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# East Boston

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Wednesday, January 18, 2023



Shown (Left to Right) Claire Paduano, Gregg Housh, Jule Manitz and John Walkey pose by the banner they erected protesting the substation.

## Substation protest leads to arrests

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Just before 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, activists protesting Eversource's electric substation blocked the entrance to the construction site at 400 Condor Street, leading to multiple arrests.

According to a press release from Extinction Rebellion Boston (XR), a group that has vehemently opposed the substa-

tion, six of their activists were arrested early Tuesday morning during the demonstration.

At the time of this writing, the Boston Police Department's (BPD) Office of Media Relations could not provide any information on the arrests.

Jule Manitz, an XR Activist, indicated that she was none too pleased with

See ARRESTS Page 6

## Save the Harbor seeks applications Better Beaches grant program

Special to the Times-Free Press

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are now seeking Better Beaches Program grant proposals from organizations to support free beach events and activities in East Boston this summer.

Last year, Save the Harbor awarded \$27,000 in

Better Beaches grants to East Boston organizations like East Boston YMCA, Piers Park Sailing Center, Harborkeepers, Triangle, Inc, NOAH, and the Boston Circus Guild. This money was used to put on the Maritime Festival, Vamos a la Playa cultural celebration, the Safety Around Water Celebration, Beach:

See GRANT Page 2

## Eversource Substation still being protested

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

In a fight that has spanned about a decade, activists are still making their voices heard, protesting the impending construction of an Eversource electric substation on Condor Street across from the American Legion Playground.

Just last week, members of Extinction Rebellion Boston (XR) and Green-Roots, two environmen-

tal justice groups, were stationed across from the construction site protesting the substation and erected a banner that reads 'No Eastie Substation.'

As for the chief concern among those opposing the substation, it comes down to safety; many are worried that the substation could be disastrous for the area due to potential flooding.

"At the most immedi-

ate level, this is a major public health concern because of the fact that when substations flood - which this substation is sited in a flood plain area - ... they explode, which we have seen happen in Manhattan, and we have seen happen in California," said Alex Chambers of XR.

Gregg Housh, an XR activist, echoed Chambers' sentiment, called for the substation to be moved

elsewhere, and called construction at the current site a "travesty."

"There's plots literally a mile from here that the transmission lines are even closer to that are better for this that won't flood by next year. Which I mean, I'm sorry, but with all the climate change that's currently going on right now, this thing is going to flood more often, not less of-

See SUBSTATION Page 6

## Eastie Farm has plenty of programs for residents

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During the Harbor View Neighborhood Association's (HVNA) meeting on Monday, Jan. 9, representatives of Eastie Farm presented learning opportunities, sales, programs, and more that residents can participate in.

One of Eastie Farm's most prominent initiatives is its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. The CSA is essentially a farm share, where residents sign up and pay a

rate for fresh produce from local farms.

"Every week during the growing season, you get seasonal, beautiful produce at a rate that would be half the cost if you bought it from anywhere else, and we buy our produce from other Massachusetts farmers who are local, who we know," said Eastie Farm's Heather O'Brien.

Another significant aspect of the CSA is that it is not budget-discriminatory in that residents all over East Boston can enjoy

fresh produce weekly.

"People can pay for the CSA in whatever way suits their budget. The CSA is the same whether you pay us \$1 million, you pay us \$5 a month because that is all you can afford, you pay us with your SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) card," said O'Brien.

In conjunction with SNAP, the state also offers the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). The program gives users money back on their SNAP card for buy-

ing produce from local HIP vendors, and Eastie Farm happens to be a vendor.

"So essentially, there are people - if you have a SNAP card - you can get that [local produce] for free," said O'Brien.

The CSA is not the only way to get some fresh produce, as Eastie Farm also offers a free farmers market, where anyone can take home their choice of produce at no cost.

"Everybody is welcome

See FARM Page 2



The Beach: Ability day in East Boston has mobility mats, beach wheelchairs, and kayaks for participants.

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# EBNHC opens applications for Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its third cohort of residents to join its Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Residency Program. This residency program aims to expand the pool of primary care providers who are well-prepared and committed to serving underserved populations.

EBNHC was one of five health care organizations in the Commonwealth selected to participate in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) State-wide Investments Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program in 2021. Since then, the program has shown to be invaluable in the training of new Family Nurse Practitioners.

The residency is a highly structured year of inten-

sive clinical training that provides mentorship in a high-performance model of care. Training includes primary care sessions with a preceptor in a community health center setting, specialty rotations, didactic sessions, and quality improvement training. By the end of the program, residents will have gained the competence, mastery and confidence needed to be a NP primary care provider that serves culturally diverse and clinically complex patients.

