East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS

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Wednesday, December 26, 2018



Flanked by Eastie's elected officials, Salesian Boys & Girls Club staff and club kids, General Manager of Development at Lendlease Nick Iselin (center) presents a check for \$100,000 to replace Salesian Boys & Girls Club windows.

Orient Heights Redevelopment project receives construction financing help

By John Lynds

After several community meetings over the summer Trinity Financial and the City of Boston announced last month that work has begun on the \$51. 6 million Phase II Orient Heights Public Housing Development project.

This week Citizens Bank announced today that its Community Development Group has provided \$26 million in construction financing to help with Phase II of the project.

Like Phase I, Phase II will tear down the old post World War II-era brick housing on Vallar Road and replace it with 88 modern

units of public housing. Phase II is part of a larger effort to transform the 331unit of Boston Housing Authority (BHA) owned public housing development that was originally built in 1951. "We greatly value our partnership with Citizens Bank and appreciate the Community Development Group's market knowledge and excellent execution," said Eva Erlich, vice president of development for Trinity Financial. "We look forward to continuing to work with the Citizens team as the construction of this second

The financing from Citizens Bank will help demolish

phase progresses."

87 existing units in four buildings and the construction of 88 replacement state-funded public housing units in two townhouse buildings and one mid rise building. Phase II will also include improvements to the existing infrastructure and open spaces, and is anticipated to be completed in 2020. "This project meets a crucial need in the community and we're excited to work with Trinity Financial and the East Boston CDC to support more affordable housing for Boston residents," said President, Citizens Bank Massachusetts Jerry Sargent.

See PHASE II Page 3

Salesians receives \$100K for new windows

By John Lynds

When Lendlease began their ambitious project to develop Clippership Wharf on East Boston's waterfront four years ago they began looking for local non-profits in the neighborhood to help.

With the help of former City Councilors Paul Scapicchio Rep. Adrian Madaro and Sen. Joseph Boncore, Lendlease found the Salesian Boys & Girls Club on Byron Street.

General Manager of Development at Lendlease Nick Iselin immediately did a couple of things to help the Boys & Girls Club, an agency that services hundreds of neighborhood kids a year through and Sal LaMattina, as well as afterschool and summer programs. Lendlease sponsored

beautification projects at the club as well as other contributions through the Salesian's fundraising campaigns.

However, Iselin wanted to do more.

Last Thursday Iselin joined Salesian Boys & Girls Club staff and kids, East Boston elected officials and Salesian board members to make a special presentation.

At the press confer-

See SALESIANS Page 3

OHNC approves plans for Dominos Pizza expanded hours

By John Lynds

Charbel Rizkallah and his family have successfully run Domino's Pizza on Saratoga Street in Orient Heights for over a decade. In 2013 Rizkallah branched out and launched the fine wine and spirit business next door to his successful pizza chain.

See OHNC Page 3

Holiday on Tues. Jan. 1, 2019

trash will be delayed by one day. Mon. Dec. 31st pick ups are on schedule. Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

BPDA holds 'Pizza and Plan' workshop at Kelly's Pub

By John Lynds

Last Tuesday the Boston Planning and Development and Agency (BPDA) held the second in a series of community workshops at Kelly's Pub on Bennington Street as part of the city's PLAN: East Boston Neighborhood Planning Initiative.

The well attended event dubbed "Pizza and a Plan" was another opportunity for residents to remain engaged in the process as Boston begins shaping a new Master Plan for the neighborhood.

Over the summer Mayor Martin Walsh announced Eastie was chosen as one of five neighborhoods that will be part of the BPDA's planning initiative as part of an Imagine Boston 2030-guided effort to 'preserve, enhance and grow' the neighborhood. The city plans to work closely with Eastie community groups, community leaders and other stakeholders to ensure decisions made by the city are following the guiding principles of "preserves wisely, enhances equitably, and

grows inclusively". "We just want to basical-

See BPDA Page 3

TENTH ANNUAL 'SHOP WITH A COP'



District A-7 Police Captain Kelly McCormack recently joined members of the Boston Police Department in participating in the 10th Annual "Shop with a Cop: Heroes & Helpers Holiday Celebration" held at the South Bay Target Store in Dorchester. McCormack and officers from districts across the city along with volunteers from several outside police and first-responder agencies paired up with over three hundred deserving children from every neighborhood in Boston to pick out a special holiday gift.

The event was hosted by Mayor Walsh and Commissioner Gross and generously funded by the Boston Police Activities/Athletics League (PAL), Target and several other charitable organizations. "Our officers enjoyed sharing their time while bringing a little holiday magic to these grateful children and their families during this season of giving," said Commissioner William Gross.

more photos on Page 5. Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, **January 1st, 2019** on account of the

New Years Holiday

Former City Councilor and event host Sal LaMattina, District

One City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Rep. Adrian Madaro. See

LYDIA EDWARDS BIRTHDAY BASH



YES VIRGINIA THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

Sun, received this letter from a little girl, and wrote the nowfamous reply. It remains appropriate for this holiday season 107 years later.

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If your see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus? Virginia O'Hanlon 115 West 95th St. New York, N.Y.

Your Little Friends are wrong, They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehen sible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no

In 1897, Francis P. Church, an editorial writer for the New York There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal life with which the child-hood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimney on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Clause coming down, what would that prove Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is not a sign that there is no Santa Člaus.

The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that is not proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A

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HAVE A HAPPY, SAFE --AND MINDFUL -- NEW YEAR

The arrival of a new year marks a time for reflection, as to both the year that has passed and the year that lies ahead. In the words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.

But to put it another way, we might ask ourselves, "Where have we been -- and where are we going?"

The latter question asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay to waste even the best-laid of our plans for the year to come.

However, the former question is equally as tricky. Answering it requires both introspection and understanding, two qualities that are in short supply in our hurried world. We have barely enough time to do all the things we need to do every day, let alone try to figure out the, "Why?" of what we have done.

"Mindfulness" became the watchword of 2108. We are advised to step out of our busy lives for a few minutes each day to allow ourselves to practice "mindfulness" in the quest to bring ourselves inner peace and calm.

In a previous era, prayer served essentially the same purpose. Reciting the Rosary or a few Our Fathers, or going to a church to say a novena, was the preferred form of practicing mindfulness (though that was not the term for it in those days).

But with belief in god and attendance at church in steep decline in America in 2018, meditation and mindfulness have become the secular version of religious practice, a drug-free prescription to bring relief from the anxiety-inducing life we face every day we wake up.

However, one thing we can advise all of our readers is that celebrating the New Year -- especially over what for many of us will be an extra-long weekend -- requires all of us to make sure that we do so safely and that we are vigilant regarding the safety of others.

