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East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

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APAC/ABCD kick off annual Fuel Assistance program

By John Lynds

With temperatures in East Boston expected to dip into the 20s at night this week, and not exceed 50 degrees for the next few days many residents will find it hard to pay their heating bill this winter.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused even more uncertainty in the neighborhood as job loss, food insecurity and loss of income has become more prevalent in recent months.

However, there's relief from paying those high New England heating costs for hundreds of low-income residents in the neighborhood.

At the beginning of November, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) kicked off the annual Fuel Assistance Program at ABCD's Meridian Street APAC office and workers say that the program is in full swing and are encouraging residents to sign up.

See FUEL Page 2



Eastie native Robert "Junior" Lewis accepts the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation's 2020 Social Justice Award.

Eastie native Robert Lewis Jr. receives 2020 Social Justice Award

By John Lynds

Robert "Junior" Lewis, an East Boston High School and UMass Amherst graduate grew up in the Maverick Public Housing Development surrounded by mentors that shaped his life forever.

Growing up Eastie, Lewis had a big support network in Eastie. People like Debbie White, Marty Pino, Thomas Tassinari and Johnny Forbes all taught Lewis that if he would dream big, good things would happen.

Throughout his career, Robert has been an advocate for racial equity and breaking down barriers that prevent communities of color from reaching their full potential and a champion for urban youth.

Last week, Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation honored Lewis, the Founder and President of The BASE, with the 2020 Social Justice Award. Now in its 32nd year, the award recognizes community leaders who have made an outstanding impact in addressing critical social justice issues.

A social justice trailblazer who has overcome harrowing adversity, including his recovery from COVID-19 earlier this year, Lewis is a nationally and internationally recognized thought leader, social innovator and champion for urban youth.

In 2013, Lewis launched The BASE, a nonprofit organization that empowers urban youth to succeed by leveraging sports to open pathways to higher education and meaningful employment in today's

See LEWIS Page 2

City, state hold virtual ribbon-cutting on Phase II project

By John Lynds

Last Thursday, Mayor Martin Walsh joined Gov. Charlie Baker for a 'virtual' ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of Phase II at the Orient Heights Public Housing redevelopment project.

Walsh and Baker were joined by members of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the development team of Trinity Financial and the East Boston Community Development Corporation.

The \$51.6 million Phase II portion of the project wrapped up over the summer on Vallar Road where crews demolished 87 old units in four buildings and constructed 88 replacement state-funded public housing units in two townhouse buildings and one mid rise building. Phase II also included improve-

ments to the existing infrastructure and open spaces. Phase II leveraged \$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.

"The Orient Heights development is a great Boston story," said Walsh. "We brought lots of partners together, we got creative sourcing funding, and we harnessed the economic strength of our city to create powerful opportunities for working families. I congratulate everyone involved in the financing, design and construction. I thank the tenants for their patience and input, and the BHA for working with them on relocation and return."

Baker said he was pleased to celebrate the completion of Phase II



In his office at City Hall, Mayor Martin Walsh participated in last week's 'virtual' ribbon-cutting on Phase II of the Orient Heights Public Housing redevelopment project.

of the Orient Heights development because it will preserve hundreds of affordable units for Boston residents.

"Thank you to Mayor Walsh, the Boston Housing Authority and all the partners that worked together with our administration to make this project possible," said Baker last Thursday.

Last week the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved a Notice of Project

Change for Phase III of the project.

Like Phases I and II,

See PHASE II Page 2

TRASH NOTICE
Due to the Thursday Thanksgiving Holiday, Trash will be on schedule Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Delayed by one day on Thursday & Friday
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Positive COVID tests continue to skyrocket in Eastie

By John Lynds

Eastie experienced more than a 50 percent increase in COVID-19 positive test rates last week, and is now over 15 percent, according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Last Friday the BPHC reported that of the 22,616 Eastie residents tested for COVID last week 16.8 percent were found to be positive for the virus, a 51 percent decrease from the 11.1 percent reported two Fridays ago. Eastie now has the highest positive test rate in Boston.

Overall since the pandemic began, 13.7 percent of Eastie residents here have been found to be positive. The citywide

positive test rate was up 11 percent and went from 7.1 percent of Boston residents testing positive for the virus to 7.9 percent last week.

At a press briefing last Thursday Mayor Martin Walsh said Eastie is again a concern, as its rate jumped up to over 16 percent. The Mayor said that the City's public health experts are developing new metrics that we will be able to share this week.

"This epidemic evolves and its impact on our neighborhoods evolves," he said.

"So we need to evolve the ways we monitor its activity, and how we understand all the complexities of COVID spread in

See COVID Page 5

Maverick Street Mothers Scholarship recipients named

By John Lynds

On Tuesday, November 10, City Councilor Lydia Edwards and the Edwards Empowerment Fund hosted a virtual East Boston Trivia and Comedy Night to honor this year's recipients of the Maverick Street Mothers Scholarship.

At the event Diana Cifuentes, Alejandra De La Cruz, Hanane Ihizan, Monica Sierra Ochoa and Maritza Marinique were all named recipients of the 2020 Maverick Mothers Scholarship.

"I started the Edwards Empowerment Fund because it's vital we provide opportunities for residents to achieve their fullest potential," said Councilor Edwards. "The Maverick Street Mothers Scholarship pays tribute

to the men and women who came before us and fought for our community. It honors parents who are doing the work today and allows us to invest in their leadership so that our community is stronger. I'm so proud of the five East Boston mothers who received a scholarship to continue college, go to trade school, or improve their English. I want to thank them for their commitment to their families and East Boston despite everything they juggle in their lives."

Edwards also thanked all of the sponsors and everyone who joined the Virtual Comedy and Trivia Night.

"It was amazing to have our community show up and support the recipients

See SCHOLARSHIPS Page 3



**The Independent
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**The deadline for
Thanksgiving week
issues is Friday, Nov. 20**



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Phase II // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lewis // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fuel // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Times-Free Press

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Forum



VACCINES ARE COMING, BUT WE STILL HAVE A DUTY TO STOP THE SPREAD

The announcements in the past week that two vaccines have been shown to be remarkably effective in providing immunization against the coronavirus have given our nation hope that the pandemic might be brought under control.

Finally, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

However, with 250,000 Americans already dead from the virus and the holiday season approaching, this is no time for any of us to let our guard down. The virus does not take a holiday and is spreading like wildfire across the country, leading even Republican governors to issue mask mandates and resulting in additional shut-downs of businesses that already were on the edge of permanent closure.

It is estimated that if we do not wear masks and maintain physical separation, at least 250,000 more Americans will be dead in the coming months.

