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East Boston
Times-Free Press

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

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Rep. Adrian Madaro along with Massport officials and children from the East Boston YMCA preschool program gather to celebrate the reopening of the newly renovated playground at Bremen Street Park.

Celebrating the newly renovated Bremen Street Park playground

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) joined Representative Adrian Madaro and children from the East Boston YMCA preschool program to celebrate the reopening of the newly renovated playground at Bremen Street Park. During the event, the preschoolers enjoyed exploring the brand-new play structure and swings first-hand.

"I am excited to join Massport in reopening this brand-new play area at Bremen Street Park," said Representative Adrian Madaro. "Bremen

See PLAYGROUND Page 7

McKay School will absorb students from Early Education Center

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata confirmed a report that the East Boston Early Education Center will close in June, 2028, but the adjacent Donald McKay School will absorb the student population.

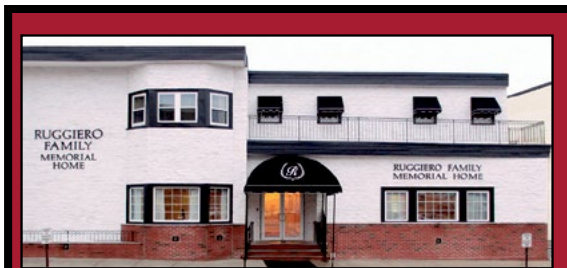
"It's essentially a merger, a reconfiguration," explained Coletta. "That school [EEC] currently has pre-K through-Grade 1 students. At the time it opened, it made sense, but now that parents want that continuation from pre-K through eighth grade, it doesn't necessarily fit into any other model. So essentially what's going to happen is the school becomes "McKay Junior," so essentially it's going to merge with the McKay School."

It's been a busy week for Coletta-Zapata, who's been addressing the news development that Charlestown High School, which is also in her district, will be closed.

"I've only be fully briefed on Charlestown High School," said Coletta. "I'll be getting a full briefing on the Early Ed-

See MCKAY Page 2

TRASH DELAY
Due to the Veteran's Day Holiday on Weds, November 11, 2026
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Forum

HONOR OUR VETERANS ON NOVEMBER 11

Next Wednesday, November 11, our nation will mark the 108th observance of Veterans Day, a day of solemnity and reverence that honors those who have served in our nation's military.

Veteran's Day initially was known as Armistice Day when it was enacted in 1919 to commemorate the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Historians to this day cannot even pinpoint a rational reason for why the war began. World War I was typified by trench warfare in which neither side (the German-allied nations of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire vs. the alliance among Great Britain, France, Russia, and the United States) accomplished anything.

The trench lines did not meaningfully shift for the entire four-year period of the war until the Allies broke through the German lines in October, 2018, with the famous American-led offensive in the Meuse-Argonne Forest proving the decisive push that brought the war to an end, a campaign that remains as the deadliest in U.S. military history with 26,277 American deaths and over 95,000 wounded.

Though the war essentially was a stalemate for four years, much of the European continent was ravaged, with 10 million soldiers and another 10 million civilians losing their lives.

More significantly, the "war to end all wars" only set the stage for an even bloodier world-wide conflagration 21 years later with the onset of WWII on September 1, 1939.

The effects of WWI continue to reverberate in our world today. The roots of today's conflicts in the Middle East can be traced to the shift in control of that part of the world in the aftermath of WWI from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) to England in what became known as the British Mandate for Palestine.

Shortly after WWII, England relinquished control of Palestine and gave it to the newly-formed United Nations, which in turn carved out the State of Israel for Jewish refugees from Europe, ultimately leading to the displacement of almost one million Palestinians and others from their ancestral homes where they had lived for centuries.

In the aftermath of the Korean War in 1954, Armistice Day officially became known as Veterans Day to recognize all of our nation's veterans.

There are many ways that each of us can honor our vets, including attending parades and ceremonies in our communities, visiting veterans' memorials and cemeteries, volunteering with veterans' organizations, donating to veterans' causes, flying the U.S. flag, thanking a veteran for their service, or simply taking a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many who have put their lives on the line to ensure that all of us can enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans today.

Veterans Day should remind us that our freedom isn't free -- and has required the personal sacrifice of millions of our fellow Americans.

HAPPY DIWALI

We'd like to offer a "Happy Diwali" to our friends and neighbors who will be celebrating this festive holiday this week.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is observed (with slight differences) by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. It is celebrated by lighting oil lamps and candles to symbolize the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

The holiday takes place during a five-day period which begins this Friday, November 6, with the main festival occurring this Sunday, November 8, a time that coincides with the new moon (when the moon is dark).

The essence of Diwali is spiritual renewal, a time for each of us to reflect upon our shortcomings of the past year and to vow to make ourselves a better person in the year ahead.

We think all of our readers, regardless of their beliefs, would agree that is a worthy goal for all of us.

McKay // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ucation Center today (Tuesday)," said Coletta Zapata.

Rep. Madaro also monitoring school situation in East Boston

Rep. Adrian Madaro is also closely following the school facilities plan announced by the Boston Public Schools and Mayor Michelle Wu.

Concurring with Councilor Coletta-Zapata's interpretation of the EEC's closure, Madaro said the closing is "effectively a merger" with the McKay School.

Madaro said his son, Matteo, attended the Early Education Center, which is attached to the McKay School.

"The EEC will close, and the McKay will absorb what was the EEC," said Madaro. "Rather than going K-8, it will go preschool all the way through. The physical building will remain. It's just going to be called the McKay, rather than the EEC."

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East Boston ferry route extended through the end of the year

Special to the Times-Free Press

The MBTA announces that service for select ferry routes will extend to December 31, 2026. See below for the routes impacted:

East Boston route - weekday and weekend service

Lynn route - weekday service

Winthrop route - weekday service

Quincy route - weekday service

"Our administration is committed to making public transportation more reliable and convenient for Massachusetts residents," said Governor Maura Healey. "By extending ferry service into the winter, we're giving riders in East Boston, Lynn, Winthrop and Quincy more options to get where they need to go. We'll keep investing in transportation that connects our communities and makes commutes easier."

"Thousands of riders enjoy taking the ferry for their travels, and the MBTA is pleased to be able to extend this ferry season," said Interim Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. "The Healey-Driscoll Administration has made water transportation a priority. With the continued support of the Legislature, we are building a vital ferry network that connects people to communities, work, play and the greater MBTA system. I would like to thank our operations team for supporting expanded ferry service and helping the agency enhance its water transportation options year-round."

Riders can see all MBTA ferry schedules online and utilize the MBTA Go mobile app for real time updates to plan their trips.