Although most of us these days take precautions to ensure that we do not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence on New Year's night -- whether by means of having a designated driver, or using Uber, or staying overnight in a hotel -- there still are too many among us who will get behind the wheel of a car after having had too much to drink.

The most important thing we can do at an individual level is to prevent our friends and loved ones from becoming another tragic story by taking their keys or offering them a ride home if they appear incapable of driving soberly and safely.

We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy, safe -- and mindful -- New Year.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Cannabis entrepreneurs should work with communities — and emerge from them

By City Councilor Lydia Edwards

Recently, the Boston City Council called several hearings to explore the city's licensing and regulation of the cannabis industry. Whether would-be retailers want to admit or not, we have a messaging problem and real hesitancy on the part of many communities, include those who voted for legalization, to open retail cannabis shops. At the same time, even as officials in Boston's municipal government are seeking to promote equity across industries and our city, the local process around the cannabis industry is felt to be inadequate by many stakeholders and difficult to access for those without abundant capital.

I voted in favor of the ballot initiative to legalize cannabis in order to help bring an end to the war on drugs, and I stand by that decision at the ballot box. It's now the responsibility of government to implement the will of the voters in a way that that is restorative to communities while also well-informed by medical science. This means advancing equity in our treatment of the industry, acknowledging the legitimate concerns of residents and neighborhoods grappling with substance abuse, and offering reasonable regulation while avoiding stigma.

Unfortunately, many of

the proposals now appearing next door. He knows about in Boston neighborhoods are the EXTREME traffic woes at best sub-par: poorly sited, lacking in diversity and visibly displaying their disregard for the community. Few, if any designated economic empowerment or equity applicants have made it through the first round of the process. Meanwhile, a number of less than stellar proponents have parachuted into Massachusetts and sought approval in neighborhoods like East Boston: one would-be cannabis business leased space next to an in-patient substance abuse treatment center without consulting the health professionals who staff the facility; local residents at a community meeting.

As the new industry emerges in Massachusetts, residents who know and are trusted in their neighborhoods, are best suited to open up shop. Enter Luis Vascos. An immigrant from Colombia, Luis has lived in East Boston for 25 vears. He has a restaurant for the past 15 years with no incident. His children are born and raised here and his son is an Iraq veteran who will be his business partner. Luis has everything to lose if he does not get this right--there is no other place for him to go. He knew better than to grab the cheapest lease for two years without speaking to the operators of the methadone clinic

we have in East Boston and has proposed a retail cannabis shop across the street from the MBTA Blue Line.

Following an extensive hearing on equity in licensing, the council will hold a hearing on the merits of using buffers to prevent siting of certain businesses immediately adjacent to substance abuse treatment facilities. It should be noted that the city is already deploying buffers under other conditions. In the absence of a clear and transparent local approval process with weighted criteria, the city has used zoning, which originated as another publicly announced a public health tool, to reguit was disinterested in hiring late the roll-out by physically lation is substantially different spacing out businesses and avoid clustering in any neighborhood.

To ensure parity between industries and to avoid stigmatizing cannabis businesses, the hearing includes alcohol-related enterprises such as bars and liquor stores. The hearing is informational and meant to collect stakeholder opinions from entrepreneurs, health workers, residents and regulators.

Among the issues warranting more dialogue, the council is seeking information on:

1. The merits of buffers as a regulatory device, given zoning's origin as a public health

tool 2. How the city currently understands and tracks facilities with in-patient treatment services, e.g. facilities that may be licensed by the Department of Public Health

3. The legality of local zoning, outside of clearly authorized 500 foot buffers from K-12 schools, and whether Boston's zoning should treatment cannabis retail businesses similarly to other enterprises such as agricultural facilities

4. Whether the city should regulate a nascent industry, cannabis, similarly or differently from the an established one (the alcohol / packaging industries)

5. Appropriate considerations to ensure parity between industries if their regu-

Boston can ensure a fair and equitable roll-out of the industry that acknowledges local concerns, including reasonable public health accommodations. Access to space and capital and procedural clarity have arisen as concerns from local industry participants, and any city regulation should certainly be cognizant of that. The city should be cautious, however, of companies that parachute in with a poor community process and without any regard for their would-be neighbors. The best entrepreneurs, people like Luis Vascos, will emerge out of the neighborhoods they hold dear.

Lydia Edwards is the City Councilor of East Boston

East Boston's Roca operation receives Boston Police grant

By John Lynds

A local nonprofit based in Chelsea, but does a lot of work with the immigrant population here in Eastie, recently received a grant from Boston Police Youth Development Fund.

Mayor Martin Walsh and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross announced that Roca, a agency that helps young men develop life, education, and employment skills to disrupt the cycle of poverty and incarceration was one of 20 organizations to share in the \$500,000 of grant funding.

"In Boston, we work every day to make sure our young people are lifted up, and given every opportunity to succeed," said Walsh. "That means through education, through development programs, and through having a safe, stable environment that will give them the resources and opportunities they need. The Boston Police are a major partner in this, and I'm proud that today we're able to fund 20 great organizations that will make a lasting difference in the lives of Boston's youth for years to come."

ROCA was picked because it has long worked to provide development programs for Boston's youth, ensuring they have access to programs that give them more opportunities to thrive and succeed.

"Roca is honored to partner with the Boston Police Department on a range of initiatives to help keep all young people in the City of Boston safe, stable, and successful," said ROCA's Director of Strategy and External Affairs Yotam Zeira. "As part of the Boston's Police Youth Development Fund grant, Roca will continue to develop the organization's work with Central

American youth in East Boston, most of whom came here as unaccompanied minors. Roca's work with this group is designed to reach out to young people, help them stay on track, prevent them from being involved in unhealthy behaviors, and help them build safe lives in the City."

Under the leadership of Mayor Walsh, the Boston Police Department has prioritized community policing as an effective way to reduce crime, while building trust with the community. The Boston Police Department received national recognition from the Obama Administration in 2015 as being one of the top cities in the nation that is leading the way on community policing.

Earlier this year, Mayor Walsh announced the formation of the Bureau of Community Engagement at the Boston Police Department, which

is charged with overseeing a citywide effort to further strengthen community policing in Boston, and focused on ways to build relationships and trust between law enforcement and residents, creating new and innovative partnerships, and promoting inclusion and diversity within the department. Commissioner Gross appointed Superintendent Nora Baston to serve as Bureau Chief for the Bu-

"As Commissioner, my number one goal to ensure all residents in Boston are safe -- and that includes Boston's young people," said Gross. "We have the biggest opportunity to change lives by providing resources and support to Boston's youth, and through these programs, we are able to positively impact lives and create a better city for all.'