Hospitals and healthcare workers already are stretched to the limit in many states. If the pandemic is allowed to spread further, there will be a total breakdown in the American healthcare system, endangering the lives not only of healthcare employees and coronavirus patients, but anybody else who needs hospitalization from accidents, heart attacks, strokes, and cancer.

In addition, we would note that even for those who recover from the coronavirus, there can be lasting damage to the heart, lungs, and other organs.

We urge all of our readers to listen to the warnings and directives of our public health officials and to consider how we can spend the holiday season with our loved ones in a safe setting, if at all.

A small wedding in Maine in August was linked to 178 COVID cases and eight deaths -- and none of those who died attended the wedding.

Our government leaders can urge us to protect ourselves and others, but COVID-19 safety this holiday season ultimately comes down to each and every American assuming personal responsibility to observe and obey the rules.

Ward 1 Democratic Committee takes offense to Gov. Baker’s COVID statements

By John Lynds

Gov. Charlie Baker’s tour of public schools in the affluent suburb of Carlisle and subsequent comment that “the best defense against this insidious disease (COVID) comes down to personal responsibility” was met with contempt and deemed extremely tone deaf by members of East Boston’s Ward 1 Democratic Committee.

Baker was in Carlisle last week to push for the re-opening of more in-person learning at schools across the state.

However, his choice of Carlisle was curious as the town has only had 34 confirmed cases as of Nov. 11 and a positive test rate of 1.12 percent.

As a comparison Eastie, only one neighborhood in all of Boston, has reported 3,151 confirmed cases and a positive test rate of 16.8 percent.

“Governor Baker said about COVID that “the best defense against this insidious disease comes down to personal responsibility,” said the Ward 1 Committee in a statement this week. “Wrong. It comes down to addressing inequities that our Governor continues to ignore. The lowest “risk” communities for COVID in

Greater Boston are also the wealthiest ones: Lexington, Needham, Newton-Wellesley, Concord-Carlisle, Cambridge, and Brookline. That’s not a coincidence. East Boston doesn’t have high COVID rates because we lack personal responsibility. We have high COVID rates because we lack equitable public policy and serious leadership from our governor, who should be voted out of office in 2022.”

Over the summer Rep. Adrian Madaro blasted the same notion when some implied that Eastie residents, and residents in other low-income communities, were to blame for COVID spikes because they are not following health guidelines closely enough.

“This is wrong,” said Madaro. “Our community isn’t worse at wearing masks/social distancing, or taking fewer public health precautions than any other. That’s not why our rates are higher than the suburbs. Our COVID infection rates are higher because our communities are systematically more vulnerable to the spread of this disease. This was true at the beginning of the shutdown, and it has become truer as MA has progressed through the phases of reopening.”

Madaro argued that

many working-class Eastie residents don’t have the privilege of working from home like many who live in more affluent areas of the state.

“Their jobs require them to go out to work, and in most cases they’re interacting with coworkers or members of the public through jobs in the service industry – construction, cleaning, restaurants, etc.,” said Madaro. “While the shutdown meant some (but not all) of these service workers were staying home, our state’s reopening means that even more are back to work out in the public now. This means Eastie residents and surrounding communities have an increased risk of COVID exposure and infection.”

As housing in Eastie becomes more expensive and hard to find, Madaro said most Eastie workers live in apartments that are full of family or roommates, and short on space.

“People share rooms,” he said. “When everyone’s living together in a small space, there aren’t many opportunities for social distance. This means that when a worker gets sick, they have nowhere to quarantine. This puts the rest of their household at higher risk of contracting COVID. Reports indicate that this

kind of “family spread” is one of the top ways that COVID is spreading in East Boston.”

Residents in high-risk communities like Eastie are also more prone to COVID due to health issues that are the result of longstanding environmental burdens.

“We are Environmental Justice communities with a long history of air pollution,” said Madaro. “Eastie residents have long suffered from elevated rates of respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and COPD, a legacy of living next to an international airport and a major highway. COVID is a respiratory illness. It’s no surprise our residents are at an increased risk.”

Earlier this year, Attorney General Maura Healey released a report on the role of environmental pollution in higher rates of COVID infection in low-income communities of color. It’s no coincidence that these communities remain the hardest-hit now.

According to the Boston Public Health Commission the Latino community makes up 33 percent of all known COVID cases in the city and the Black/African-American community accounts for 28 percent of all cases in Boston.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

Our fax number is **781-485-1403**.

Letters may also be e-mailed to **editor@eastie-times.com**. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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The MBTA today announced it’s partnering with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, the Boston Foundation and the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center to provide CharlieCards to more residents of East Boston. CharlieCards are reusable plastic fare cards that can be loaded with cash value or 1-day, 7-day, or monthly passes.

“Too many of our customers have difficulty getting CharlieCards,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. “This is especially true in transit-dependent communities where bus service is often the predominant mode of transportation. With today’s partnership announcement, we are addressing this issue by making CharlieCards more widely available and making taking the T more accessible.”

The T will provide 5,000 CharlieCards preloaded with five dollars each to the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Mattapan Community Health Center, South End Community Health Center, Upham’s Corner Health Center and Whittier Street Community Health Center. Each Health

Center will receive 1,000 CharlieCards to distribute to their clients.

“Access to convenient, affordable public transportation services is critical to our community,” said Manny Lopes, President and CEO of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “The T connects our residents to life’s essentials, including school, work, and medical care. We are excited about this important initiative and the positive impact this will have on how our community experiences the T.”

By providing easier access, the T hopes to incentivize riders to utilize CharlieCards and fare vending machines throughout their travels, thus saving time and improving customer convenience.

“We are extremely grateful to the MBTA and the Boston Foundation for making the convenience of CharlieCards more accessible to health center patients, many of whom rely on public transportation to get to work and to see their healthcare providers,” said James W. Hunt, Jr., president and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. “What’s more, this is a generous and

inclusive approach to preparing city residents for the T’s forthcoming transformation of its fare system.”

Funds for this program are provided by a grant from the Boston Foundation’s Permanent Fund for Boston, Greater Boston’s only endowed fund focusing on the pressing needs of Greater Boston. The Permanent Fund has been made possible by more than a century of gifts from those who seek to support innovative solutions to the region’s most pressing problems since 1915.

“We are pleased to provide support for this innovative way to improve transit access and affordability for thousands of Boston residents,” said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. “Making these preloaded CharlieCards available at community health centers improves access to health care and is a small but important way to level the field of access to critical transit throughout the city.”

Transitioning customers away from the paper CharlieTicket to the CharlieCard has taken on additional importance as the MBTA moves ahead with efforts to

transform the existing fare collection system to a next generation system. In the next three years, customers will find it easier to locate fare vending machines in their neighborhoods as the T undertakes an aggressive effort to bring new fare vending machines to the neighborhoods where customers live, work and play. The new fare system will include a new CharlieCard with tap technology as well as the ability for customers to use their smartphone to pay their fare.