The following ferry routes will continue to operate year-round:

Hingham/Rowes Wharf route - weekday service

Harbor Loop route - weekday service

Hingham/Hull route - weekday service

Charlestown Ferry route- weekday and weekend service

The MBTA reminds riders that inclement weather and unsafe sea conditions can impact service. The agency will update riders if service is disrupted. See alerts anytime online.

There is no service on any ferry routes Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. See the holiday service schedules as holidays approach for the most up to date schedule.

For more information, visit MBTA.com or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

Pets are family. This belief is at the heart of everything the Animal Rescue League of Boston does. ARL is the first female-founded animal welfare organization in Massachusetts and is proud to carry on a legacy of kindness and compassion, helping more than 20,000 animals annually since 1899. Recognized for innovative, award-winning programs that go beyond sheltering, ARL addresses the root causes of the issues facing animals and the people who love them. By partnering with communities, ARL helps animals heal and thrive, keeps pets and people together, and protects animals from harm. Because there is no government funding for this important work, animals must rely on people like you to get the care they need, when they need it most, 365 days a year. For more information, visit arlboston.org and follow ARL on Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and Instagram.

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

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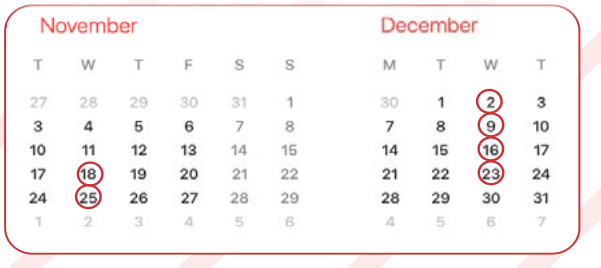
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EASTIE SOCIAL BRINGS OVER 200 LOCAL FAMILIES TOGETHER FOR A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY GIVING

Special to the times-Free Press

More than 200 local families gathered at on October 1, at The Tall Ship Boston for Eastie Social, East Boston Social Centers' annual celebration, which featured a free Family Celebration followed by a formal reception honoring the Hestia Fund and Friends of East Boston. Rescheduled from September 27, the evening centered on the Social Centers' motto: When all give, all gain.

The Family Celebration offered fun for all ages, including a magic show, program highlights, treats, games, face painting, and a wide range of activities. It was followed by the reception, also at The Tall Ship Boston, where the Hestia Fund was represented by Christine Letts.

"We connect people across difference, and we weave together the social fabric that makes East Boston a great place to live, for all of our neighbors," said Nicki Ruiz de Luzuriaga, Chief Community Advancement Officer at East Boston Social Centers.

Presenting the award, Claire Carney, Region 1 School Superintendent for Boston Public Schools, praised the honorees' collective impact. "The awardee is not one person, it's a group of 50 that have come together to have a bigger impact than any one of them could have alone," said Carney. Since its founding in 2000, the Hestia Fund, a grant-making organization of approximately 50 women, has distributed over $6 million in grants. Its Friends of East Boston subgroup has focused on the neighborhood, including support for the Social Centers' community kindergarten readiness initiative.

"They personify 'when all give, all gain,'" said Justin Pasquariello, CEO of East Boston Social Centers. "We are all working on a vision to make East Boston the world's most joyful place."

Attendees also heard from those who have benefited from the initiative. Souad Hajjani, a Social Centers Parent Partner, said, "There is no East Boston community without the Social Centers. They have made it so we all have something we can be a part of." In a video shared with guests, Maria Fernanda Lopez, owner of Little Steps Child Care and a member of the Home-Based Early Childhood Educators Action Team, described the power of the neighborhood's network: "Before, I gave my families what I had. Today I give them what all of us have."

The evening also drew leaders from across the community. Sen. Lydia Edwards recognized East Boston Social Centers with an official citation, and Rep. Adrian Madaro and Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata joined attendees at the celebration.

East Boston Social Centers thanks its financial sponsors, Massport, Eastern Bank, and Speaker Robert DeLeo, as well as its board, staff, attendees, and community members for making the evening possible.

Founded in 1918 to welcome immigrants arriving through East Boston's Golden Stairs, East Boston Social Centers provides vital services for all ages, from early education to senior programs, and serves as a convener for the community. This year, it has served more than 1,100 neighbors across more than 700 families.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Shown (above and below) are scenes from the East Boston Social Centers' annual celebration.







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Eagle Hill Civic Association's 2026 Golden Eagle Awards

On October 28, at the Eagle Hill Civic Association's (EHCA) monthly community meeting something special occurred. It was the return of 'The Golden Eagle Awards.' Debra Cave, board president, explained the history of the awards and the reasoning for bringing them back. "We have so many wonderful people in our community who take the time to care for our neighborhood whether it's a neighborhood clean up, the care and beautification of a tree pit, or the maintenance and beautification of a local restaurant's storefront. The EHCA posted a survey on our website asking neighbors to make nominations in several categories. Based on those recommendations, we gave the awards to nominees. The Golden Eagle Award is truly a community generated event. It's neighbors recognizing and validating neighbors who demonstrate their community pride and spirit. Thanks to our awardees and to those who participated in the process. Our next round of awards is scheduled for June 2027.



Shown (left to right) are Brittany Rosenberg - Special Recognition, Fernando Rosas from Bono Restaurant - Outstanding Commercial Curb Appeal, Debra Cave, EHCA President and Tiffany Free, 126 Brooks St - Best Holiday Spirit.

Massachusetts Unclaimed Property Division and Veterans Bonus Division partner to return unclaimed funds to veterans

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Massachusetts Unclaimed Property Division (UCP) and the Massachusetts Veterans Bonus Division have partnered to help veterans recover unclaimed property and funds owed to them. Launched in August, the collaborative effort has already resulted in 93 claims with an estimated value of over $45,000. To date, $12,000 has been returned to Veteran Bonus recipients in unclaimed funds

Both divisions operate under the leadership of State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. By working together, the departments are connecting veterans with funds that may otherwise have gone undiscovered, while helping ensure they receive the money they are entitled to.

"Veterans have given so much in service to our state and our country, and we want to make sure they receive every dollar they are owed," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "By bringing our divisions together, we are doing even more to help them recover funds they may not know they are owed."

As part of the partnership, after the Veterans Bonus Division awards a wartime bonus to a veteran, the division coordinates with UCP to determine whether that recipient also has unclaimed property in Massachusetts. This proactive approach creates an additional opportunity to connect veterans with forgotten or unclaimed financial assets and help return money that rightfully belongs to them.