BPDA //continued from page 1

ly talk to you to hear what's important to you the residents of East Boston," said the BP-DA's Jason Ruggiero. "Maybe zoning is an issue for you. Maybe it's traffic or transportation. Maybe it's the productivity of the area you live in or issues with open space, the waterfront or climate resiliency. Whatever it is we want to hear about it and hear your thoughts, ideas and opinions."

On each table the BPDA provided maps of Eastie where residents could comment on the theme of 'preserve, enhance and grow' in the different areas of the neighborhood.

"These are the areas we want to know about and now if Boston is doing a good job, needs to do a better job or needs to focus on other issues," said Ruggiero. "This is all your personal opinion so there are no wrong answers, no wrong comment and no wrong question for us at the BPDA.

As part of the initiative in Eastie a comprehensive planning will include a focus on balancing contextually-sensitive development alongside preservation. There will also be a focus on supporting existing residents and businesses through increased access to opportunity, affordability strategies, and anti-displacement policies. One of the highlights in Eastie will be improving the public realm and access to open space neighborhood-serving amenities, addressing mobility challenges, and supporting neighborhood resiliency and



Patty D'Amore shares her ideas with residents and Rep. Adrian Madaro (right).



BPDA's Jason Ruggiero talks with residents during last week's workshop.

The city will work with the community in Eastie's half dozen enclaves with a focus on the the neighborhoods here that are facing increased development pressures. Working with the community the city will determine a shared vision for the future of the neighborhood. Community discussion

preparing for climate change. will focus on preservation of the existing residential fabric, enhancement of the vitality of existing residential communities and businesses, anti-displacement strategies for residents and businesses, connectivity along the waterfront, mobility, and flood protection and climate resiliency.

Phase II //continued from page 1

Phase II will also lever- In response to some of the age \$10 million in proceeds from the sale of the Winthrop Square Garage, as well as \$1.83 million in Inclusionary Development Policy Funds, secured from the Davis Companies' 99 Sumner Street development in East Boston. In January 2015, the BHA selected the development team rate housing that was part of of Trinity Financial and East the original plan but this was Boston Community Development Corp. to work with BHA and Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) and finalize a redevelopment strategy for the site. This development team will secure financing to implement the redevelopment, and will own and manage the buildpost-redevelopment. Over the summer there's were some concern expressed at community meetings and on social media regarding the project. Some suggested the project has undergone drastic changes to the original design and will soon run out of money.

disinformation circulating around town Trinity Financial's Eva Erlich said while some minor tweaks were made to the project they were done in response to residents' concerns at previous meetings. Trinity eliminated the 42 units of non-public market after we heard concerns about increased density without a second road that would connect Vallar Road and Waldemar Avenue.

When the project started the cost of connecting Vallar Road with Waldemar Avenue below justified connecting the two streets. With an original price tag of \$3 million the cost soared to nearly \$10 million after the road was studied and the soil tested. After meeting with engineers and looking at the cost so the road can meet city standards it became very expansive to make that connection from street to street.

When Trinity the community on this development last winter residents expressed concern that replacing the 331 units of public housing and then adding an additional 42 units of market rate housing could lead to congestion without the two roads connecting. So in response to these concerns Trinity decided to focus on replacing the 331 units over the same land area and eliminate the market rate component. Erlich said these changes allowed Trinity to add more housing units on Waldemar during Phase I as well as freeing up some space as part of Phase II to add new open space for the community as well as refurbishing the basketball courts and community room. Erlich said Trinity pointed the brand new park planned for where Vallar Road meets Faywood Avenue as an example of increasing the project's open space.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Meetings

Harbor View Neighborhood Associ-

First Monday of every month 6:30 p.m. at the Edward Brooke Charter School, 145 Byron St.

Jeffries Point Neighborhood Associ-

Second Monday of every month. 6:30 p.m. at the Jeffries Point Yacht Club, 565 Sumner St.

Orient Heights Neighborhood Asso-

Third Monday of every month. 6:30 p.m. at Ashley Street YMCA, 54 Ashley St.

Friend of the East Boston Greenway Fourth Thursday of every month. 6:30 p.m. at the Anna DeFronzo Center, 395 Maverick St.

Central Square Flats Civic Associa-

Third Wednesday of every month 7 p.m. at Paris Street Community Center, 112 Paris St.

Gove Street Citizens Association Last Monday of every month 6:30 p.m. at the Noddle Island Community Room

Eagle Hill Civic Association Last Wednesday of every month 7 p.m. at East Boston High School Cafeteria, 86 White St.

Salesians // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ence Lendlease presented a \$100,000 donation to Salesian Boys & Girls Club to replace the club's windows that will save the Salesian thousands in energy costs. These savings can be put back to suring up the Boys & Girls Club's vital youth programs.

"Glad to see this day come," said Iselin. "We started this (development) plan four years ago to transform a little piece of East Boston's waterfront and give residents better access. When we came here Paul (Scapicchio) helped us get the lay of the land of East Boston. So we began looking at the institutions here that really drive and shape the community and what impact we could have to leave a legacy and not just another development project."

Iselin said that once Scapicchio introduced him to Madaro, Boncore and, at the time, LaMattina there was one agency that the three electeds kept mentioning as a place that really makes 'Eastie tick". That place was none other than the Boys & Girls

"We know you guys are veterans of this place and it's an important place to you and that really rubbed off on us," said Iselin of Madaro and La-Mattina.

The groundwork for the plan to replace all the windows at the club started over a year ago explained former Boys & Girls Club Director Father John Nazzaro.

"I remember it was a clean up day and beautification proj-



Former Salesian Boys & Girls **Club Director Father John** Nazzaro.

ect Lendlease was doing at the club--putting in mulch, painting the walls and what have you--and Nick (Iselin) asked, 'What do you really need at the club?", said Fr. Nazzaro, who left the club for another assignment with the Salesians in New Jersey. "I immediately turned to him and said, "We need windows!".

Nazzaro said that really began the process of replacing the club's aging and less efficient windows throughout the

"It was really needed," said Nazzaro. "I remember showing them some of the windows in one of the bathrooms that didn't stay up. It was a huge window that came down like a guillotine. So not only were they not efficient they were dangerous."

Nazzaro said the project to help cut the club's energy costs will help the hundreds and hundreds of kids that call the club home.

"This is a wonderful thing



General Manager of Development at Lendlease Nick Iselin.

and we are grateful that there are people in the community, like Lendlease, that have the means and knowhow to be able to help us," said Nazzaro. "We would have never been able to afford to put these windows in on our own and without the help of Lendlease and that needs to be known."

Current Boys & Girls Club Director Michael Triant who took over for Fr. Nazzaro last year added, "I'm truly blessed to be able to come in here and walk into a project such as this that has already been thought out, funded and the process moving forward. When you walked in you saw the amount of kids in the gym and the return on this investment will be something that will be real ized for years to come."

