., offering an opportunity to connect with participating artists, learn about their creative processes, and celebrate the exhibition together.

Presented at the ICA Watershed, a dynamic cultural destination along East Boston's waterfront, Harboring Creativity reflects EBAG's ongoing commitment to supporting artists, fostering community partnerships, and expanding access to arts and culture throughout the neighborhood.

Whether you're a longtime art collector, looking for an original piece for your home, or simply interested in exploring the local arts scene, Harboring Creativity invites you to discover art, meet artists, and find something you love.

The East Boston Artists Group (EBAG) is a community-driven organization dedicated to supporting, connecting, and promoting artists in East Boston. Through exhibitions, open studios, workshops, and collaborative arts programming, EBAG creates opportunities for artists to share their work, engage with the public, and contribute to the cultural vitality of the neighborhood.

With a commitment to accessibility, collaboration, and creative expression, EBAG works to ensure that art remains a visible and celebrated part of East Boston's identity.

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School Committee // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cepted by the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel. The Nominating Panel is a thirteen-member body composed of Boston Public Schools (BPS) parents, educators, school leaders, and representatives of the business and higher education communities.

In January 2027, two current Boston School Committee members' terms are set to expire, prompting the beginning of the Nominating Panel process this fall. Chair Jeri Robinson, BPS graduate and retired vice president of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Boston Children's Museum, will step down after twelve years of dedicated service on the committee. Quoc Tran, parent of four BPS graduates, former BPS teacher, and retired deputy director of the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, is currently serving his second term on the committee.

Applications to fill the upcoming vacancies are due Friday, November 13, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. The application can be found here. Virtual interviews will be held in the early evening on Tuesday, December 1; Wednesday, December 2; and/or Thursday, December 3. Candidates must be Boston residents and should expect that service on the School Committee involves a significant time commitment to connect with school departments and leaders.

The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools. The School Committee is responsible for:

• Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;

• Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;

• Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and

• Setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning, and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods, and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

The seven members of the School Committee are Boston residents appointed by the Mayor from candidates recommended by the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel. The School Committee also includes a non-voting student member of the Boston Student Advisory Council. The selected members for these terms will begin on January 1, 2027 and expire on January 7, 2031.

Please direct all questions and submit completed applications to scnominatingpanel@boston.gov or to Boston City Hall, Mayor's Office, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02201. You can learn more about the Boston School Committee online.

Applications will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Cape Verdean Kriolu. For more information regarding the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel and the application process, please visit https://www.boston.gov/departments/schools/boston-school-committee-nominating-panel.

Clean Air // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

our City's air quality for generations to come."

"Chinatown is Boston's hottest neighborhood and has some of the worst particulate air pollution in the state," said Lydia Lowe, Executive Director at the Chinatown Community Land Trust Inc. "We are thrilled to receive a Community Clean Air Grant, so that we can now measure the impact of electric heat pump conversion on indoor air quality and residents' quality of life."