In addition to the cross collaboration between both departments, Unclaimed Property routinely reaches out to veterans, many of whom are no longer stationed in Massachusetts. Their last known addresses are military post offices or a local base address. In the past two years, over $298,000 has been returned to current or former military members. With a total of $2.5 million in cash and securities waiting to be reunited.

The divisions will continue working together to identify veterans who may have unclaimed property and facilitate the return of those funds, reinforcing the state's commitment to supporting those who have served.

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East Boston Chamber News

• First Time Homebuying

2 Part Live Online Classes in English and Spanish Please join NOAH for these 2 part live online classes offered in English and in Spanish to provide information, resources and discuss financial preparation, mortgaging and the home buying process and steps toward home ownership. Registration is required and tickets are $50.00 per person.

English sessions: Tuesday and Wednesday, November 3 and 4 from 5:30 to 9:45 pm Spanish sessions: Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Virtual noahcdc.org

• Maverick Meridian Neighborhood Council Community Voice Meeting

Please join the Maverick Meridian Neighborhood to work to establish the start of a new civic association in an effort to understand the neighborhood's needs and to address concerns of this area of the East Boston community. All are welcome. Wednesday, November 4, 2026

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Maverick Landing Community Services Community Room, 31 Liverpool Street, East Boston. maverickcentral.org

• Free Yoga for Beginners Classes

Please join the East Boston Social Center for free Yoga for beginners classes each Wednesday. Use these classes to move and feel good with Yoga.

Each Wednesday, November 4, 11 and 18 6:30 to 7:30 pm

68 Central Square, East Boston ebsoc.org

• Friends of the Children - Boston Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Event

Please join the East Boston Chamber of Commerce in welcoming Friends of the Children – Boston to its newest location in East Boston! Headquartered in Roxbury, this expansion brings valuable resources, information and services directly to our community supporting children and families who can benefit from these programs the most. We celebrate their arrival and the positive impact they will bring to East Boston.

Friday, November 6, 2026, 3:00 pm

152 Liverpool Street, East Boston, eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com

• Harboring Creativity Art Exhibit and Sale with East Boston Artists

Please join the East Boston Artists Group in this Harboring Creativity free art exhibit and art by local artists for purchase. Find something you love, meet artists and discover art. Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8, 2026 11:00 am to 4:00 pm both days with a Reception to follow on Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

ICA Watershed, 256 Marginal Street, East Boston

eastbostonartistsgroup.com

• Online Workshop for Landlords

Please join NOAH for this online class to learn how to protect your investment, essential topics like landlord/tenant relationships, maintaining your property and using strong written lease agreements. Registration is required and tickets are $75.00 per person. Monday, November 9, 2026

5:30 to 9:00 pm

Virtual, noahcdc.org

• East Boston Cultural District Initiative Community Meeting

Please join this committee meeting as they present and take community input for the initiative to establish an East Boston Cultural District that works to reflect East Boston. Friday, November 13, 2026

6:00 to 8:00 pm

VROCC, 282 Meridian Street, East Boston

massculturalcouncil/community/culturaldistrict

• Lapels Community Cares Free Laundry Day

Please join Lapels for this special holiday event to provide free washing and drying at their East Boston facility along with refreshments, activities, raffles and give aways. Lapels is asking the Chamber and other East Boston businesses to join in the effort with contributions to make this event even more special with volunteering, donations and sponsorships.

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Lapels, 220 Border Street, East Boston

lapelslaundromat.com

• East Boston Marketplace

Please join the East Boston Chamber of Commerce, its Board and its membership to showcase the businesses here in East Boston for a networking event that brings our community together encouraging all of the people of East Boston to shop local. This is a free event to attend and to participate in and will include refreshments, a raffle and access to business and community leaders. Thursday, November 19, 2026

3:30 to 5:30 pm

Martin Pino Community Center, 86 Boardman Street, East Boston eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com

• Salesian Boys and Girls Club of East Boston 20, Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraising Event

Please join the Salesian Boys and Girls Club for its 20th annual Pasta Dinner fundraiser to support an organization that gives so much to our community with its programming and initiatives benefiting the kids and families of East Boston. Tickets are $10.00 per person and sponsorships and donations are always welcome.

Friday, November 20, 2026

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Salesian's at 150 Byron Street, East Boston salesianclub.com

Holocaust Museum Boston announces $2 million gift from Davis Family Charitable Foundation

Special to the Times-Free Press

Holocaust Museum Boston today announced a $2 million gift from the Boston-based Davis Family Charitable Foundation, representing one of the largest philanthropic commitments to the Museum and the largest gift from the Davis Family Foundation to date. The Davis Foundation gift brings total fundraising to date to $81 million against a $110 million total goal.

Currently under construction on Tremont Street, overlooking Boston's historic Freedom Trail, Holocaust Museum Boston will be New England's first museum solely dedicated to Holocaust education. Scheduled to open in Summer 2027, the Museum will preserve the memory and lessons of the Holocaust while inspiring visitors to confront antisemitism, challenge all forms of hatred and marginalization, and recognize their own capacity to make a difference.

"We are deeply grateful to the Davis Family Charitable Foundation for this extraordinary commitment to Holocaust Museum Boston," said Jody Kipnis, Co-Founder, President, and CEO of the Holocaust Legacy Foundation. "At a time when not only antisemitism but all forms of hatred are rising, the importance of Holocaust education has never been more urgent. This generous gift is an investment not only in preserving history, but in educating future generations, inspiring moral courage, and empowering individuals to recognize the difference they can make in the world."

Once complete, Holocaust Museum Boston will feature immersive exhibitions, historical artifacts, survivor testimony, and educational programs, designed to engage visitors intellectually, emotionally, and ethically. Visitors will be invited to Examine the Past, Connect to the Present, and Create the Future. Through firsthand testimony and historical accounts of persecution, resistance, and moral courage, the Museum will encourage visitors to reflect on the lessons of the Holocaust and recognize how their own choices and actions can help shape a more compassionate and just future.

"We were inspired by the vision of the founders of Holocaust Museum Boston to preserve the memory of the Holocaust's atrocities and to draw on those lessons to recognize and confront antisemitism and hatred of others wherever they arise, now and in the future," said Molly Davis Macleod, Executive Director of the Davis Family Charitable Foundation. "The Museum's location on the Freedom Trail, near Park Street Station, the Massachusetts State House and Boston City Hall, will help bring this histo-

See GIFT Page 14

Fresh and Local

Holiday meals, hold the ...

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Each week, the Boston Globe interviews someone from the hospitality industry. It might be a chef, a restaurant owner, or a corporate executive. One question asked of these people, who devote their lives and livelihood to food, is about a food or ingredient they can't or won't eat.

How About You?