In addition to providing the funding, Lendlease has leveraged its expertise to source the windows and hire a Lendlease subcontractor to install the windows to help make this project a reality to improve the lives of hundreds of children that come to the Salesian Boys & Girls Club.

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OHNC //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the Orient Heights tion until close. Neighborhood Council December meeting, the group voted overwhelmingly in favor of Rizkallah's plans to expand the hours of operation at Domino's.

Currently Domino's closes at midnight on the weekdays and 1 a.m. on weekends.

OHNC voted to support Rizkallah's plans to keep Domino's open until 2am seven days a week.

Rizkallah explained that a majority of Domino's business is delivery with very little

"It's a very low-key operation," explained Rizkallah. "There's no place to eat inside and most of our business is delivery so it's not like we'll have people inside hanging out until 2 a.m."

In fact Rizkallah said the pizza shop will most likely lock the doors at the same time it does now and just run the late-night delivery opera-

Neighbor Liz Bagley said she supports the expansion of Domino's hours because Rizkallah has been a good neighbor since opening the pizza franchise and the subsequent Belle Isle Wine and Spirits next door in 2013.

"I live 100 feet away," said Bagley. "it's not even loud at 6 or 7 o'clock at night. All his drivers are all very respectable to the neighborhood and don't speed or anything. He runs a good business.'

In 2013 the OHNC supported Rizakallh's plans to open Belle Isle Wine and Spirits, a high-end wine, cheese and spirits shop next door to his Domino's Pizza franchise at 1144 Saratoga St.

As part of the proposal, Rizkallah agreed to undergo a complete overhaul of the Domino's Pizza façade and create a more historic look with gooseneck lighting, a main streets-type wood sign



East Boston Domino's Pizza franchise owner Charbel Rizkallah at this month's OHNC meeting. The Council voted in favor of Rizkallah's proposal to expand Domino's hours of operation.

and awnings.

Rizkallah mirrored his success with a high end wine, cheese and spirits shop in Watertown here in Eastie.

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SALESIAN BOYS AND GIRLS

CHRISTMAS IS FOR KIDS

On Thursday, Dec. 20 the Salesian Boys & Girls Club held their Annual Christmas Party. Hundreds of children were treated to food, games and the chance to meet Santa. While there, Santa handed out hundreds of presents to boys and girls at the Salesian. JOHN LYNDS PHOTOS



Former Salesian Boys & Girls Club Director Father John Nazzaro, former City Councilor Sal LaMattina, Rep. Adrian Madaro and Salesian Boys & Girls Club Director Mike Triant.



Club kids play games and win prizes.



Club kids try and get matching numbers on the bottom of these rubber duckies to win a prize.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club Director Mike Triant, Volunteer Lola Dumitrescu and Rep. Adrian Madaro with club kids during the annual event.



Staff and club kids were all smiles and in the holiday spirit during the annual party.



Face painting was a big hit at the annual party.





This club kid decorates a Christmas Tree ornament.



While attending the party Santa and Salesian Boys & Girls Club staff handed out hundreds of presents to boys and girls at the Salesian.



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Jim Geraci draws a winning raffle number.



Anita Belmonte (left) and Father John Nazzaro (center) posed with club kids and staff during the annual event. Father Nazzaro was visiting from his new assignment in New Jersey.





The excitement on the children's faces was priceless as they met Santa.

BIRTHDAY BASH FUNDRAISER FOR CITY COUNCILOR LYDIA EDWARDS

ONE GREAT TIME

More than 200 supporters from East Boston, Charlestown and the North stopped by District One City Councilor Lydia Edwards Birthday Bash fundraiser at Filippo's Ristorante.

JOHN LYNDS PHOTOS



Rep. Adrian Madaro poses with District One City Councilor Lydia Edwards supporters during her birthday bash. Rep. Madaro was one of the event's hosts.



Jack Kelly, Ricardo Patron and Rep. Adrian Madaro.



District One City Councilor Lydia Edwards thanks the crowd for its support.



Gabriela Coletta, Anne Tagliaferro, and District One City Councilor Lydia Edwards.



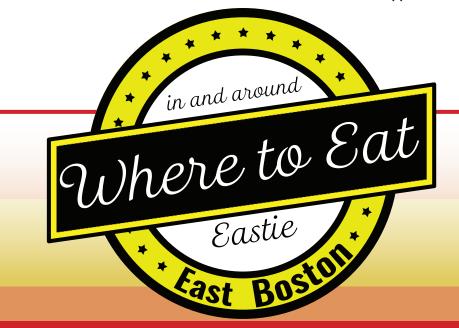
Justin Pasquariello with his son, Rocco, and Maureen White and Diana Hwang.



Jose Eduardo Valenzuela, City Councilor Lydia Edwards, Attorney Talia Barrales, and Filippo's Ristorante's Phil Frattaroli.



Carla Santarpio, Dave Modica, and Ross Desmaris with Carla and Dave's daughter, Nikki Modica.



Check Out These Local Restaurants!



Spend \$50 or more on food and/or drinks before tax and get \$10 off your bill!!

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Look For Where To Eat in East Boston monthly in the East Boston Times Free Press.

To participate in Where To Eat, contact Your Rep (781) 485-0588 Maureen ext.103 Kathy ext.110 mdibella@winthroptranscript.com kbright@reverejournal.com

CUT OUT AND

City hosting "how to" discussion on traveling around Boston by bike during the winter months

By John Lynds

Contrary to popular belief hundreds of new residents moving into Eastie are arriving without a car and relying more on public transportation, ZipCars and bike-share programs like Hubway.

In fact, owners of some larger development projects will tell you that while they provided ample parking for tenants, many of their garage spots remain empty.

Why?

Let's face it, owning a car in Eastie can be very expensive. Take the average monthly payments, gas, insurance and other fees like excise tax and parking fees you can easily be looking at well over \$5,000 to own a car in Eastie. So with an average cost of over \$400 a month millenials are putting that money towards renting nicer apartments in the neighborhood and throwing that old notion you need to own a car in the city to the wind.

Since 2011 more than 8 million trips have been taken on Boston's Hubway Bluebikes by residents here and around the city.

But let's face it, not owning a car in Boston isn't the same as not owning a car in say Florida where most of the year is filled with warm weather You'll be chilly at first but will and sunshine.

It can be a bit tricky getting around on a bike or other modes of transportation once the snow falls and the temperatures drop.

This week the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) announced it is hosting

'Riding Through Winter Forums' to share tips and strategies for bicycling around Boston during the winter months. The forums are meant to bring together a community of residents interested in continuing to cycle in cold weather conditions. Together, they can ask questions and share

what's worked for them. "At last count, over 40,000 bike trips per day were taken at key locations in Boston," said BTD Commissioner and Eastie resident Gina Fianda-"The BTD team works to plan and design bike infrastructure that will attract even more riders aligned with our Go Boston 2030 goals. These forums will help encourage residents to take advantage of our growing bike network all year long.'