“We are thrilled to continue our Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Program,” said Jackie Fantes, MD, FFAFP Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “Our goal is to bridge the gap between academia and practice for new FNPs so that they feel competent and confident to hit the

ground running as they enter the fast-paced world of health care. We want every patient to have a provider who empowers their decision making and respects their language, culture, race or ethnicity, and health care preferences.”

The goal of the FNP training program is to ensure every new provider is prepared, supported, and satisfied with their career in primary care. “When I started at EBNHC 14 years ago as a new NP, the support, training and mentorship I received shaped me as a clinician and has

driven me to want to do the same for the next generation of providers,” said Residency Program Director Katherine O’Brien, MSN, FNP-C. “This individualized residency, with an abundance of hands-on teaching, feedback and clinical mentoring, does just that.”

Based at EBNHC sites in the South End, East Boston and Winthrop, the program will run from September 2023 to August 2024. The residency is a full-time, 12-month salaried position. Three slots are available. New Family Nurse Practitioners gradu-

ating in May 2023 or within the previous 18 months are encouraged to apply. Bilingual candidates preferred. Visit Family Nurse Practitioner Residency: Overview — EBNHC 2022 for more information and an online application.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community health center in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston’s South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, please visit [www.ebnhc.org](http://www.ebnhc.org).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### GOVE STREET CITIZENS ASSOCIATION AGENDA

The next Gove Street Citizens Association meeting is Monday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Register for this meeting: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

All speakers will be available to answer questions from the community.

Announcements (5 min)

PLAN: East Boston Reunión Comunitaria en Español (Spanish-language meeting); martes, 24 de enero, 6:30 PM (Tues, Jan 24, 6:30 PM)

Chapter 91 Public Notice for 605 Chelsea Street Environmental Justice notice from Piers Park Phase III team

Community Updates (10 min)

East Boston updates from Nathalia Benitez-Perez, our neighborhood liaison with City Hall

BPD updates from Sgt. Cintolo

VOTE: 76 Frankfort Street (15min)

Our next meeting after this one will be on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30p on Zoom.

### AGENCIES ANNOUNCE NEW ROUND OF HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL EDUCATION FAIR FUNDING

The State Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Banks (DOB) and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR), announced additional funding for the 2022-2023 Financial Ed-

ucation Innovation Fund Grant. This grant opportunity provides financial assistance for Massachusetts high schools hosting financial education fairs during the 2022-2023 school year.

Known as Credit for Life fairs, these workshops offer fun and unique experiences for students to learn about personal finance topics before they graduate. Massachusetts public or charter high schools and special education programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) are eligible to apply.

Schools that were already awarded a grant for the 2022-2023 school year are not eligible to receive additional funding.

Applications are open until Friday, February 17th. Schools can learn more and apply here.

This marks the 11th round of the grant since its inception in 2015 and the second round for the 2022-2023 school year. In December, the agencies awarded a total of \$115,400 to 39 schools to create new or expand pre-existing financial education fairs, which will serve around 9,000 students according to the grantees’ estimates.

Since 2015, over 40,000 Massachusetts students have attended Credit for Life Fairs. The Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant was established as an ongoing effort to strengthen access to financial literacy throughout Massachusetts. This financial education program is funded by the Division of Banks through a settlement over alleged unlawful lending practices.

### Farm// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at that. Nobody needs to show an ID; nobody needs to prove anything — you don’t even have to live in East Boston,” said O’Brien.

Along with the CSA and free farmers market, Eastie Farm also offers a seedling sale, in which they work with a sober house in Dorchester to bring in all sorts of seedlings not grown in the Eastie Farm greenhouse.

“The seedling sale is a great opportunity to order your plants from Eastie Farm ... For the first week in May, we have like a pick-up for four days for people who have ordered their seedlings to come and get them ... and then we have like a sale the week-

end before Mother’s Day — people can come and buy whatever they want,” said O’Brien.

While Eastie Farm offers ample opportunities to secure local fruits and vegetables, the organization also has several experiential learning programs.

“By experiential learning, I mean that they’re not in the classroom — they’re out in the world — getting their hands dirty and learning about their environment as they experience it,” said Joel Seidner, Eastie Farm’s Climate Resilience Project Manager.

One of these learning opportunities is the Junior Farmers, a summer program where kids learn to

take care of plants, cook with fresh produce and learn more about the environment. Climate NATURE is another program where Eastie Farm visits schools and supplements students’ education.