The first few times we visited a restaurant that is now on our regular rotation, the servers asked if we had any allergies or aversions. Please take a moment to list the food items you don't want to find on your holiday plate. Do you have any allergies or aversions? Now, think about how you or other gathering hosts react when someone says they are vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, or don't eat a particular menu item.

Some take offense at the thought of accommodating this preference. Others make sure there is an alternative or say yes when a guest asks if they can bring a dish that works for them. On the evil side, some will go out of their way to "test the allergy or dietary restriction." This is dangerous and could lead to a 911 call or an emergency room visit.

Alternatives

One of our best dining pals has been vegan for the past few years. We see this as an opportunity to explore dishes we might never try otherwise. We enjoyed an all-vegan menu at an Indian restaurant together. Now we include the cauliflower dish we shared with nearly every order. She is also not as big a fan of spice as the others at the table. We specified mild spice for each dish and asked for extra spicy chutney for the rest of us.

If you want to serve an alternative main course, search online for "Vegan Thanksgiving Menus." We recommend vegan rather than vegetarian because it suits both.



A personal pumpkin filled with rich vegan mushroom gravy would be a perfect alternative for vegan guests, vegetarians, or anyone who doesn't like turkey.

One popular, easy option is a small roasted pumpkin, filled with rich vegan mushroom gravy, perfect for vegan guests, vegetarians, or anyone who doesn't like turkey. The mushroom-rich gravy is a bonus that can be used on other menu items adapted to restricted diets.

Go Ahead and Delegate

If a guest asks if they can bring something, consider delegating the vegan option to them. Often that will be the person with the dietary restriction. Remember, other hosts have likely made them feel guilty about their diet. They may suggest bringing one of their favorite entrées so they can be sure they will enjoy it. If they ask if they can bring enough to share, say yes. It will add another option for your diners to try.

Zero-Alcohol Options

Consider adding some zero-alcohol drinks to your bar. Thanks to friends who visited during their dry October challenge, we discovered a new world of alcohol-free beverages. There are entire websites dedicated to delivering these drinks since no liquor license is required to sell them.

Ed's favorite alcohol-free beer is Guinness Zero. We both love sparkling wines in this category, with our favorites being French Bloom and those from Hollow Leg Vineyard. Friends recommend St. Agrestis Phony Negroni as a great ready-to-serve non-alcoholic cocktail.

If you're attending a potluck holiday gathering, ask the organizer about dietary restrictions and offer to bring an appropriate dish. If you're bringing a bottle of something, consider making that a non-alcoholic option with the host's approval. Who wouldn't welcome a guest who helps solve holiday dietary needs?

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

Playground// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Street Park is an integral green space for the families of East Boston, and I look forward to bringing my own kids to this fantastic park and seeing the playground bustling with families from around the neighborhood."

The renovation is part of Massport's broader effort to improve playgrounds and family amenities across its properties, giving children and families more opportunities for interactive play and outdoor fun in East Boston. Designed for children of all ages and abilities, the new play structure and swings provide a safe, accessible, and engaging place to play. The project replaces playground equipment originally installed in 2007.

"The Bremen Street Park playground is one of East Boston's most treasured community spaces, and these new improvements give families a refreshed play area for children to explore and enjoy," said Rich Davey, Massport CEO. "We at Massport are proud to continue investing in our parks and green spaces that improve quality of life for residents and visitors."

Bremen Street Park features 18.8 acres of green space, a playground, spray fountain and community garden. The park is also bookended by the East Boston YMCA and the East Boston branch of the Boston Public Library. Bremen Street Park is one of eight parks and open spaces that Massport owns or manages for local families and visitors to enjoy throughout the year.

Going Above and Beyond. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport. For more information, please visit massport.com.

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NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER HOLDS INDUCTION BANQUET

The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame held its Induction Banquet Sunday, Oct. 25 at Kowloon restaurant in Saugus.

East Boston native Johnny Pizzi was the recipient of the Tony DeMarco Spirit and Achievement Founder's Award. Pizzi is a professional comedian and magician and has volunteered his services for numerous charitable organizations.

Massarotti has been a preeminent member of the Boston sports media since starting his career at the Boston Herald in 1989. He is a co-host of the highly popular "Felger and Mazz Show" and host of "The Baseball Hour" on 98.5 The Sports Hub.

Massarotti is a graduate of Waltham High School and Tufts University.

Ring is a former professional baseball player in the Detroit Tigers organization. Following a stint as a manager, coach, and scout with the Tigers, Ring brought his coaching and leadership skills back to the Malden area where he coached the former Malden Merchants and the Augustine A's in the Intercity League. He led the A's to several championships and was inducted into the ICL Hall of Fame.



Johnny Pizzi and Kowloon owner Bobby Wong.



NIASHF Hall of Fame inductee Tony Massarotti and former Boston Red Sox star Rico Petrocelli.



Johnny Pizzi and his sister, Marilyn Girling.



Jim Rao presents the NIASHF Hall of Fame Inductee Award to his longtime friend Tony Massarotti.



Media Specialist Marcel Haddad, NIASHF Treasurer Paul Solano, NIASHF President Dave Caiazzo, and longtime sports historian Bob Hyldburg.



Award recipient Johnny Pizzi (right), pictured with his nephews Jim Crowley (left) and Pat Crowley, and his niece Tricia Crowley, at the NIASHF Massachusetts Induction Banquet.



Tony Massarotti, co-host of the No. 1 sports talk radio show in Boston, "Felger and Mazz,", pictured with Andy Wong, owner of the Kowloon.

Steve is a graduate of Malden Catholic High School and attended UMass/Amherst on a baseball scholarship.

Well-known comedian Dave Russo was master of ceremonies. Vocalists Joey Canzano and Billy Pezzulo provided outstanding musical entertainment.

Chapter President Dave Caizzo, who played in the Philadelphia Phillies organization, delivered the opening remarks.

Former Boston Red Sox star Rico Petrocelli and his wife, Elsie Petrocelli, were special guests in attendance.

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The honorees, Johnny Pizzi, Dennis Ring, and Tony Massarotti.

NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER HOLDS INDUCTION BANQUET



Award recipient Johnny Pizzi and family, pictured at the NIASHF Induction Banquet at Kowloon.



Johnny Pizzi, pictured with family and friends at the Induction Banquet.



Legendary Boston sportswriter and radio talk show host Tony Massarotti receives a birthday cake on his special day at the Induction Banquet.



Professional comedian and magician Johnny Pizzi and former Boston Red Sox star Rico Petrocelli.



NIASHF inductee Dennis Ring, a former professional baseball player in the Detroit Tigers organization, pictured with his proud family at the Induction Banquet held Oct. 25 at Kowloon.