In 2019, the MBTA first launched the CharlieCard Access Program working with non-profit organizations, cities, and towns to distribute more than 20,000 CharlieCards. Free no-balance CharlieCards were made available at Boston City Hall, Boston Public Library, and neighborhood library branches. Other locations included the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, city halls, libraries, and other organizations in Ashmont, Chelsea, Fairmont, Lower Roxbury, Lynn, Revere, Salem, Somerville, Watertown, and Winthrop.

COVID // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the community.”

Walsh again urged residents, regardless of symptoms, to get tested as part of the city’s “Get the Test Boston” campaign. Walsh said getting tested helps strengthen the city’s data and protect the hardest hit communities.

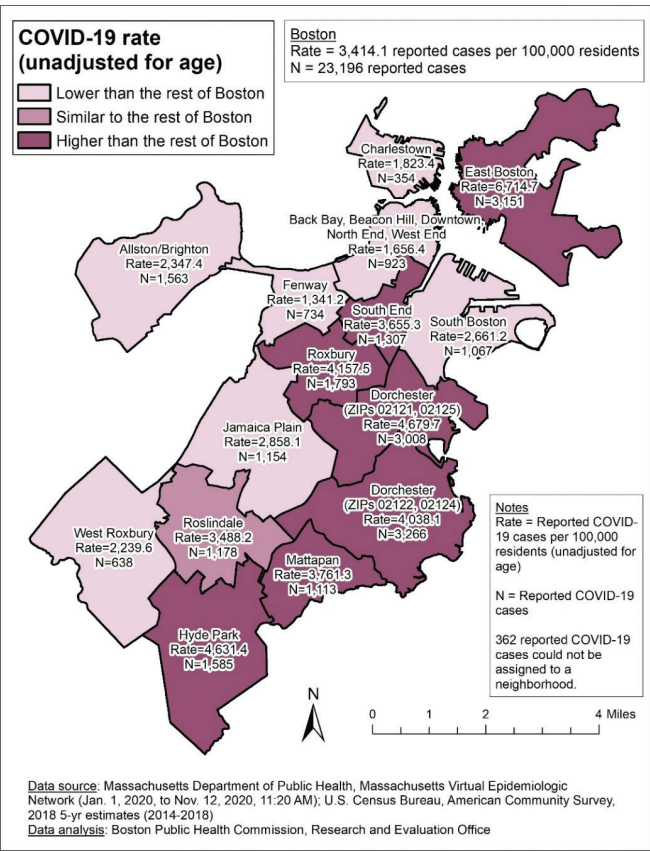
“We have over 30 testing sites in the City of Boston, and we operate two mobile testing sites that are free and open to anyone, whether they have symptoms or not,” he said.

The city, in conjunction with the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, ran a free testing site in Central Square through last Saturday.

Walsh added that the large gatherings, which occurred last week around the presidential election were peaceful, and that the vast majority of attendees wore masks, for which he thanked them. He added that anyone who attended such a gathering should nevertheless make it a priority to get tested for COVID-19.

“As winter approaches and our numbers go up, we are in a critical moment in the course of the pandemic, and I urge everyone to follow the state and city guidelines and take all the precautions necessary to slow the spread of the virus,” he said.

Eastie’s infection rate rose by 7.3 percent according to the data re-



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 statistics by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

leased by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie’s COVID infection rate went from 625.4 cases per 10,000 residents to 671.4 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 341.4 cases per 10,000 residents and Eastie still has one of the highest infection rates in all of Boston.

So far 3,151 Eastie residents have contracted the virus and the neighborhood accounts for 13 percent of all cases in Boston.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its

weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 7.8 percent last week and went from 22,407 cases to 24,159 cases.

Four more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 884 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD

NOTICE OF SITING BOARD MEETING
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

EFSB 14-04A/D.P.U. 14-153A/14-154A
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

The Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) will hold a Siting Board meeting using Zoom videoconferencing on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.** The purpose of the Siting Board meeting is to listen to comments and vote on whether to approve, approve with conditions or amendments, or reject a Tentative Decision issued by the Siting Board on February 28, 2020 that recommends approval of a Project Change that NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “Company”) submitted to the Siting Board on November 15, 2018 in connection with the Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project (“Project”). The Siting Board previously approved the Project in its December 1, 2017 Final Decision in EFSB 14-04/D.P.U. 14-153/14-154 (“Final Decision”). The Project includes two new 115-kilovolt (“kV”) underground electric transmission lines in Everett, Chelsea, and East Boston, Massachusetts, as well as a new 115/14-kV substation (“Substation”) in East Boston.

As approved in the Final Decision, the Substation would have been located on the eastern side of a larger parcel of land owned by the City of Boston (“City Parcel”) in the Eagle Hill neighborhood of East Boston. The Project Change would relocate the proposed Substation approximately 190 feet, from the east side of the City Parcel (“Original Site” at 338 East Eagle Street) to the northwest corner of the City Parcel, adjacent to Condor Street (“New Substation Site” at 0 Condor Street). The two 115-kV transmission lines would connect to the Substation at the New Substation Site and would no longer be routed under Condor and East Eagle Streets. A map below shows the relative locations of the approved Original Site, the proposed New Substation Site, and the City Parcel.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Pursuant to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§18-25, 980 CMR 2.04(l), Governor Baker’s March 10, 2020 Declaration of Emergency, and the related March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, the Siting Board will conduct a Siting Board meeting using Zoom videoconferencing to hear public comments, deliberate, and vote on the Tentative Decision. The Tentative Decision is available at: <https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/11869244>. Additional information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mystic-east-eagle-chelsea-reliability-project>.


On December 16, 2020, the Siting Board will listen to presentations from its staff and parties, as well as comments from the public. On December 17, 2020, the Siting Board will continue listening to comments from the public, then deliberate and vote on the Tentative Decision.

Due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency, the Siting Board meeting will be conducted using Zoom videoconferencing. Simultaneous English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English interpretation will be provided (see instructions below). Attendees can participate by clicking (or entering) the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/92533141983> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at 1 646 558 8656 and enter **Meeting ID 925 3314 1983**. Please note that dial-in participants will only hear live audio of the actual speaker without interpretation.