For older students in High School, Eastie Farm offers the Youth Climate Corps, a fellowship where students can get involved with their environment in several ways, such as tending to urban farms, teaching younger kids, and more.

Whether it is getting some fresh fruits and vegetables or learning, Eastie Farm has multiple avenues for residents to become more in tune with the envi-

ronment.

“We have a lot of things for everybody, and people don’t have to sign up for the CSA forever; they don’t have to order a ton of seedlings ... but we would love it if whatever you need as far as plants and growing you reached out to Eastie Farm,” said O’Brien.

“[We would love it] if you needed help or you wanted to volunteer; you think of us first because we are happy to answer any questions at any time.”

For more information on everything Eastie Farm has to offer, you can visit <https://eastiefarm.com>.

### Grant// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ability accessible beach day, and more.

In 2022, Save the Harbor’s Better Beaches Program invested more than \$250,000 in the program, supporting 62 organizations in nine waterfront communities from Nahant to Nantasket. In turn, those organizations ran over 180 events.

This year, Better Beaches state funding has increased. Save the Harbor we will be awarding more than \$300,000 in 2023 Better Beaches grants for even more events free to the public.

If you or your organization has a great idea for a free beach event or program, just follow this link.

“I’m just so delighted that the Better Beaches grant exists,” said Magdalena Ayed, Founder and Executive Director of the Harborkeepers, a Better Beaches grantee. “This grant allows us to provide a platform to learn about what’s happening on the ocean and how we as the Community can be advocates to improve it. It’s a fantastic opportunity.”

The Better Beaches program puts resources in the hands of local beach lovers, supporting and empowering them to execute events for their communities. The

impact is clear — Save the Harbor has brought millions of community members to the region’s beaches with over 1,000 free events since 2008.

Grant applicants can come from any community as long as their idea centers one of our region’s public beaches. Better Beaches funds will be awarded to organizations, programs, individuals, and creatives who empower, amplify and invest in community members of color, people with disabilities, people who’s first language is not English and members of the Queer community. The event must be free and open to the public, be executed in Summer 2023, and comply with DCR’s restrictions on what’s allowed on the beaches.

“Vamos a la Playa is our gathering organized by the Veronica Robles Cultural Center to bring our community to this beautiful space by the water,” said Veronica Robles, a Better Beaches grantee. “We want to make sure that everybody enjoys the summer with mindful activities. Thank you for DCR and the Better Beaches grant and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for the opportunity and for supporting this event.”

A Trike Called Funk, a Better Beaches grantee, used their funds to perform at events on multiple beaches and host their own event series, Bike to the Beach and Boogie. “None of this would have been possible had it not been for the support of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Better Beaches initiative,” said A.a.ron Myers, Co-Founder of A Trike Called Funk. “We are happy to amplify Save the Harbor and celebrate what they’re doing to bring people together and to appreciate, but also become stewards of, these beautiful blue and green spaces in and around Boston.”

Information about the events and programs that were supported last year can be found in Save the Harbor’s 2023 Impact Report, which is available at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/publications>.

You can apply for a Better Beaches grant at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/better-beaches>. You will be notified of the result of your application in April. If you have any questions about the Better Beaches Program, please contact Maya Smith [atsmith@savetheharbor.org](mailto:atsmith@savetheharbor.org).

Funds to support the program come from the





Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Baker/Polito Administration, and from the Harpoon Shamrock Splash, which will take place on March 12th, 2023. To register for the Splash, visit <https://savetheharbor.securesweet.com/default.asp>.

Save the Harbor’s success would not be possible without our program partners and event sponsors, including Arctic Chill, FMC Ice Sports, Bay State Cruise Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, The Blue Sky Collaborative, Boston & Maine Webcams, The Boston Foundation, BostonHarbor.com, Boston Properties, Coast Cannabis, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Comcast, Cronin Group, Constellation Generation, Comcast Foundation, the Daily Catch, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Eastern Salt Company, Inc, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Harpoon, IR+M Charitable Fund, JetBlue, John Hancock Financial Services, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Massport, P&G Gillette, Mix 104.1, National Grid, and The Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation.

In addition, Save the Harbor recognizes the Metropolitan Beaches Commission Co-Chairs Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn, and Representative Adrian Madaro of East Boston and the legislative and community members of the Commission as well as Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano for their support for our beaches and our communities. We also thank the Baker/Polito Administration, the Massachusetts Legislature, Save the Harbor’s partners at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the YMCA of Greater Boston, and the hundreds of people who take part in the Shamrock Splash for their support.

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