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PRESENTS



Foraging, detail

Messenger/ Convergence
Dominick Takis

Following theThread IV, Concetta De Iorio, detail



Following the Thread
B. Amore

November 7 – 28, 2026
Opening Reception: Saturday, November 7, 6:00-9:00 pm
Third Thursday Reception with Presentation by East Boston Museum and Historical Association: November 19, 6:00-9:00 pm
Open Friday and Saturday, 2:00-6:00 pm
or by appointment. www.atlanticworks.org

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Postal Service prepped to deliver for 2026 holiday season

Special to the Independent

The Postal Service is ready to deliver the holidays for 2026. The organization is continuing to build upon the successful delivery performance of the 2025 peak season.

Thanks to investments in new technology and new logistics planning and implementation by the organization, the Postal Service significantly improved its delivery performance during last year's holiday season. In 2025, mail and packages were delivered, on average, in 2.5 days compared with 2.8 days during the same period in 2024 (Nov. 15, 2024-Jan. 9, 2025).

Plans for holiday deliveries begin in January. Preparing so far in advance enables the Postal Service to manage the influx of mail and packages it receives — volumes increase about 40 percent between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31 — for the holiday season

"The Postal Service performed very well during last year's holiday season, and we are even better prepared this year for the upcoming peak mailing and shipping season," Postmaster General David Steiner said. "We have been preparing all year for this peak season, and we have enough capacity to handle whatever comes our way."

Key accomplishments and areas of progress ahead of the 2026 peak holiday season include:

Increasing daily processing capacity by deploying more than 600 package sorters: USPS has expanded its daily package processing capacity by adding 673 state-of-the-art package sorting machines over the past six years, including 164 installed this year alone. The machines have automated scanning capabilities that ensure tracking visibility for our customers as packages move through the postal system. These machines allow us to handle more and larger parcels than the legacy machines and prepare the Postal Service for the expected surge in volume for the holidays. Also, a new next-generation package tracking and reporting platform increases package visibility within the postal network.

Hiring more than 10,000 seasonal employees: Within the last six years, a combination of improved staffing, reduced supervisor vacancies and lowered overtime rates has resulted in a more stabilized workforce. This has allowed the Postal Service to hire a little more than 10,000 seasonal employees — down from 40,000 just a few years ago.

Launching next-generation package tracking and reporting platform: In 2025, USPS launched its next-generation package tracking and reporting platform. The tracking is nearly four times faster than the previous version, often providing updates within a minute of scanning. The platform works seamlessly with other USPS systems to not only allow customers to see a more accurate location of their packages using the tracking tool on usps.com or Informed Delivery, but to also ensure packages are delivered to the correct address.

Debuting new facilities: Since 2022, the Postal Service has opened a total of 182 sorting and delivery centers (S&DCs), 19 regional processing and distribution centers (RPDCs) associated with 68 local processing centers (LPCs), and four standalone regional transfer hubs (RTHs). Of this total, in fiscal year 2026, USPS launched 31 S&DCs and 10 RPDCs working in tandem with 35 LPCs.

Improving proactive, strategic planning in targeted markets: The organization recently created a Chief Solutions and Strategy Office to look across its entire enterprise, centralize network planning and identify ways to work more effectively and efficiently. Additionally, this group is working more closely with USPS customers and taking a consultative approach to matching customer needs with postal solutions.

Deploying new postal delivery vehicles: Within the last three years, USPS has received and deployed more than 45,000 new vehicles nationwide. This new fleet is a combination of both gas and electric powered, commercial off the shelf (COTS), and purpose built, next generation delivery vehicles (NGDVs). The modern fleet provides increased fuel economy and reduced carbon emissions, while ensuring safe and reliable service. New vehicles will continue to be deployed throughout the 2026 holiday season and into the next calendar year.

Making the returns process easier: USPS offers a seamless experience for both customers and merchants through an unmatched retail network and flexible returns options. Customers can drop off returns packages at any of the organization's more than 31,000 retail locations, use one of its more than 3,000 self-service kiosks, or schedule a free carrier pickup to help make returns stress-free any time of the year.

Installing USPS Smart Lockers for a safe and flexible way to send and receive packages: USPS has installed hundreds of smart lockers in cities throughout the country. The lockers provide an alternative free, se-

See DELIVERY Page 10

Boston residents have lost SNAP food benefits since June 2025

A total of 25,477 Boston residents lost access to SNAP benefits between June 2025 and August 2026, a 18.39% decline in SNAP coverage that ranks Boston among Massachusetts communities for the number of residents affected, according to the Department of Transitional Assistance, the state agency that administers SNAP. If nothing changes, Boston would lose $ 4,532,400 annually, or more as families continue to lose SNAP.

Statewide, an estimated 196,000 people have lost their SNAP benefits, including 70,000 children, since the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill last year. The federal law limited eligibility and increased bureaucratic work for DTA, the state agency that administers SNAP, which is also facing severe staffing shortages. Massachusetts ranks sixth among the 28 states tracking this data for its drop in SNAP participation. With 40% of Massachusetts households facing food insecurity, according to the Greater Boston Food Bank, these losses do not reflect a decrease in need.

The losses also affect local grocery stores, farms, and food retailers whose bottom line depends on people using SNAP. Every $1.00 spent using SNAP benefits generates around $1.50 to $1.80 in revenue for the state's broader economy.

"If you need help from the state government, you deserve to have your calls answered," says Erin McAleer, president and CEO of Project Bread. "No one should have to fight this hard to get help affording food, especially when they know they're eligible."

In the first six months of 2026, three out of four calls into the DTA assistance line went unanswered due to high call volume and severe understaffing. Last month, Gov. Maura Healey proposed a FY27 supplemental budget that includes $26 million for DTA caseworkers, funding existing positions and allowing for 10 net new caseworkers. That falls far below the 200 additional caseworkers estimated to fix the staffing crisis. Between April and September of this year, Project Bread received 6,237 SNAP-related calls, accounting for 60% of all calls to its FoodSource Hotline. Project Bread and its Make Hunger History Coalition are calling on the state to prioritize an additional $56 million investment in the agency.

"The bottom line is, people are in crisis, and there are funds available to help them," says McAleer. "It is Massachusetts' responsibility to make sure they can feed their families."

Boston residents who have lost SNAP benefits or need help affording food can call the FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In 2025, Project Bread's Hotline team completed 3,779 SNAP pre-screens and 510 SNAP applications over the phone. Counselors assist callers in more than 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org/get-help.