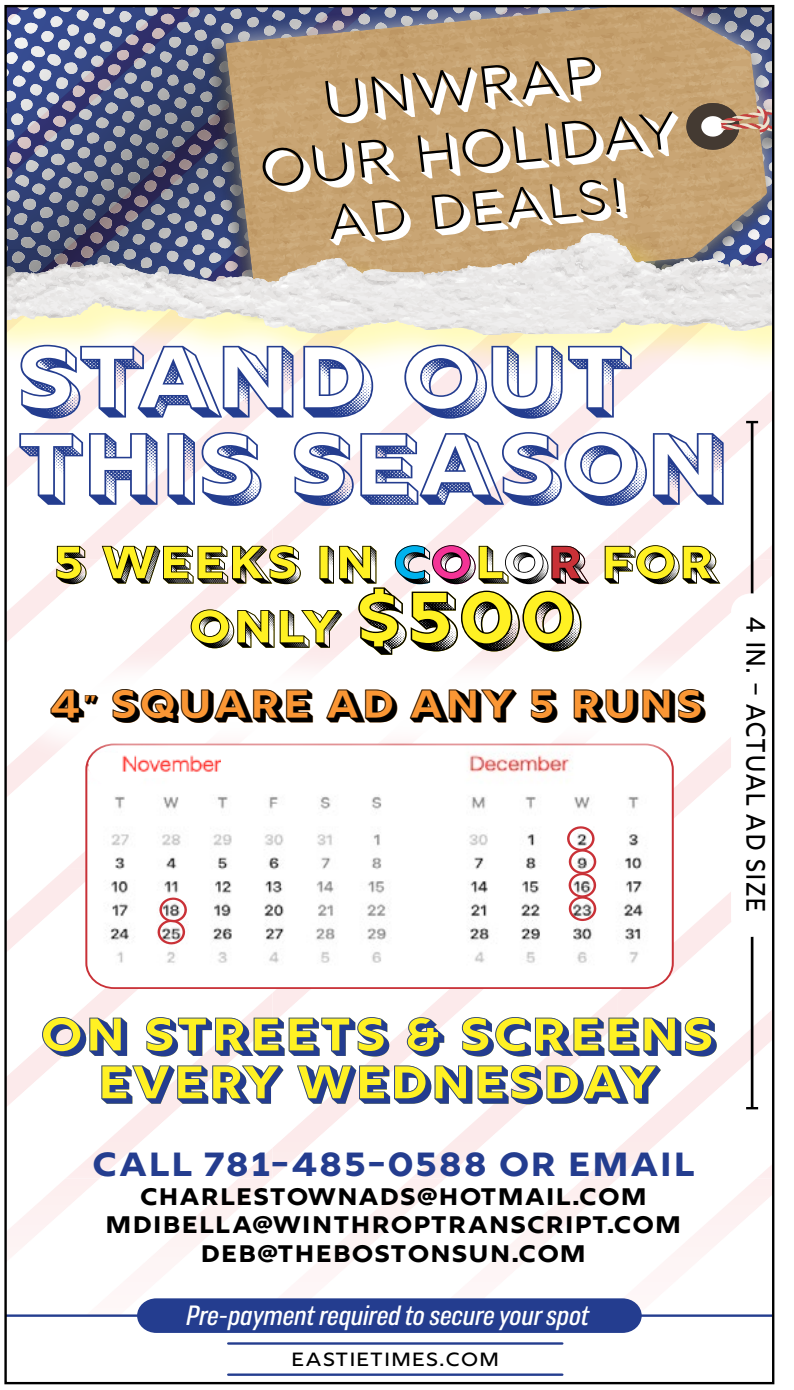
"The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, in partnership with Project RIGHT and the Boston Area Research Initiative at Northeastern University, is using a network of heat, noise, and air quality sensors as community infrastructure, pairing that data with residents' stories to bring solutions to Roxbury and Dorchester," said Mike Pollio, Deputy Director of Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. "With this funding, DSNI will partner with local businesses on air-centered improvements, and residents will use what is learned to shape a neighborhood development plan with clean air at its center."

"East Boston children face high pollution risks and are up to four times more likely to have asthma, making data on ultrafine particulates critical for their safety," said Sonja Tengblad, Founder of Mothers Out Front East Boston. "By partnering with Air Partners and using new QuantAQ technology, we will test different air filter models and provide our community more accurate air quality information and better protection."

"Clean air is an essential public good, but poor indoor air quality and wildfire smoke continue to endanger children's health and disrupt their learning," said David Sittenfeld, Director of the Center for the Environment at the Museum of Science. "Clearing the Air @ MOS" will address this crisis by raising awareness of the environmental causes of unhealthy air, highlighting community-led solutions, and inspiring equitable environmental action across the region."

"Reclaiming air quality is a vital priority for New England's urban Indian community, especially after smoke from the recent Canadian wildfire demonstrated how environmental destruction directly impacts First Nations territories and Indigenous health in Boston," said Jean-Luc Pierite, President of the North American Indian Center of Boston. "We are grateful to partner with Air Partners and the City of Boston to advance this critical work."

The program is supported by the Air Pollution Control Commission's Pollution Abatement Fund. The next round of Community Clean Air Grant applications will open in spring 2027. More information about the program can be found at Boston.gov/clean-air-grant/.



