

East Boston

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Eastie Nonprofits Receive save the Harbor/Save the Bay Better Beaches Grant

By John Lynds

For East Boston nonprofit organizations like Piers Park Sailing Center, East Boston YMCA, the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) and Harborkeepers the annual Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Shamrock Splash fundraiser helps these organization bring fun activities to Eastie beaches and harbor during the summer months.

The annual Harpoon Shamrock Splash to benefit Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Better Beaches Program will be held on Sunday, March 10, at the BCYF Curley Community Center at M Street Beach in South Boston. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay hope to raise more than \$50,000 to support free beach events and programs on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

"It's that time of year again. A chill is in the air, and the Harpoon Shamrock Splash is just eight weeks away," said Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Bruce Berman. "For just \$20, you can enjoy refreshing Harpoon beer, tasty treats, a terrific beach party and the warm feeling you get when you give back to your community. You will also have a chance to win round trip flights from JetBlue, terrific swag from Harpoon and other great prizes for best costume and biggest fundraiser."

Last year the four Eastie nonprofits received \$18,180 each to host activities like free kayaking, sunset family fitness, family fun days, and the first annual East Boston marine science and maritime festival.

Those who would like to take part can register online before the event at www.shamrocksplash.org for just \$20, or register on the day of for \$25. Registration includes

Harpoon beer, great food, a Harpoon Koozie, entrance to the post-splash party, and the chance to win round-trip flights on JetBlue for best costume and biggest fundraiser.

Berman gave a shout out to the Massachusetts Legislature, the Baker-Polito Administration and the Metropolitan Beaches Commission for their support for state beaches, and to the organization's partners at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Centers for Youth and Families and the Greater Boston YMCA for their support.

"The Baker-Polito Administration is proud to work collaboratively with organizations like Save the Harbor/Save the Bay in an effort to ensure the Commonwealth's state beaches and other parks and reservations remain popular destinations for residents and tourists alike," said DCR Commissioner Leo Roy. "The Better Beaches Program serves as a great example of a strong partnership that will directly impact visitors of some of the state's most popular beaches."

Berman also thanked the Better Beaches Program sponsors like Harpoon Brewery, JetBlue, Mix 104.1, The Daily Catch, and the Blue Sky Collaborative, and to our Better Beaches Program Funding Partners at The Boston Foundation, the Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, Beacon Capital Partners, P&G Gillette, National Grid and Comcast that all make the event a success each year. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is the region's leading voice for clean water and continued public investment in Boston Harbor, the region's public beaches, and the Boston Harbor Islands, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's mission is to restore and protect Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay and the marine environment and share them with the public for everyone to enjoy.