Project Bread, the leading statewide food security nonprofit, connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible, so that no one goes hungry. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

Atlantic Works Gallery announces its November exhibitions

Special to the Times-Free Press

Atlantic Works Gallery's next exhibition is "Following the Thread" by B. Amore and "Messenger/Convergence" by Dominick Takis. These free exhibitions are November 7 - 28, with an opening reception on November 7, 6-9 pm, a Third Thursday Reception on November 19, 6-9 pm. Presentation by East Boston Museum and Historical Association at Third Thursday Reception at 7pm.

For its November exhibition, Atlantic Works Gallery (AWG) is pleased to present work by two artists: B. Amore and Dominick Takis.

East Boston native, B. Amore, is an artist, educator and writer who has spent her life between Italy and America. Following the Thread consists of panels that were part of her exhibit, "Life Line: filo della vita" originally displayed at Ellis Island Immigration Museum in 1999-2000. The exhibit traveled in the US and Italy. The families represented in the panels lived first in the North End, then in East Boston. After the exhibit, the panels will be held by the East Boston Museum and Historical Association.

"Experimentation and work with found materials is a key to my working process in which accident and innovation are in constant interplay, explains Amore. My work has evolved from its origins in carved forms to complex installations involving text, ancestral artifacts, alternative photo processes, stone, fabric, and objets trouvés. Much of my mature work has involved looking into the theme of immigration as the quintessential odyssey. Most of us are either immigrants or progeny of immigrants. When we remember this, it puts us in touch with the realities of the labor, suffering and dreams of those who journeyed here with the hope of a new and different kind of life".

Dominick Takis's artwork explores the relationship between the natural environment, memory, and the human impulse to collect and transform. "My process begins during morning walks and hikes, where I gather organic materials from the landscape—lichen, rose hips, bark, branches, dried plants, and other natural fragments. These materials become an integral part of my studio practice, carrying with them traces of place, time, and personal observation"

In Messenger/Convergence, Takis creates sculptural mixed-media paintings that move between painting, relief, and assemblage. Collected organic materials are combined with spray foam, epoxy, acrylic, oil-based clay, gesso, and resin to construct layered and dimensional surfaces. He also creates small sculptural forms, including birds and insects, which inhabit these environments and introduce moments of recognition and narrative.

Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, East Boston. Gallery Hours: Fridays and Saturdays, 2–6pm, and by appointment. For more information, please visit: www.atlanticworks.org. Atlantic Works Gallery is a collaborative space for art and ideas.

SUNANDA BHATTACHARYA SPEAKS AT BOSTON VILLAGE EVENT



Boston Village recently held the third in its "Aging in Place, Living Your Best Life at Home" speaker series with Boston College Professor Sunanda Bhattacharya. His presentation, titled, "Designing for Super Aging: The Next Frontier in Human-Centered Design," explored how the right design can help create longer, better lives for individuals, families, caregivers and communities. The next speaker in Boston Village's 25th anniversary series is Professor Patties Maes from the MIT Media Lab on how devices can assist people with health and wellbeing. To learn more about the series, which is free and open to the public, go to www.Bostonvillage.org. Pictured (l-r): Melissa Interess, Executive Director, Boston Village, Dr. Michael Goldberg, Boston Village board member and speaker series organizer, Sunanda Bhattacharya, and Barbara Berkman, Boston Village board president.

Delivery // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

cure and convenient solution for customers and businesses to send and receive packages when home or business delivery isn't practical or preferred.

Making products and services widely available for shipping gifts: The Postal Service has a range of convenient and affordable options for customers to get their mail and packages where they need to go during the holidays quickly and reliably. With $100 insurance and tracking included on most shipments, customers can rely on USPS Ground Advantage (2-5 business days) *, Priority Mail (2-3 business days) and Priority Mail Express (1-3 business days) during the holidays.

*USPS Ground Advantage packages between the contiguous United States and the following locations will have a 10-day or more service expectation: Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States. Days will vary due to the range of distances between locations. Customers can look up service expectations on usps.com for mailings from one ZIP Code to another on a particular mailing date: https://postcalc.usps.com/ServiceCommitments.

As in years past, the Postal Service will also prioritize morning parcel delivery, enhanced scanning technology and extended retail and pickup delivery hours at popular Post Office locations. It will also continue to offer the lowest postage rates in the industrialized world. Additionally, USPS delivers more mail than any other postal system — serving more than 170 million addresses — and processes and delivers nearly half of the world's mail.

For mailing and shipping preparation tips, free shipping supplies ordering, packaging guidelines (including restricted and prohibited item information), and Post Office location hours, visit usps.com or the USPS YouTube channel.

THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT TAKES STRIDE AT EAST BOSTON YMCA'S "EAST BOOSTON 5K"

COURTESY PHOTOS

Special to the Times-Free Press

The East Boston YMCA welcomed 280 runners for its October 25 5K, bringing the community together for a memorable day of fitness, fun, and Halloween spirit. Participants enjoyed the park, with runners sporting creative costumes that added a festive touch to the event.

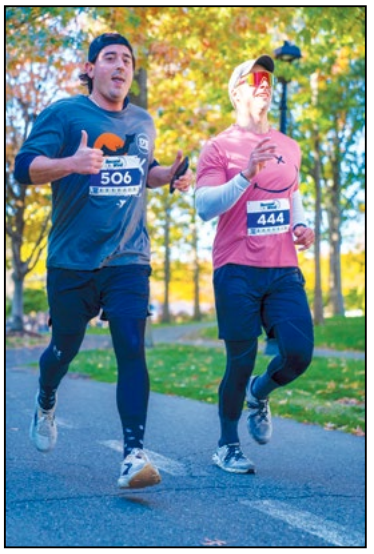
The successful 5K celebrated the joy of getting active together and the community connections that make East Boston special. From the starting line to the finish, the event offered an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, encourage fellow runners, and celebrate the neighborhood.

The East Boston YMCA extends a heartfelt thank-you to Cambria Hotel East Boston and Dunkin' for their generous sponsorship and support. Their contributions helped make this community celebration possible.

The Y also thanks the runners, volunteers, and staff whose energy and hard work made the day a success.

Events like the 5K reflect the East Boston YMCA's commitment to bringing people together, encouraging healthy living, and strengthening community.





















Grant program delivers personal radiation detectors to DFS hazmat technicians

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that 200 State Hazmat technicians are being outfitted with personal radiation detectors (PRDs) through a federal grant program, providing advance warning for personnel who might be entering a hazardous environment and alerting them to radioactive threats.

"Massachusetts Hazmat technicians are our first line of defense against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive hazards," said Public Safety & Security Secretary Gina K. Kwon. "Making this powerful tool available to so many techs is going to help protect them and our residents from hazards that are unseen but deadly serious."