SALESIANS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

The Salesian Boys & Girls Club held its eighth annual "Swing Fore Kids Classic" Golf Tournament on October 5 at the Winthrop Golf Club.

A full field of 15 groups participated in the tournament raising $20,000 for the East Boston club's after-school programs.

Executive Director Mike Triant thanked the golfers for their support of the club's mission. He also credited the Winthrop Golf Club for being "a tremendous host."

"Head pro Ed Montone and his staff welcome us back each year, and we appreciate their hospitality," said Triant.

Following 18 holes of golf, the golfers enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch in the clubhouse.



Executive Director Mike Triant thanks WGC Head Professional Ed Montone for the club's outstanding hospitality at the tournament.



Jim Cordwell, Sean Gorman, and John O'Neill.



John Bennett Sr., John Bennett Jr., Joe Ferrara, and Jacob Bennett.



Executive Director Mike Triant and Salesian Board Member Kahlil Olmstead.



The Salesian Boys & Girls Club's outstanding leadership team, Director of Development Anita Belmonte, Director of Operations James Geraci, and Executive Director Mike Triant.



The many supporters of the Salesian Boys and Girls Club's eighth annual golf tournament held at the Winthrop Golf Club.

SALESIANS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



Lou Chianca, Ron Vitale, Bobby Demayo, Damien Margado, and Mike Cintolo.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Mike Triant and Boston Scores Soccer Executive Director Jonathan Sproul.



Donnie Todd, Glorisel Regalas, John Hall, Tom Menino, and Mike Triant.



Mike Triant (right) welcomes the Boston Scores team, from left, Joe Bruno, Derek Englebretsen, Bob Bruno, and Rick Bruno.

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Fresh and Local

You can make soup!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

For those new to cooking at home, soup is a great place to start. Food writer Ruth Reichl said, "If you've got chicken stock, you've got a meal." And it doesn't have to be chicken stock. You can make soup with water or make your own stock from what you have on hand. Some cooks even freeze their peelings and vegetable scraps until they have enough to make a vegan soup stock.

Unlike fussy preparations, soup is very forgiving. If you don't have one ingredient, you can usually substitute another. Soup cooks over low heat, so it's unlikely to burn or scorch. It's also a great way to learn how to adjust any dish's flavor.

If your soup tastes flat, ladle some into a small bowl and add a dash of vinegar to see if it helps. If you like the result, add some vinegar to the whole pot. You can do the same with herbs, spices, salt, and pepper.

Use Leftovers and Eat Your Veggies

We often make a pot of soup by using up what's in our refrigerator. We usually have stock or stock base; aromatic vegetables like carrots, onion, fennel, and celery; starches like rice, pasta, or noodles; and seasonings. We often cook and store the starch components separately and add them to each serving since they tend to swell and drink up all the stock.



Not every ingredient in a soup has to be made from scratch. These meatballs were purchased frozen and added to the soup near the end of cooking.

We'll add bits and pieces of leftover meat and whatever vegetables are in the crisper. We keep a few additions to soups, like chicken meatballs in our freezer. Not every ingredient has to be made from scratch.

We keep jars of legumes and beans ready to add hardiness to even the simplest soups. And a flavorful sausage, like Italian sausage, chorizo, or kielbasa, can take a basic vegetable soup to a new cuisine.

If you need a formula to start with, we recommend Pam Anderson's book, How to Cook Without A Book. She begins her chapter on soup with this rhyme, "Sauté an onion, then add vegetables, starch, and meat. Cook it in a quart of broth for a meal that can't be beat." Then she teaches the reader to improvise around that theme.

Meat is optional. Anderson starts with a recipe for pureed vegetable soup and tells readers how to prepare variations with broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes, and squash.

Soup as Medicine

Cooks often stir up a pot of healing soup when a friend or family member has a cold or the flu. Today, scientists agree that chicken soup has many properties that relieve symptoms of those viruses.

The Mayo Clinic website explains how it helps. "Researchers say that chicken soup acts as an anti-inflammatory and temporarily speeds up the movement of mucus through the nose. This relieves congestion and limits how long viruses contact the lining of your nose. Plus, soup and other liquids help loosen congestion and prevent dehydration."