If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the Board meeting, please send an email to Geneen.Bartley@mass.gov with your full name, email address and mailing address by **Monday, December 14, 2020**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at 617-305-3529 with your full name, telephone number (the one you will use to dial in) and mailing address by **Monday, December 14, 2020**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the meeting, at the discretion of the Siting Board Chair. Written comments regarding the Tentative Decision may be submitted through **Thursday, December 3, 2020**. Any comments submitted must be filed electronically with the Presiding Officer and with the Siting Board’s electronic docket: Joan.Evans@mass.gov and dpufiling@mass.gov. Comments will be posted online at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EF5B14-4A>, where all other materials in the Project Change docket can be accessed.

Public Accommodation and Language Access

Upon request, materials in this proceeding may be available in a format accessible by people with disabilities (such as Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format). Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Contact the Department’s ADA coordinator with your request, at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov or (617) 305-3642.

As noted above, interpretation services in English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English will be provided via Zoom videoconferencing at <https://zoom.us/j/92533141983>. After joining the meeting on Zoom, ALL attendees should select a preferred language (English or Spanish) to hear the Interpreter translate into that language (as needed). Press the globe icon  and then choose the desired language. If you do not select a language, you will hear the speaker without interpretation. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at 1 646 558 8656 and enter **Meeting ID 925 3314 1983**. Please note that dial-in participants will only hear live audio of the actual speaker without interpretation.



Approved Original Substation Site and Proposed New Substation Site in East Boston.

Interpretation in additional languages may be available upon request. Include in your request the language(s) requested, and how many persons will require interpretation services. Provide a way to contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible, no later than **Thursday, December 3, 2020**. Contact the Presiding Officer with your request (see contact information below).

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, may contact the Presiding Officer at the telephone number, or email below:

Joan Foster Evans, Presiding Officer
(617) 305-3525 or Joan.Evans@mass.gov

Para obtener ayuda en español, comuníquese con mauricio.diaz@mass.gov o (617) 305-3664 [Spanish]

欧洲食物安全委员会会议的中文通知可在<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mystic-east-eagle-chelsea-reliability-project>的下拉菜单中找到。[Chinese]

Thông báo về Cuộc họp EFSB bằng tiếng Việt có tại <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mystic-east-eagle-chelsea-reliability-project> bằng menu ngôn ngữ thả xuống. [Vietnamese]

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According to police, Dasilva first struck Eastie back on Monday, Jan. 13. On that day police responded to a radio call for a robbery in progress at a store located at 396 Chelsea Street. Officers spoke to the victim who said he had been robbed by an unknown male with a firearm. The victim removed the money from the cash register, handed it over to the suspect who took it and fled the store on Saratoga Street toward Meridian Street.

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Eastie’s Veronica Robles to participate in Global Roots series

By John Lynds

East Boston’s own Veronica Robles, a celebrated Mariachi singer and founder of the Veronica Robles Cultural Center on Meridian Street, will be performing virtually as part of the Global Roots Series hosted by Club Passim.

Robles, and her All Female Mariachi Band, will stream live for Club Passim on Monday, November 23 at 7:00 pm. Robles’s Global Roots Series performance celebrates Boston’s diverse international community. The performance will be streamed on Passim.org as well as Passim’s Facebook and YouTube pages. The concert is free, but viewers are asked to make a contribution to Club Passim, an interactive live musical non-profit in Harvard Square.



Veronica Robles with her Female Mariachi Band.

Robles is a Mariachi singer by trade, but has become a cultural icon for Latinos in Boston. She has effectively utilized the power of arts and culture to bring the community together by raising awareness on the importance of diversity and she has empowered youth by employing them and teaching them about their roots and culture.

Robles, well known by her fans as La Mera, Mera or ‘The Real One,’ has been performing since she was very young and is recognized as the most authentic representative of Mexican music and culture in the New England region.

Last summer Robles, through her East Boston based Veronica Robles Cultural Center, began a

new project that is breaking down cultural barriers and empowering women through music.

“I made a big investment bringing five female mariachi musicians from Mexico to kick off my project ‘Veronica Robles All Women Mariachi,’” said Robles. “It is an honor to have all these amazing ladies playing with me as part of my project presenting the first ever all woman mariachi band in New England.”

It was in Mexico City’s Plaza Garibaldi, the cradle of Mariachi music, where Robles was introduced to Mariachi music as a teen. So it was here she tapped five Mexican nationals to be part of her project.

Through a cultural grant from the City of Boston and raising money through a GoFundMe page Robles invested roughly \$13,000

in legal fees, flight tickets, food, lodging and a stipend for the musicians to bring her dream of an all-female mariachi band to the region.

Robles has been giving back to her community since arriving from Mexico in the 1990s and founded the Veronica Robles Cultural Center in Eastie. Parts of the cultural center are innovative and educational after-school programs where students ultimately perform in schools and community events that expose other youths and adults to new cultures and traditions.

“Culture empowers youth and makes our communities stronger has been my mantra,” she said.

In the long term, Robles hopes the all-female mariachi group will inspire more young girls to get involved in what has been



Eastie’s Veronica Robles and her All Female Mariachi Band will perform this month as part of the Global Roots Series.

historically a male-dominated musical scene.

“I hope someday I can open a mariachi music school and give youth the opportunity to learn the music and instruments within the mariachi genre like they would in other music schools,” she said.

East Boston Social Centers receives \$1 million from state to create new early learning facility

By John Lynds

Gov. Charlie Baker announced last week that the East Boston Social Cen-

ters (EBSC) will share in \$6.5 million in Early Education and Out-of-School Time (EEOST) grant funding awarded to seven

organizations to help them renovate childcare facilities that serve low-income children.

The EBSC will use the

\$1 million grant to create a new early learning program within the former Barnes School. The new center will encompass the ground floor of a multi-use building that contains affordable senior housing on the upper floors. Once complete, the center will have the capacity for 41 new infants and toddler-age children, a majority of whom come from low-income families.

Managed by the Children’s Investment Fund,

CEDAC, and the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, EEOST capital improvement grants help non-profit center-based child care programs renovate or build high-quality childcare facilities which serve mostly low-income families.

“We are grateful to the educators and childcare providers statewide who have worked tirelessly to adapt over the last several months as we continue to combat the COVID-19 public health crisis,” said Baker. “Through these grants, we are able to make improvements to child care programs that boost the quality of early education and care and provide families in communities throughout the Commonwealth with the resources necessary for success in the classroom and beyond.”

EBSC Executive Director Justin Pasquariello said the EBSC is excited to have this opportunity to open a beautiful new infant and toddler center in the historic Barnes School.

“We are particularly excited to be adding space for 8 additional infants as part of this,” said Pasquariello. “In 2019, a Boston Opportunity Agenda report indicated East Boston was among the neighborhoods with the greatest gap between supply of infant early learning spaces, and potential demand. This has only worsened--as a Boston Opportunity

Agenda report released just today showed East Boston has suffered the greatest loss in early learning spaces among all Boston neighborhoods during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to be able to work to meet this need.”