Each forum will include a guided discussion of common concerns. BTD staff will share tips and source ideas from attendees on how to dress for very cold days, the best strategies for biking during darkness and winter-specific bike maintenance, among other topics.

According to Fiandaca tips

Using Hubway's Bluebikes as your winter bike

Don't overdress. warm up in a few minutes. Wear insulating layers and choose moisture-wicking fabrics since you'll still perspire.

Cold weather can drain your bike's light batteries faster so bring back-up lights or extra batteries. Remember to always have a front-facing white light and a rear-facing red light or reflector.

Stay hydrated. Stop in at your favorite coffee shop, bakery or café.

Just try it. Go at your own pace and ride only when you're comfortable doing so.

"We want to help socialize the fact that most people can continue to bike in Boston throughout the winter," said City of Boston Active Transportation Director Stefanie Seskin. "The forums are a great way to connect with other bicyclists and feel supported, whether you're trying winter riding for the first time or you've been at it for years."

The forums are free of charge and open to the public. The next forum is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 24, 6pm-7pm at the Brighton Branch Boston Public Library, 40 Academy Hill Road, Brighton with others scheduled for the future.

"The City of Boston Public Works Department works to provide safe access for bicyclists during the winter months," said Fiandaca. "As part of neighborhood plowing operations during winter storms and to ensure the safety of our riders, the Public Works Department consistently allocates pieces of equipment to clear snow from our dedicated bike lanes. The PWD utilizes skid-steer equipment (Bobcats) for snow clearing efforts in bike lanes, as well as spreaders to distribute salt to assist in ice melting efforts. The PWD has also added three new pieces of equipment dedicated strictly to bike lanes."

CURTIS GUILD WINTER CONCERT 2018

Kindergarten through third grade students performed in the Curtis Guild Elementary School Winter Concert on Dec. 16. Guild Gators, who wished peace to all their friends, sang about falling snowflakes, sliding on the snow, and building a 10-foottall snowman.

"I love it. It's an amazing group of students," said Gabrielle Goodale about her first year working as the school's Music Specialist. "I'm lucky to solely work at the Guild, so I get to know students well. It's nice to feel like I'm at home. Kids have been working really hard. It's a great



Second graders performing, "Shalom Chaverim."



Third grade singing, "Jingle Bells."



First grade singing, "My Red Sled."

GINGERBREAD REPLICA OF **BOSTON LOGAN AIRPORT**



Hilton Boston Logan Airport Chef Timothy Conklin created a 12-foot long gingerbread replica of Boston Logan Airport, East Boston and of course the hotel. The gingerbread house is on display in the hotel's lobby throughout the holiday season. The creation took about 200 hours, 200 lbs of sugar, 20 lbs of molasses, 90l bs of candy and 60 lbs of flour. Chef Conklin is available to share tips on how to build the best gingerbread house (including how to make your own gingerbread that will be sturdy!) and can discuss his creation.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 Rodriguez, Jorge Bennington Group 1 LLC Teran, Gabriela L Teran, Gabriela L Investing Rock Solid LLC 10 Everett Dev LLC Lu, Shawn Ohalloran, Patrick Gagliardi, Christopher J Furaro, Stephanie F Cassella, Cristian Johnston, James S Mcgeary, Daniel P Zolla, William C 57 Saratoga Street LLC Fitzgerald, Daniel F War Canoe Blue LLC Shea, Julie Lovetere, Matthew P Renzi, Matthew J

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SELLER 1

Molina, Eliceo Hanlon, Kenneth J Rossetti, Brian G Rossetti, Brian G Norton, Carolyn K&K Development LLC Farrell, Todd M **Lexington Prescott LLC** Urban Renewal 10 LLC Escobar, Alfredo Donaghey, Catherine E **EB White Diamond LLC** EG Putnam LLC Santosuosso, Lois Ramos, Mariluz Vo, Lisa L 189 Trenton Street LLC 189 Trenton Street LLC 189 Trenton Street LLC Kimball, Patrick

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Chamber announces winners of 2018 "Deck the Windows" contest

of Commerce held their 2018 "Deck the Windows" holiday window decorating contest the weekend of December 14, 15, and 16. Businesses participated by decorating their storefront windows with decorations of the season, by calling the Chamber and having a Chamber Board member take

The East Boston Chamber decorations photographed by a Chamber Board member.

From the many contest entries, three winners were chosen (first, second, and third place) to be the best decorated windows by an East Boston business in 2018. Certificates were awarded to the three winners along with a congratulatory letter from the East the photos, or by having their Boston Chamber of Com-

merce thanking each winner for their decorating and for demonstrating the spirit of the holidays in our community.

Congratulations to: 1st Prize winner – Century

21 Mario Real Estate 2nd Prize winner - Jeveli's Italian Restaurant

3rd Prize winner – Muzzy's Day Square Florist

DISTRICT SEVEN POLICE REPORT

Monday, Dec. 10, 2018 No Arrests

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018 No Arrests

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018 No Arrests

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 No Arrests

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018

Around 6:45 PM in the area of Maverick Sq., an 18 year old Black Male with a Roxbury, MA address was arrested for Assault by Means of a Dangerous Weapon and Operating M/V Without a License

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 No Arrests

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018

Around 3:00 AM in the area of 63 Lubec St. a 22 year old Hispanic Male with an East Boston address was arrested for Assault & Battery on a Police Officer (No Injury), Resisting Arrest and Trespassing

AROUND THE CITY

ACE TICKETS

Bruins battle the Flames, Jan. 3, 2019, at TD Garden, and the Wild on Jan. 8; Celtics vs. the Nets, Jan. 7, and the Pacers Jan.9, also at TD Garden; and new musical, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," sweetens the Boston Opera House, Jan.8-20. aceticket.com.

DONKEY SHOW NEW YEAR'S EVE

The long-running hit show presents a special late-night New Year's Eve celebration Sunday, Dec. 31, with doors opening at 9 p.m., performance at 10 p.m., toast at midnight and party 'til 2 a.m., 2 Arrow St., Cambridge. \$55, dance floor, \$95 VIP table seat. americanrepertorytheater. org, 617-547-8300.

SALUTE TO VIENNA

Boston Symphony Hall, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston, ushers in the new year for all ages, with dancing and singing, reminiscent of Vienna's Golden Age, Jan.4, 2019, at 8 p.m. Featured performers are the Strauss Symphony of America, soprano Michaela Oeste, tenor Brian Cheney, the Kiev-Aniko Ballet of Ukraine, and International Champion Ballroom Dancers. Tickets start at \$39. VIP tickets also. 8880266-1200.