Recently, someone said to us, "I would give anything for one more bowl of my Mother's chicken soup." We associate homemade soup with family, tradition, and perhaps good memories. Every so often, Penny makes a batch of the clam chowder that was served at Rhode Island shore dinner halls in years past. It reminds her of fun times with her extended family.

So, for the sake of memories, to help someone feel better, or to clean out the refrigerator, reach for a big pot and brew yourself some soup.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with

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Event // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Montessori school, educators, and other interested community members, including State Representative Adrian Madaro.

While a portion of the event included a presentation of research findings, a community conversation followed, bringing up some difficult and emotional memories for attendees. Former Alighieri students, Kimberly Landaverde Guillen (a lifelong East Boston resident and member of the research team) and Anna Zhou, both shared testimonies of their experiences of the closure. Even 15 years after the closure, these former students described lasting feelings of grief, injustice, and powerlessness. Other audience members shared similar emotional impacts of the closure and discussed feeling excluded from the BPS decision making process. Parents described the challenges of navigating a complex school choice system and helping their kids adjust to new schools.

The reopening of Dante Alighieri also raised important questions for the community. As the researchers shared the history of the school's reopening, which was announced only 2.5 years after the closure, attendees discussed who has the ability to influence decisions about public schools. This topic is particularly timely given the ongoing school closures in BPS.

The discussion also situated the school's history within the broader changes taking place in East Boston. As the neighborhood experiences significant investment, rising housing costs, and demographic change, the researchers highlighted how the changes at the school are reflective of those in the neighborhood. In a neighborhood where families' homes, schools, community institutions, and social networks are closely connected, changes to one can have consequences for the others.

The event also generated recommendations for how future school closures and major school changes could be approached more equitably. This included early, transparent, accessible, community engagement so that families have an opportunity to participate in decisions rather than simply respond to them after they have been made.

The researchers will be submitting the findings from this research to academic journals for peer review.

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

PHOTOS COURTESY ONJOLI PALMER, IOC'S STUDENT MULTIMEDIA ASSISTANT



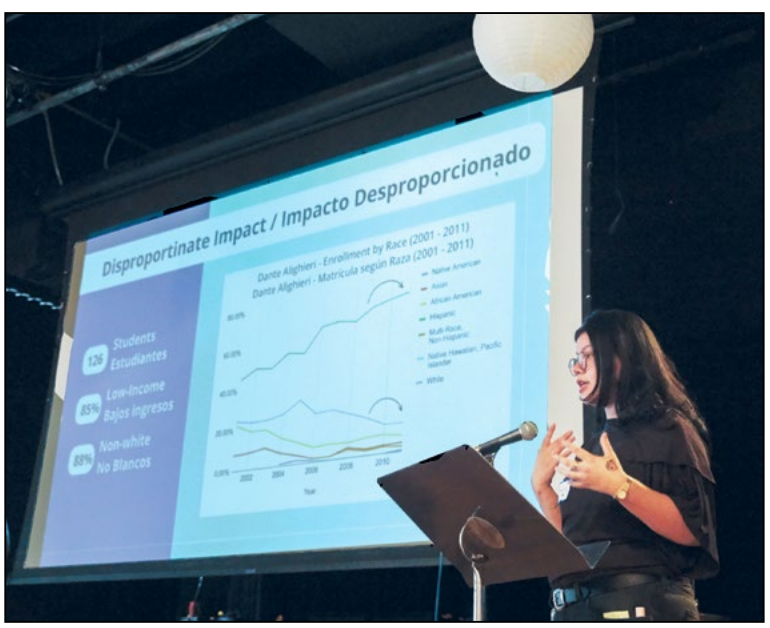
Anna Zhou (former Alighieri student) shares her experience during the school's closure.



Danielle Mulligan (research team) speaking with community member about the research.



Natalie Smith (research team) presents about changes in East Boston as the neighborhood gentrifies.



Kimberly Landaverde Guillen (research team & former Alighieri student) discusses who was impacted by the school closure.