"Metering for radiation is one of the first steps that our Hazmat techs take at any scene, even when radiation isn't the primary known hazard," State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine said. "Radioactive substances may not be detected by the first responding fire personnel. They could be present in medical equipment, laboratory environments, or the workshop of someone attempting to make a weapon. Knowing the nature and severity of the threat is vital to making informed decisions on personal protection and public safety."

The delivery of 200 PRDs and 14 larger, more sensitive meters was funded through a federal Securing the Cities (STC) grant, which is issued by the Department of Homeland Security – Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. The grant is administered at the state level by the Boston Police Department, which serves as the regional coordinator and fiduciary agent for the grant program.

STC-Boston provides local officials with tools and training to detect nuclear or radiological materials in order to prevent terrorist attacks and related incidents. Deploying PRDs to 200 Massachusetts Hazmat techs will help to identify unregulated radiological materials, including those intended for use in a weapon or "orphan source" radioactive materials that had been lost, stolen, abandoned, or misplaced.

One such scenario unfolded in Lexington earlier this year, when local firefighters were called to the home of a deceased chemist who left behind a large collection of chemicals. When firefighters contacted the Department of Fire Services' Hazmat Division for assistance, state Hazmat techs metered the area and quickly located radioactive substances that required special handling and disposal.

"Our Hazmat techs train regularly on PRDs and they're already familiar with the devices' operation," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Because these personnel are drawn from local fire departments across Massachusetts, this deployment will ensure that radiation detection capabilities are available anywhere in the state, any time of the day or night. This is a massive upgrade for the Commonwealth's threat detection infrastructure."



DFS Hazmat Director Timothy Gallagher (left) and State Fire Marshal Jon Davine (right) with personal radiation detectors that will be deployed to 200 Massachusetts Hazmat technicians. The devices were funded through a federal grant administered by the Boston Police Department.





Gift // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ry to a wide audience. Its staff is already working closely with schools across Massachusetts to incorporate Holocaust education into their curricula. Together, these efforts gave us confidence that Holocaust Museum Boston will help people understand and confront antisemitism and hatred in general while keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive."

Since 2006, the Davis Family Charitable Foundation (DFCF) has invested in communities and social sector organizations that expand access to education, build skills, nurture talent, and address critical needs for housing, equitable health care, and other supportive services. At the heart of its grantmaking is a deep concern for issues of equity and opening pathways to opportunity, especially for underserved children and youth whose talents and potential too often go unrealized. Guided by the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam—the responsibility to help repair the world—DFCF supports organizations that advance justice and fairness, expand pathways to opportunity, and that work to counter the effects of hate crimes, antisemitism, racism, poverty, and other forms of exclusion. DFCF is committed to combating bigotry in all its forms by helping organizations on the frontlines of the continuing fight against hatred access the resources they need to respond quickly to urgent events while developing longer-term educational programs that address the root causes and enduring effects of bigotry, racism, and poverty.

Holocaust Museum Boston will be New England's first museum solely dedicated to Holocaust education. Located in downtown Boston, steps off the historic Freedom Trail, the Museum will offer an immersive and deeply personal exploration of the Holocaust through historical artifacts, firsthand survivor testimony, interactive exhibitions, and educational programs.

More than a place of remembrance, Holocaust Museum Boston will be a place of connection, conversation, and action. By examining the choices people made during the Holocaust and their consequences, the museum will encourage visitors to think critically, confront antisemitism and hatred, and recognize their own responsibility to stand up for others and protect democratic values.

Holocaust Museum Boston is the signature project of Holocaust Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to Holocaust remembrance, education, and inspiring future generations to make a difference.

For more information, please contact: info@holocaustmuseumboston.org

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(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU26P2092EA
Estate of:
Amber Renae Renberg
Also Known As:
Amber R Renberg
Date of Death:
08/11/2026 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Amy Rachel Proud of Phoenix AZ requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Amy Rachel Proud of Phoenix AZ 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 12/03/2026. 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: October 26, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
11/4/26
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
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU26P0912EA
Estate of: Gail Gasperini
Also known as: Gail Monroe Date of Death 05/28/2023
To all interested persons: A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Edmund G Colson of Hingham MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
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 12/02/2026. 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: October 28, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.,
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THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

A Lifetime Of Success On The Diamond

Walsh, Forbes reunite to lead Woburn to BMBL Veterans Division championship

By Cary Shuman

They were teammates more than 30 years ago leading the Massport Pirates to an East Boston Senior League championship at Noyes Park. The lifelong baseball-playing duo also teamed up in East Boston American Legion Baseball and more recently for the East Boston Blue Sox in the Yawkey League.

Local baseball legends Steve Walsh and John Forbes were reunited on the diamond this summer competing for the Woburn Nationals in the inaugural season of the Boston Metro Baseball League Veterans Division for players ages 45 and older.

And the grand reunion couldn't have gone any better as the Nationals captured the title following a 2-1 series victory over the South Shore Giants.

Both players made huge contributions to Woburn's success in the regular season and playoffs.

Walsh batted a steady .333 during the regular season. Always a clutch ballplayer, the former Salem State star stepped it up in the post season and hit safely in all six games at a potent .400 clip.

But in what many considered the defensive plays of the year, Walsh made sensational catches in the championship series, both times silencing South Shore Giants' rallies.

Walsh was appreciative of the opportunity to team up with Forbes.

"I'm so grateful that Forbesie asked me to join his 45-plus team," related Walsh, a professional candlepin bowler. "John said to me, 'You'll have a blast with these guys, it's a good group of a guys,' and once he started naming the guys on the roster, I said, 'Absolutely, I'm all in.'"

Walsh remembers his years alongside Forbes well. "When we won the Senior League title with the Pirates team, our coaches were John's father [John Forbes], Jimmy Mosca, and Mike DiMarzo," recalled Walsh. "I was 14 years old. That's a long time ago, but playing baseball then and now with John Forbes is something I'll always treasure."

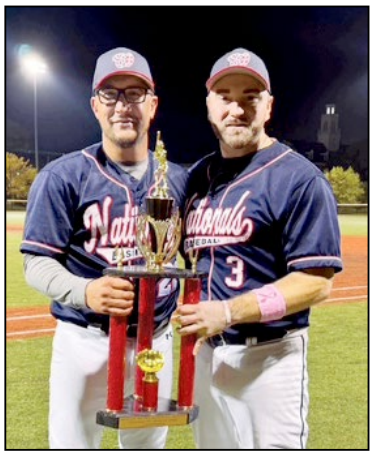
Forbes, a former fireballing ace righthander at Dom Savio and UMass/Boston, showed that he can still bring the heat. Forbes was one of the key starting pitchers for the champion Nationals, compiling a 3-2 record.