LET'S HANG ON

Greater Boston Stage ushers in the new year with a full-stage production-live band tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Dec. 31, 7 and 10 p.m., 395 Main St., Stoneham. The evening is festive, with party hats, noise-makers, and a complimentary glass of champagne. Tickets from \$70; \$75, premium, members, \$5 discount. 781-279-2200, greaterbostonstage.org.

A DOLL'S HOUSE PART II

Huntington Theatre Company and Berkeley Repertory Theatre present Lucas Hnath's hit Broadway comedy, making its Boston debut, Jan. 4-Feb. 3, 2019: select Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.;Sundays, 2 p.m. at Avenue of the Arts, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston.Days, times vary. Special events also. Tickets start at \$25, senior, subscriber, patrons 35 years old-younger, military, student discounts. 617-266-0800.

ONE-MINUTE PLAY **FESTIVAL**

The annual festival is held Jan. 5-7, 2019, 8 p.m., at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston: Saturday, 8 p.m., with 60 established and emerging Boston-area playwrights and directors. \$20. BostonPlaywrights.org.

DWIGHT AND NICOLE

Soul duo Dwight Pitcher and Nicole Nelson, with three-piece soul-rock-blues band ring in the new year Dec. 31, as doors open at 9 and the show opens at 9:30 p.m. for this 21+ year-olds' celebration at the Regattabar, One Bennet St., Cambridge. Singer-songwriter Ali McGuirk opens the show, and midnight champagne toast tops it off. \$95. Regattabar.com, 617-395-7759.

ERIC DARIUS

The smooth, contemporary jazz star ushers in the new year at Scullers Jazz Club, 400 Soldiers Field Road, Boston. Ultimate package, \$569 per coupe, including a four-course dinner, breakfast on New Year's Day, both at Boathouse 400; preferred seating for the 11 p.m. show, champagne



The celebrated comedian-political satirist-commentator, Jimmy Tingle, performs his stands-act: "Why Would A Comedian Run for Office?," Saturday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., at The Cabot, 286 Cabot St., Beverly. The Cabot.org, info@thecabot.org, 978-927-3100, thecabot.org/event/jimmy-tingle.

toast, party favors, stayer in standard king bed suite, overnight parking, taxes and gratuity., show only, \$140/couple, \$70 single; dinner, show 8 p.m., \$350 couple; 11 p.m. show, \$160/\$80; spend the night special rate. 617-562-4111, scullersjazz.com.

MLT NEW YEARS EVE

Marblehead Little Theatre creates life and laughter with its New Year's Eve professional stand-up comedy show, Dec. 31, featuring popular Boston comedian Dave Rattigan, former North Shore journalist and XM-Sirius Satellite Radio performer, appearing with headliners Joe Espinola and Heather Peabody, at 7 and 9 p.m.Beer, wine included. \$25. MLTLive.org, ScampsComedy.

CORTEO

Renowned Cirque du Soleil production"Corteo," performs at DCU Center, Worcester, Jan.3-6, 2019:Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, 3:30,7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1,5 p.m.as part of its North American arena tour. The performance includes 51 globally acclaimed acrobats, musicians, singers and actors. Advance tickets online for Cirque Club members, which is free. To join, visit cirqueclub.com.

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS

SpeakEasy Stage Company of Boston presents the Boston premiere of Bess Wohl's acclaimed off-Broadway comedy, featuring a cast of Boston's finest actors. Jan. 4-Feb. 2, 2019: Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 4,8 p.m.; Sunday, p.m., also Jan. 31, 2 p.m., at Boston Center for the Arts, Calderwood Pavilion, Roberts Studio Theatre, 527 Tremont St., South End, Boston. Tickets start at \$25; seniors, students, persons age 25-younger discounts. SpeakEasy.com, 617-933-8600.

TWO MILE HOLLOW

Apollinaire Theatre Company presents Leah Nanako Winkler's hilarious play, through Jan. 20, 2019:Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 13,20, at 3 p.m., at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea. Reception with the cast follows. \$30; seniors, \$25; students, \$15. 617-887-2336, apollinaire theatre.com.

THE MIGHTY MIGHTY **BOSSTONES**

The group performs with its Hometown Throwdown 21 kine-up: The Aggrolites, Stray Bulllets, Bedouin Soundclash, (Reggae Workers of R.W.W. the World), Vic Ruggiero and Jesse Wagner, and Color Killer, Dec. 28-30, at House of Blues, Landsdowne St., Boston. The

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$100.00 per paper. That includes photo. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

group also performs a Sunday afternoon matinee, with doors opening at 4 p.m.

URBAN NUTCRACKER

Anthony Williams' fun, holiday two-act, two-hour program for all ages, featuring dancers from the newly-founded City Ballet of Boston, appears through Dec. 30, at Boch Center Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston:Dec. 26-28, at 7 p.m.;Dec. 29, at 1 and 5:30 p.m.; and Dec.30 at 1 p.m.Tickets, \$28-\$118. bochcenter.org, 617-532-1116, groups@ bochcenter.org.

BADFISH

The trio performs a tribute to Sublime, Dec. 26, 8 p.m., for audience members 18+ years old, at the Sinclair, Boston.\$20-\$25.

THE LITTLEST ANGEL

Anna Smulowitz presents the Christmas classic musical, with music by Bill Plante Jr. and Michael Yelle, Dec. 27-30, at Firehouse Center for the Arts Market Square, Newburyport. firehouse.org, 978-462-7336.

SAILOR MOON SHOUJO **SPECTACULAR**

Music, burlesque, dance and drag abound in Firehouse Center for the Arts' event, and be sure to dress in costume for the contest, Dec. 29,8 p.m., Market Square, Newburyport. Tickets from \$15.

KOWLOON KOMEDY, **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Performing the Kowloon Restaurant and Comedy Club 8:30 p.m., \$20; Liquid Courage in the Volcano Room, Dec. 28. 9 p.m.-midnight. Ring in the New Year with R-rated hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. and Pandemonium Band, in the Luau Room, 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Santos performs 8-9:30 p.m.,Pandemonium, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Includes dinner buffet,6:30-8 p.m., reserved seats, champagne toast, party favors. Doors open 6:30 pm. Buffet, 6:30-8 p.m. \$59.95. Route 1N, Saugus. 781-233-

MUSIC AT CLUB **PASSIM**

Melissa Ferrick appears Dec

Boston. Tickets start at \$39.50. EmersonColonialTheatre.com. MUSIC AT THE CABOT

Jimmy Tingle does standup,

my-tingle.

CINDERELLA

Dec. 29; and Peter Wolf and the Midnight Travelers celebrate New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, all at 8 p.m., with opening band Ward Hayden and the Outliers, (formerly Guns, Girls and Glory) at The Cabot, 286 Cabot St., Beverly. 978-927-3100, thecabot.org.