Pasquariello said the EBSC is also grateful to be able to build a multi-generational partnership with the residents of the Barnes School building, many of whom actively participate in the EBSC’s Active Adults program.

“Our Active Adult Program Director, Dawn Panos, and Marisa DiPietro have been working to help support Barnes School residents during this pandemic,” he said. “We have heard enthusiasm from residents about opportunities to volunteer with our infants and toddlers when our center opens--and a body of research demonstrates the benefits of multigenerational programming. The safety and wellbeing of residents and the children and families we serve will always be our top priority and the top priority of our partners at the East Boston CDC. We are closely collaborating with partners to prevent any risk of COVID-19 exposure for residents as we prepare for construction and for when the facility opens--just as we have worked closely to prevent onsite spread of COVID-19 in our programs which have been

See CENTER Page 13



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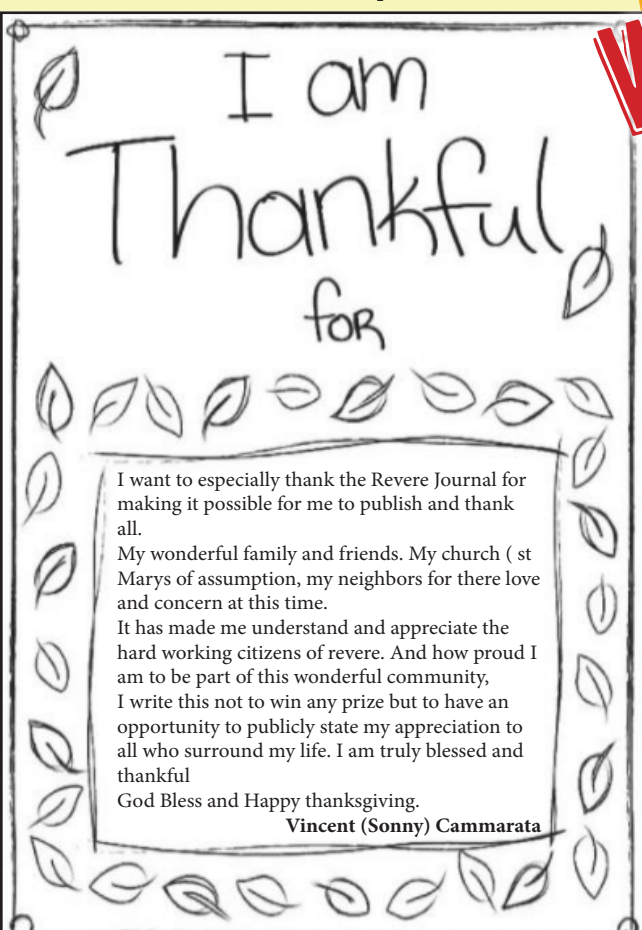
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Ms. Cooper



