

**Omigod! Prom  
Madness  
in the 'Burbs**

By Marisa Meltzer

**Excuse-  
Proof  
Workouts**

By Alyssa Giacobbe

**The United  
States Army vs.  
Louis Font**

By Geoffrey Gagnon

**Factory Tour—  
Cains, Polar,  
Teddie & More**

By Bruce Irving

**Master  
Pickup Artist  
Reveals All**

By Greg Lalas

# Boston

MAY 2007

**What's  
Your House  
Worth Now?  
We Rank  
143 Cities  
and Towns**

PULLOUT GUIDE, page 144

\*The Real Estate Issue

## The Best Streets to Live On

**Did Yours  
Make  
the List?**

bostonmagazine.com | \$3.99



No. 3 IN THE NORTH  
Salem's Chestnut Street.

**PLUS:**  
The Big Idea Boston  
Needs to Steal  
from New York

By Joe Keohane



## The Other Islands

The Harbor Islands make for an easy day trip for sunbathers, history buffs—and especially the traffic-weary. **By Annie Sherman**

➔ Only a 45-minute ferry ride from Long Wharf, the 11 Boston Harbor Islands provide just as many outdoor options as your usual getaway but with far less fuss; day-trippers can easily visit two in a single excursion. And, in contrast with what you'll see as you and your fellow drivers inch over the Sagamore, here the birds have actual feathers. Our picks for the best itineraries for four different agendas:

### History

On George's Island, the center island and ferry hub, history aficionados can explore Civil War prison Fort Warren, a National Historic Landmark rumored to be haunted by the ghost of a Confederate prisoner's wife. On nearby Little Brewster Island, the Boston Light—the oldest lighthouse in the country, built in 1716—offers killer views of the harbor and a lighthouse keeper dressed in Laura Ingalls Wilder garb.

### Picnicking

While Spectacle and Lovell's offer decent spots, the prime place for a picnic is Bumpkin Island. Just beyond the slate and shell beaches, 30 acres of open fields beg for spread blankets, and wildflowers and native berries are ripe for post-meal picking.

Harbor Islands, 617-223-8666, [bostonislands.com](http://bostonislands.com); for camping reservations, 877-422-6762, [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com).



SEA CHANGE: Clockwise from top, Harbor Islands views from the catamaran ferry; enchanting walking trails on Lovell's Island; a serene beach, also on Lovell's.

### Swimming

Beaches abound on four of the 11 Harbor Islands, but Spectacle's amenities are the best of the lot. In addition to lifeguards and superfine sand, the 105 acres include a marina with 38 public boat slips, a café that serves hot dogs and chowder, and a visitor center that sells essentials like cameras and sunscreen.

### Hiking/Camping

Lovell's Island boasts miles of grassy trails ideal for birding and walking. Nestled a few steps from the pebbly beach, spacious individual campsites come equipped with barbecue grills. Advance permits are required for all campsites; if Lovell's is booked, Bumpkin, Grape, and Peddock's islands make good second choices.