26,27, at 7 p.m., \$25/\$30. 47

The celebrated comedian-polit-

ical satirist-commentator per-

forms his stands-act: "Why

Would A Comedian Run for

Office?," Saturday, Dec. 29, 8

p.m., at The Cabot, 286 Cabot

St., Beverly. TheCabot.org,

info@thecabot.org, 978-927-

3100, thecabot.org/event/jim-

The touring company of Rodgers

and Hammerstein's "Cinderella,"

with new book by Douglas Carter

Beane, appears through Dec. 30,

at Emerson Colonial Theatre,

Palmer St., Cambridge.

JIMMY TINGLE

BARBERSHOP CHRONICLES

American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) presents this stirring new play, through Jan. 5, 2018, as part of its US premiere tour, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge. Tickets start at \$25, subscriber, member, groups, student, senior, Blue star families EBT cardholders and other discounts.. americanrepertorytheater.org, 617-547-8300.

THE MIRACULOUS **JOURNEY OF EDWARD** TULANE

Arlekin Players present the premiere of an original adaptation of award-winning author Kate DiCamillo's book, performed simultaneously in English and Russian, through March 3, 368 Hillside Ave., Needham, Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 26 p.m. \$35/\$50. 617-942-0022.

ARTIST DONNA SAVASTIO

The artist' latest mysterious exhibit, "In the Woods," will be displayed through Dec.30, at the Institution for Savings Art Gallery, Firehouse Center for the Arts, Market Square, Newburyport. 978-462-7336, firehouse.org.

FRANK COSTANTINO

Winthrop's own acclaimed artist, Frank Costantino, will exhibit some of his works in a group show, now through Jan. 2, 2019, at the McCormick Gallery of Boston Architectural College, 320 Newbury St., Boston.

THE NUTCRACKER

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Boston Ballet's production of Mikko Nissenin's spectacular, extravagant classic production of the timeless ballet is performed through Dec. 30, Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 1:30,6 p.m., and more matinees, at Boston Opera House, 539

Washington St., Boston. Tickets start at \$37. Related events also. bostonballet.org, 617-695-6955.

TWELFTH NIGHT AND **SHIPWRECKED**

Moonbox Productions presents, in repertory, Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," and Donald Margulies' "Shipwrecked!An Entertainment," through Dec. 29, Boston Center for the Arts, PlazaTheater, 539 Tremont St., South End, Boston: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday matinees, 3 p.m. \$50/\$45, under 25 years old, \$25; student rush half-hour pre-performance, \$20. bostontheatrescene.com/season/twelfthnight, bostontheatrerscene.com/ season/shipwrecked-an-entertainment.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Trinity Repertory Theater's holiday classic returns to the theater through Dec. 30, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI.

THE ENCHANTED VILLAGE

Jordan's Furniture welcomes shoppers and visitors to feel the holiday magic at its Enchanted Village: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Black Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 11a.m.-5 p.m.; New Year's Eve, 10 a.m.p.m.; New Year's Day, 12-5 p.m. In Reading store. Also visit Enchanted Ice, MOM Polar Express Ride, and LITE, the laser imagination theater experience.

CORNCOBS TO COSMONAUTS

The Museum of Russian Icons, 230 Union St., Clinton, presents

this new exhibit, "Redefining the Holidays during the Soviet Era," turning the museum into a winter wonderland, now through Jan. 27, 2019. Also on view is Matryoshka in Winter, through Feb. 17, 2019. Museum hours, Tuesday-Friday, 11a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. First Sunday of the month, free.\$10; seniors, \$7; students, children ages 3-7, \$5; under 3, free. museumofrussianicons.org, 978-598-5000.

CONSTANZA AGUIRRE

Urbano will display recent works by Paris-based artist Aguirre, entitled, "Wandering the Land of Oblivion," through Jan. 11, 2019, 29 Germania St., Jamaica Plain. Urbano is open Tuesday-Friday, 1-6 p.m. and by appointment. 617-983-1007, urbanoproject.org.

OPULENCE REDISCOVERED

The Museum of Russian Icons features the Romanov Liturgical Silver on display, through Jan. 13, 2019, 203 Union St., clinton. museumofrussianicons.org.

EMPRESSES OF CHINA'S FORBIDDEN CITY

For the first time, this never-before told stories of treasures of the female power and influence of the Qing dynasty, 1644-1912, will be displayed through Feb. 10,2019, Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. Organized by the museum, the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur Sackley Gallery of Washington,DC, and Palace Museum of Bejing. pem.

OBITUARIES

Dorothy Papa

Of East Boston

Dorothy (DiOrio) Papa of East Boston passed away on Dec. 18 surrounded by her loving family at the age of 91. The beloved wife of the

late Vincent Papa, she was the devoted mother of Diana Deeran, Linda Scalfani and her late husband, Buster, Vincent Papa Jr. and his wife. Hildy, John Papa and his wife, Joan, and Dorothy DiMille and her husband, John; dear sister of Ruth Vosolo, William DiOrio and the late Rose Marie DiSisto, Angelo DiOrio, Anthony "Bunny" DiOrio, Joseph DiOrio and Mary Tirone. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, many loving and adored great and greatgreat grandchildren and cherished nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Dorothy's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston on



Wednesday, Dec. 26 from 4 to 8 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church 59 Ashley St., East Boston for a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass in celebration of Dorothy's life. Services will conclude with Dorothy being laid to rest beside her beloved Vincent at Holy Cross Cemetery. For more information, visit ruggieromh.com

To place a memoriam in the Times Free Press, please call 781-485-0588



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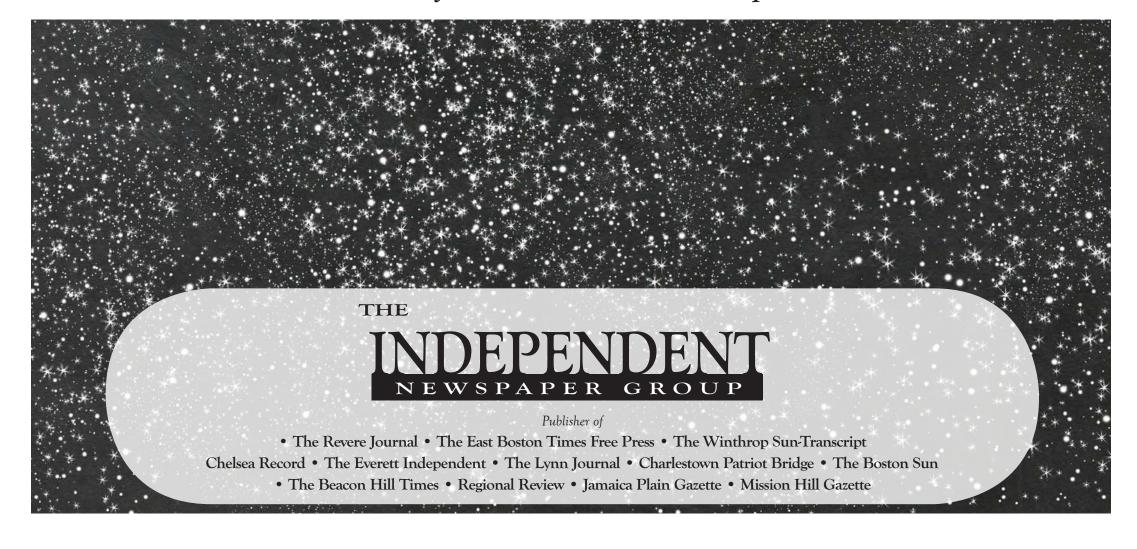
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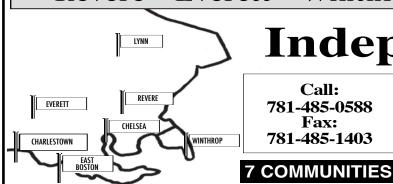