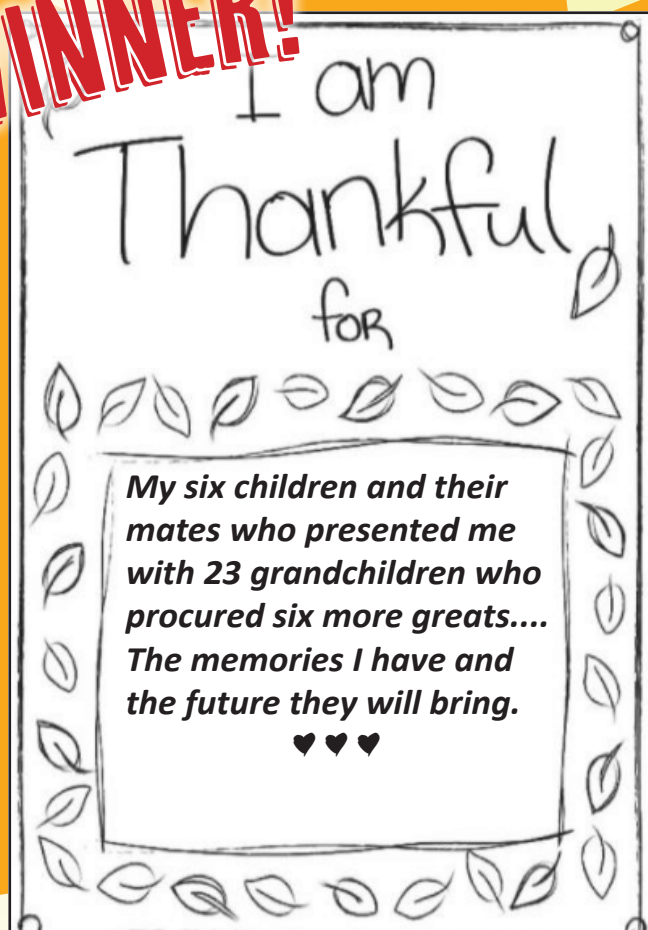
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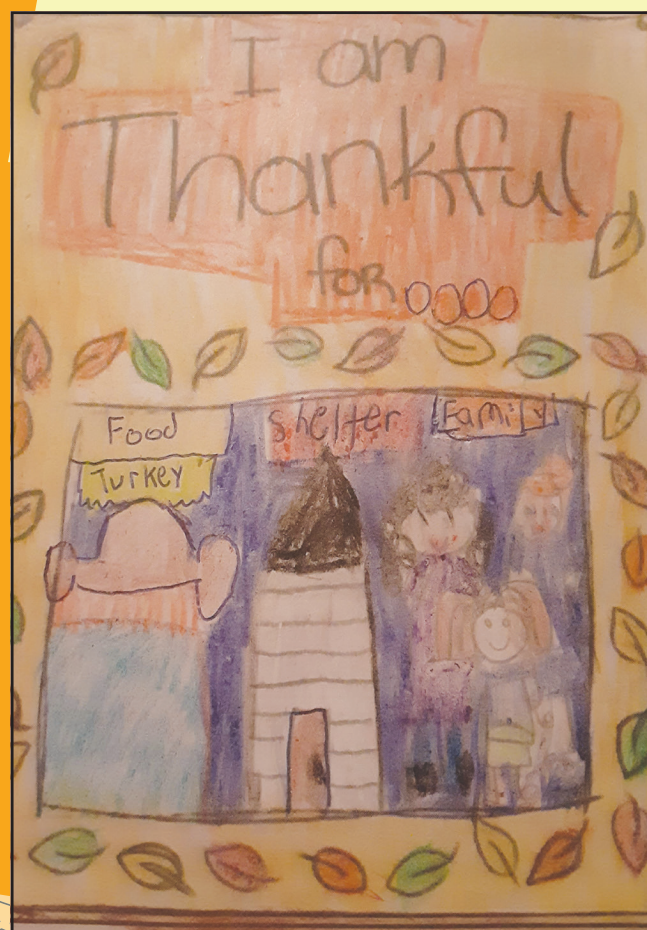
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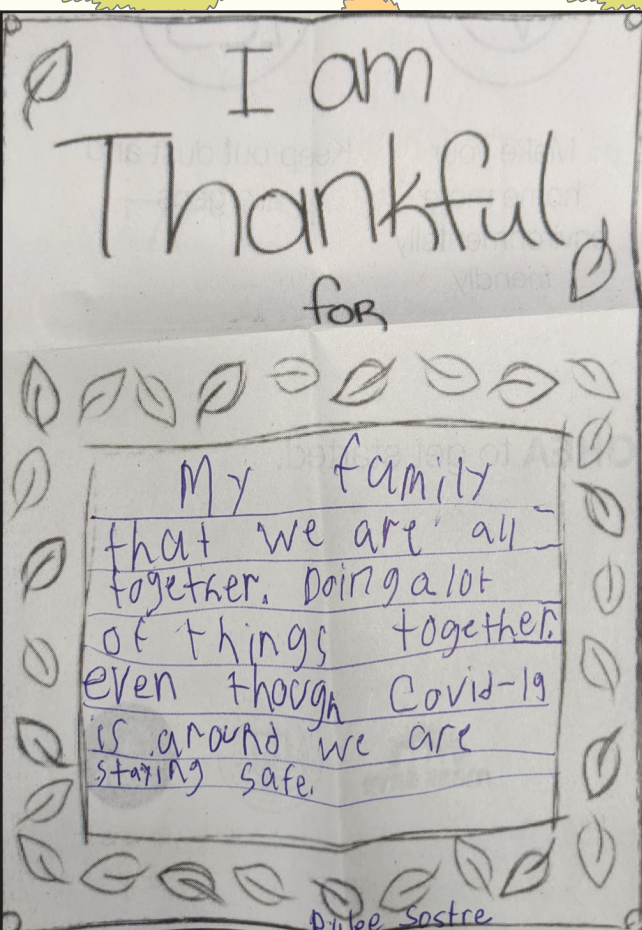
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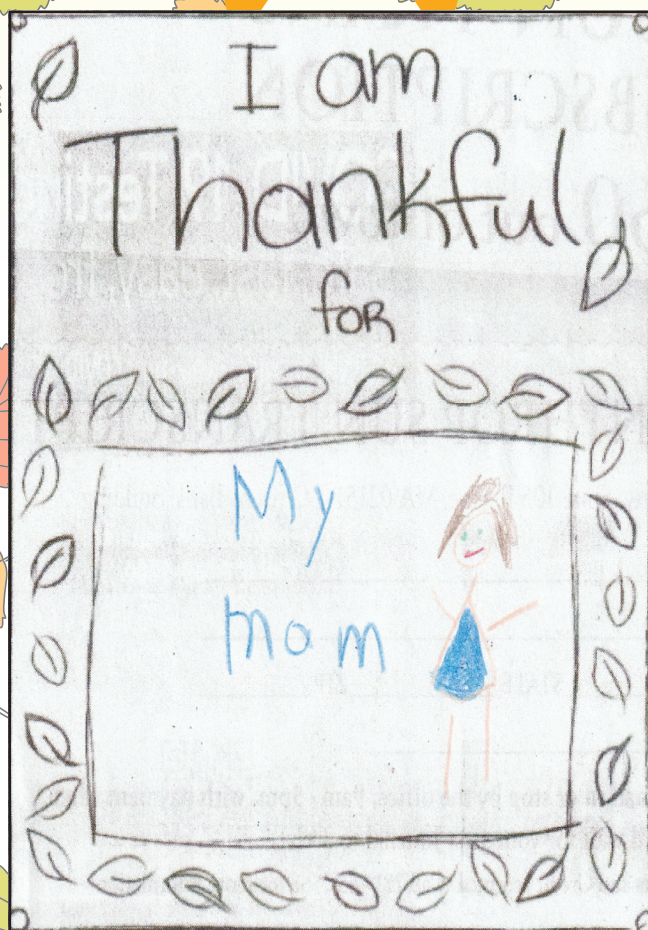
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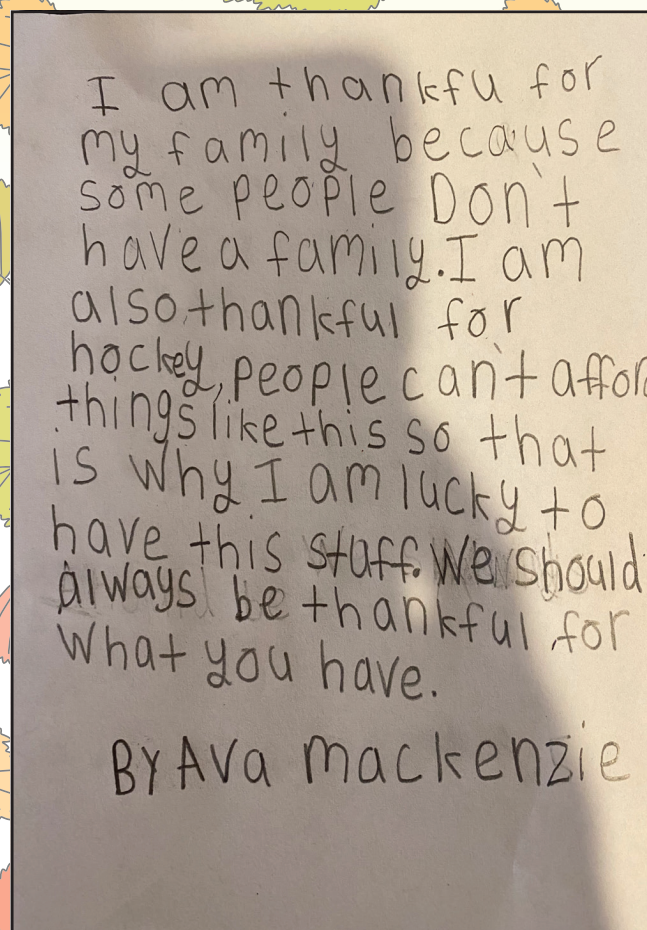
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RYLEE



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

PUBLIC FORUM HELD

CHELSEA - Alexander Train, director of Chelsea Housing and Community Development, and Sayou Cooper, project manager, hosted a public forum on the Route 1 Housing Enhancements Program Monday.

The meeting was conducted via a remote Zoom broadcast.