"I still have my stuff," humbly said Forbes who regularly hit the high 80s on the radar during his four seasons at UMass. "My baseball coach was [former BC player] Mark Bettencourt for my four years. We had some good seasons. But my favorite catcher was Jack Halas at Savio. We got to play against each other in Fort Myers, Florida, when he was at Hamilton College. My brother, Anthony, was on my team, and Anthony DelPrete was also at the same complex playing for Suffolk."

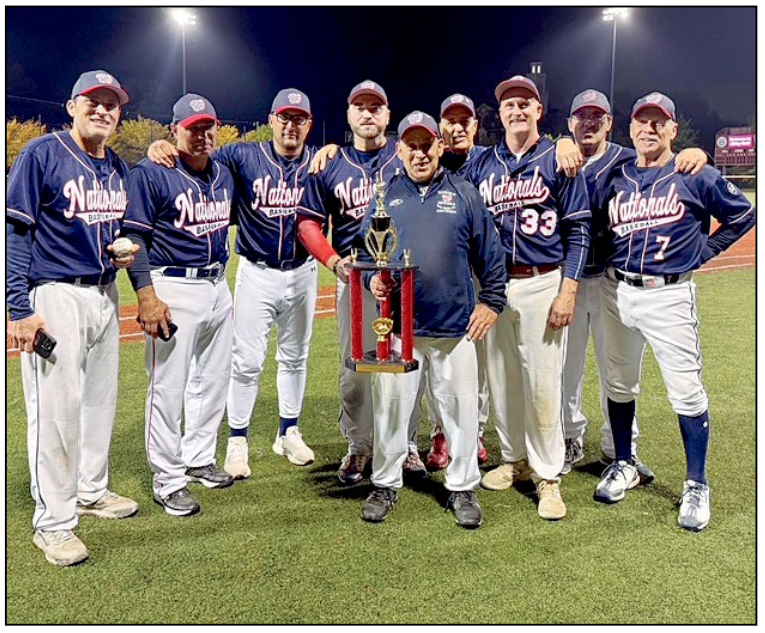
Forbes remembers his teenage years as Walsh's teammate. "Steve and I won a title in Eastie together. It was great to be his teammate again. I love playing baseball with Steve."

Forbes has been dispensing his pitching knowledge during the winter, working with East Boston High School pitchers in indoor sessions. Also working with the athletes are John's father, longtime coach John Forbes, retired Boston Police Capt. Kelley McCormick, and former EBHS pitcher Mikey O'Neil.

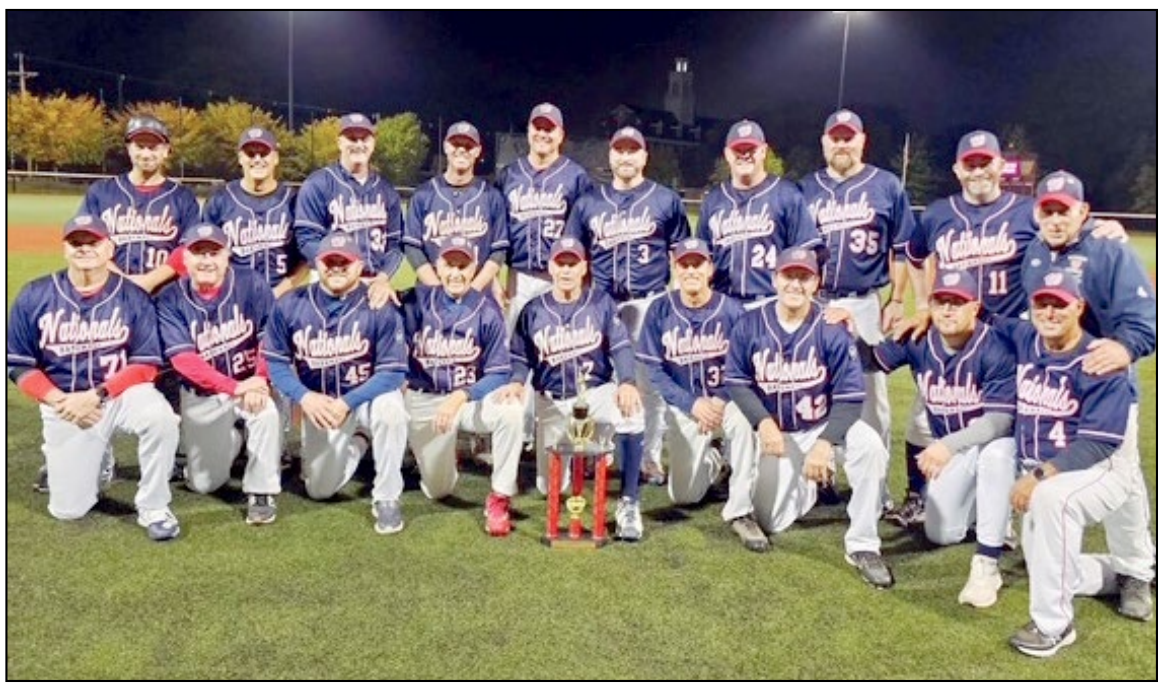
Looking back at his summer campaign, Forbes said he has positive memories. "I've known our assistant coach, Billy Smeglin, for a long time," said Forbes. "That's how I got back into baseball. He plays basketball with my father. I had no intention of returning to baseball ever again, but Billy asked me to come back, and I decided to do it. And it was a great experience."



East Boston's John Forbes and Steve Walsh hold the Woburn Nationals' Boston Metro Baseball League's inaugural 45-Plus championship trophy following their 13-8 win over the South Shore Giants in the rubber game of the three-game series at Libby Park in Weymouth.



From left, Sam Steed, Mike Hinojosa, John Forbes, Steven Walsh, Bill Smeglin, Sam MacDonald, Mike Kalfopoulos, Russ Ward, and Manager Todd Cotton.



The Boston Metro Baseball League 45-Plus Division champions, the Woburn Nationals, are pictured after winning the 2026 championship over the South Shore Giants at Libby Field in Weymouth.

Manager Todd Cotton praises Eastie's championship duo

Woburn Nationals manager Todd Cotton offered his personal assessment of the Walsh-Forbes Eastie connection and its impact on the championship season.

"As far as I'm concerned, Walshie was the playoff MVP," said Cotton. "He had a great regular season and an even better playoff season."

"John Forbes was our No. 2 pitcher and by pitching so well and eating up innings during the regular season, we probably wouldn't have reached the heights we did without him," said Cotton. "The Eastie guys were both phenomenal. And you can just tell they love the game of baseball."