We can't wait to spend the next 52 weeks with You Make sure to read each week for the latest news, developments, events and more!



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Construction Opportunities for **City of Boston Residents**

Need for workers on new construction project in East Boston. Work has begun and project subcontractors are seeking to fill openings exclusively for residents of the city of Boston both experienced and entry level. If you are a resident of Boston and interested in applying for any position with any subcontractors on the project, please contact Delphi Construction at (781)-902-8861 Please indicate the area of the city you reside in, any experience and type of construction or trade you have and / or are interested in and we will connect you with the appropriate subcontractor.

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We need Superstar

By Sheila Barth

Sometimes, innovation in a theatrical production works great. Think award-winning productions like Lin Manuel Miranda's wildly famous, cross-gender, mixed race historic musical,"Hamilton". Miranda's fusion of musical genres is exciting and memorable, too.

However, at New Repertory Theatre's production of Tony Award-winning musical "1776," (ended Dec. 23), the same innovative casting lost something in trans-

In a statement to the media, accomplished Boston-area director-choreographer, Kelli Edwards, said, "The most unique thing about this production of '1776' is the non-traditional casting. "We have women playing men, men playing women and many people of color in key roles. It was of great importance that the cast be fully representative of today's America."

Forget the non-traditional casting for a moment. Despite some theatrical standouts, New Repertory's almost three-hour production of "1776" lost the battle. The first act was too long, dragged down by repetition and forgettable songs.

The play encompasses June 4 to July 4, 1776. George Washington and other patriots led troops of "ragtag farmers" into deadly skirmishes and battles. In his missives to the auspicious group, Washington reported troop losses, lack of supplies and men.

In a touching scene, a young courier (Steven Martin) pleaded, "Mom-

a battlefield. Co-directed by Broadway veteran

'1776'

THEATER REVIEWS

Austin Pendleton, the 24-member cast boasted renowned Boston area, award-winning actors, including popular, versatile, outstanding Benjamin Evett, who brilliantly portrayed John Adams; superlative actress Bobbie Steinbach as wise-cracking, tongue-in-cheek Benjamin Franklin; Aimee Doherty as Pennsylvania naysayer John Dickinson; Shannon Lee Jones as South Carolina's Edward Rutledge; Liliane Klein portraying Delaware representative Thomas McKean; Luis Negron as Charles Thomson; and others.

Steinbach is great as Franklin. Also, Dan Prior's portrayal of young, lovely Martha Jefferson, admiringly singing "He Plays the Violin," added levity.

African-American actor KP Powell portraying Thomas Jefferson drew snickers from theatergoers with his impassioned speech opposing slavery. History revealed Jefferson was a major slave owner who dallied with his female slaves and produced mixed-race children.

Dickinson, a British loyalist, opposed the founding fathers' divided vote to draw up a statement of independence. He claimed he didn't "want to offend" anybody.

"It's a revolution, damn it!" Adams spouted. We're going to have to offend somebody!"

In opening number, "For God's Sake, John, Please Sit Down!," Evett portraying John Adams sputtered and shouted to his fellow Continental Congressional cohorts, while the assemblage tried to shout him down. He's obnoxious and nobody likes

ma, Look Sharp," as he lay dying on him, they sang.

Adams knew that, but remained relentless. "You piddle, and twiddle," he sang forcefully. The assemblage representing the colonies had sat for days, accomplishing nothing, wasting time by bickering among themselves, while the threat of England's landing 23,000 more troops and German mercenaries loomed over them. They were acutely aware they were vastly outnumbered. Was it worth the risk?

Cristina Todesco's tapestry-like triptych background and dominant, huge, centrally-located floor-to-ceiling Union Jack flag gave credence to the Continental Congress' meetings, their chairs arranged in a semi-circle. Despite Adams' impassioned shouts against England's barrage of new taxes imposed on the colonists, Dickinson and a few others steadfastly remained England sympathizers,

Adams also opposed slavery. He wanted Jefferson's proposed preamble statement, "All men are created free and equal" to mean what it said.

In a powerful argument between South Carolina's Rutledge (Shannon Lee Jones) and Adams, Rutledge attacked Adams for his hypocrisy in her solo, "Molasses to Rum".

Away from the steamy Philadelphia room, Adam revealed his softer side in duets with his pragmatic, patient wife, Abigail (Carolyn Saxon), in songs,"Till Then," and "Yours, Yours, Yours".

Despite its flaws, New Rep's "1776" is poignant today, especially with closing song, "Is Anybody There?" Does anybody care? Is anybody listening?

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A SPECIAL LITERACY EVENT HOSTED BY MASSPORT AND MARKETPLACE LOGAN

A FIRST-CLASS EVENT



First grade students from The Donald McKay Elementary School in East Boston entering event.



Special guest reader Mix 104.1FM Morning Show Host Kennedy Elsey high fives a student.

MarketPlace Logan, Massport and Hudson Group recently welcomed 60 first grade students from The Donald McKay Elementary School in East Boston to the airport.

The special literacy event celebrated the holiday season in a unique way for young students at Boston Logan International Airport. Children listened to "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" and "The Poky Little Puppy's Wonderful Winter Day" by local guest readers including Executive

Director of the Boston Bruins Foundation Bob Sweeney and Mix 104.1FM Morning Show Host Kennedy Elsey while they sipped hot chocolate from Dunkin Donuts. Following the reading the kids enjoyed holiday-themed arts and crafts, pizza lunch from W Pizza, courtesy of Delaware North, and a special goodie bag upon "departure" filled with both holiday stories.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN FRIED-LIPSKI



Special guest reader Executive Director of the Boston Bruins Foundation Bob Sweeney.



The Hudson Group mascot, Hudsy, made a special appearance.