Cooper said at the outset that the meeting would focus on the scope of the Enhancement Program itself, the MassDOT project, and the application process for funding.

“Through his program we strive to improve housing conditions and public health for Chelsea residents,” said Train. “We’re extremely pleased to be launching this program. The Program seeks to improve properties that are adjacent to the Route 1 Corridor.

Chelsea residents who live adjacent or parallel to Route 1 North and Route 1 South, from Beacon Street to Carter Street (10 streets total including Walnut, Arlington, and Chestnut Streets), are eligible for funding through the Enhancement Program.

The Program will be focused on noise installation, air quality, and interior and exterior renovations.

Train said the application process will be launched on Monday, Nov. 16. The funds (\$200,000 has been allocated for the program) will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

“We see this as one of the first housing programs that targets noise and air pollution,” said Train. “So we are confident that this

will be a model that we will be able to build off of in the future.”

Tran expects that the city will be able to assist 10-15 housing units in the program.

“This program is only open to owner-occupied properties,” noted Train. “The applicant has to live in the property as the principal resident.”

During the meeting, residents raised concerns about the ongoing state construction project (the replacement of the actual Tobin Bridge structure between Fourth Street and Carter Street) on Route 1.

“We’ve relayed those concerns to the state and we’re working on the issues that they identified,” said Train.

REP. RYAN INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

CHELSEA - For State Rep. Dan Ryan and his family, the Boys & Girls Club is a multi-generational way of life, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) recognized that commitment in a ceremony last month that saw him inducted into one of the rare spots in their Hall of Fame.

Ryan’s parents attended what was then the Boy’s Club and the Girl’s Club in Charlestown, and he also attended as a kid, along with his sisters. Now, his kids also are growing up at the Club. Add that to the exposure he got to local government while a youngster at the Club – an experience he credits with getting him into politics – and it equals a Hall of Fame tradition.

“It is truly a great hon-

or to be recognized by the Boys and Girls Club Community and join to the ranks of former ‘Club Kids’ who attained this title mostly by never forgetting the ideals and values taught inside our Clubhouses for generations,” he said.

Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, said Rep. Ryan exemplified the value they seek to teach young people in their Clubs in Boston and Chelsea.

“Danny Ryan exemplifies all the values that make Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston such an important part of Boston and Chelsea for the past 130 years: commitment to community, respect and love for all, and thoughtful leadership,” said Kraft.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston Hall of Fame celebrates a tradition of positive influence and impact across the communities of Boston and Chelsea. Inductees are individuals who attended Club and have gone on to make important contributions in their field, are role models of exemplary service to their community, and continue to have a positive impact on their Club. Their stories are very different, but all start out the same: with the life-changing programs, caring and attentive staff, and fun and safe environments provided at Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston.

Ryan is currently serving his third term as State Representative for Charlestown and Chelsea from the Second Suffolk District in the Massachusetts Legislature. Dan serves as Vice-Chair of the House Post-Audit and

Oversight Committee.

A Charlestown resident, he and his wife Kara are raising a third generation of “Club Kids.” Their daughters Ella and Audrey are both members of the Charlestown Club Swim Team. Their son, Myer, is a Club alumnus currently attending graduate school at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. Myer was also a swim team member and played basketball at the Club. Ryan and his two sisters, Carla and Mar-nie, grew-up at the Club. Carla currently serves on the Charlestown Club’s Local Advisory Board. Ryan’s mom, Maryanne, swam for the Girl’s Club as a youngster and his dad, Carlo, a World War II veteran, also attended the Boy’s Club as a kid in the 1930s.

Ryan’s introduction to public service was a direct result of his involvement in the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club. As a kid, Ryan said he enjoyed summer camp, playing basketball and attending the Friendship Club. These experiences led him to become a staff member at the Club as an adult. As Teen Center Director in the 1990s, he chaperoned the annual Rocket Club trip to Washington, D.C., with then Club Director Jerry Steimel. A seed was planted. The following year, Ryan was living in Washington, D.C. while working as a legislative aide for Congressman Mike Capuano when the Rocket Club returned for a tour of the Capitol building. After a 14-year career in the Congressman’s office, Ryan won his seat at the Massachusetts State House in 2014.

ZOOM VIOLIN CLASSES BEGIN END OF NOVEMBER



Last Monday and Wednesday, violinist from our Elementary and Middle Schools Strings Program stopped by the MCB Complex to pick up music and have their instruments tuned up. After eight months of not playing, Zoom violin after school class will be starting at the end of November.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALLS FOR UNITY

EVERETT - The Everett City Council returned to an all-online format for its meeting on last week, and Council President Rosa DiFlorio started out the meeting by expressing regrets for what happened and what was said at the Oct. 26 meeting – a meeting that descended into chaos and had to be adjourned early.

That Oct. 26 meeting was fraught with frustration, and ended with some councilors calling for Adrien to make some tough decisions about resigning from the Council

if she could not attend meetings in person. She was the only councilor not attending meetings in person and had chosen to attend online due to health concerns.

Monday’s meeting had a decidedly different tone from beginning to end, and the end came beyond midnight, with a cordial respect being practices from everyone in attendance. However, it started with Council President DiFlorio making a statement that the frustrations with technology the Council has struggled with got the best of them. She said they shouldn’t have taken out those frustrations on

See REGION Page 11

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OBITUARIES

Charles DeMattia Sr.

Well-known musician

Charles DeMattia Sr. of Revere passed away at the age of 92 on November 4.

Born in Medford on August 29, 1928 to the late Michael and Marina (Potito), he was the beloved husband of the late Rita (Insani), devoted father of Charlene McDonald of Salem, Judith Melanson, David DeMattia, and Robert DeMattia, all of Revere and the late Charles DeMattia Jr.; cherished grandfather of Courtney McDonald, Krystal Vacketta, Lauren Melanson and Amanda, Stacey, Rachel, Jonathan and Jennifer DeMattia; dear brother of Jody Caruso of Maine and the late Michael DeMattia, Helen Carvotta, George DeMattia, Clara DiCarlo, Arthur DeMattia and John DeMattia. He is also survived by his former son-in-law Vincent "Jimmy" Melanson and many loving nieces and nephews. Charlie, as he was known, proudly served his country in the United States Navy during WWII. He studied electronics, and during the early days of television,



owned a TV repair shop in Everett. He later worked at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Then, at Raytheon, for the Department of Defense in Quality Control. Charlie came from a family of musicians and played the clarinet and saxophone. He performed at many weddings and social gatherings with his brother, Mike. Charlie was a devoted Catholic and member of the St. Mary's Holy Name Society.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all services were privately held for the immediate family. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33 rd St, New York, NY 10016 or at kidney.org. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Charles DiPerri, Jr.

Member of MBTA Local 589

Charles J. DiPerri, Jr. of East Boston passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family on Saturday morning, November 14 at the age of 76.

Charles was a member of the MBTA Local 589.

The beloved husband of more than 58 years to Angela (Chianca) DiPerri, he was the devoted father of Cheryl DiPerri of Winthrop, Deanna Cutlip and her husband, Richie of Everett and Lori Lockhead and her husband, Kevin of East Boston; dear brother of the late Sandra Lewis Roberto, the late Paula Desimone and her surviving husband, Anthony of Revere; cherished grandfather of Kevin, Michael, Kenneth and John Lockhead, Randi, Richie and Jessica Cutlip, Joseph and Matthew Powers and Danielle DiPerri and adored great-grandfather of Angelina Powers. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Family and friends will honor Charles' life by gathering in the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston



today, Wednesday, November 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks Street, East Boston for a Funeral Mass in celebration of his life at 10 a.m. Committal services will be private. In honoring Mr. DiPerri's life, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114. All services will be held in accordance with Phase-3 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts phased reopening plan due to COVID-19. Face coverings are required to be worn and social distancing measures are encouraged. For more information, visit: www.ruggieromh.com.

Marie Recchia

Member of Winthrop Daughters of Italy, Winthrop Ladies Bowling League and The Red Hats

A Graveside Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, November 10 for Marie (Mastrangelo) Recchia who was stricken unexpectedly at home on Tuesday, November 3 after being taken to Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital.

Born and raised in Boston, she attended East Boston schools and was a 1950 graduate of Fitton Catholic Girl's High of East Boston and a graduate of the Katherine Gibbs Junior Secretarial College.

All of her working career was spent as an executive medical assistant, she was proficient as a Medical Secretary and managed the office completely and perfectly. She also served as a clerk and counter person in her in-law's long-time family business, "Day Square Tailors" in Day Square of East Boston. And as time happened, following the deaths of her in-laws, the business was sold. However, as a wife, mother, sister and grandmother her reputation is

legendary. She thoroughly beamed with her family's roles.

She had a busy social life as well, enjoying the theatre and the Boston Symphony performances. She was a long-time member of the Winthrop Ladies' Bowling League and was their Treasurer for many years. She was also an

active member of the Winthrop Ladies' Lodge-Daughters of Italy and especially enjoyed the sponsored trips they offered. "The Red Hats Society" was another of her interests, lending an excellent venue to meet new and exciting personalities as well as an opportunity to dress to the "nines".

The beloved wife for 46



years of the late Richard A. Recchia, she was the devoted mother of Maria Lucia Recchia and her husband, Todd Watts of New Brunswick, Canada and Vincent M. Recchia and his wife, Stephanie and adoring grandmother to Lorenzo M. Recchia, all of Winthrop; dear sister of Joanne M. Fuller and her husband, Brad of Reading and the late Caroline T. Burge, Frances Mauro, Thomas J. Mastrangelo, Albert V. Mastrangelo, Angelo Mastrangelo, Peter Mastrangelo, Jerry Mastrangelo, Rocco and Alfred Scorzello, Michael Scorzello and Joseph Scorzello. She is also lovingly

survived by her brother-in-law, George Burge of Danvers and by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Although, her death was most unexpected, her family is somewhat consoled with the peace and Ease with which God called her home. She was laid to rest in Winthrop Cemetery - Belle Isle Section, Winthrop.

Remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St.

Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuccioandsmith.com

The staff at Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals of Revere were honored to have assisted the family with the completion of funeral arrangements.

Birthday Remembrance

November 18th

JOHN FAY



First guy to ever love me.
First to ever sweep me
off my feet or
plant those scratchy
whisker kisses
gently on my cheek.
First man to
take me seriously.
First pal I ever had.
First guy I ever gave
my heart to...
Happy Birthday, Dad.
I'll Love You Forever!
Michele

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ST. JUDE NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered.

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10th Anniversary Remembrance

IN LOVING MEMORY

Jerry Nastari

March 19, 1957 - November 19, 2010

*We miss your smile, your joking ways,
We miss the things you used to say.
And when old times we do recall,
It's then we miss you most of all.*

Love,

Your wife Lucille, sons Eddie, Michael, Jerry
and all your grandchildren!



16th Anniversary

November 20, 2004 - November 20, 2020

JOHN FAY



God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be.
So, He put his arms around you and whispered "Come to me"
God broke our hearts to prove, He only takes the best.
We love and Miss you very much.

Lovingly remembered by
Wife Fran, Children Michele and Joe, John Jr & Rose,
Grandsons Joseph & John

In Loving Memory

9th Year Remembrance

FRANCIS
JOSEPH
HURLEY

7/17/1935 — 11/20/2011



*If roses grow in heaven Lord please pick a
bunch for me.
Place them in my father's arms and tell them
they're from me,
Tell him that I love and miss him and when he
turns to smile, place a kiss upon his cheek and
hold him for awhile.
Because remembering him is easy, I do it every
single day, but there is an ache within my heart
that will never go away.*

Missed & Loved Always

Love, Susan, Sharon, Chris, Gianna,
Mia, Stephen & Lori
xoxoxo

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Happy Holidays

42nd Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Rose
Casaletto

November 21, 1978 - November 21, 2020

We love and miss you so much,
Daughter Rose Marie, Son Rico & Grandchildren
Dad, Junie, Bobby & Frankie are with you now.



Happy 31st Birthday Robert Celona

11/24/89 — 10/29/18



*I was never
prepared to live
the rest of
my life
without you.*

Love,
Dad, Stella
& Baby Robert

City Council to hold hearing on community healing and trust building after sexual abuse

The Boston City Council’s Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities will hold a hearing on community healing and trust building after sexual abuse. Sexual violence can occur to anyone at any age, including young children and is an act that can be perpetrated by strangers as well as caregivers, family members, friends, coaches, acquaintances, and intimate partners. These types of crimes perpetrated against individuals, especially children, are a

serious public health problem with profound short and long-term impacts on physical and mental health for both the survivor and their families. “In addition to the injury to the survivor and their families, there is a communal injury that results in loss of trust, faith, and generational trauma,” said Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards. “We need to find ways to come together and heal from these tragic events as a community.” “This hearing is an op-

portunity to lift up the voices of survivors of sexual assault and the services that currently exist for the victims and their families, loved ones and communities at large,” said Councilor At-Large Flaherty. “It is also an opportunity to emphasize the need for more continuous support services for our victims and communities to allow for their healing.” The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston currently provide services for survivors that are crucial to the

healing journey of those impacted by sexual violence. This hearing order is a first-step conversation to assess what services are currently available as well as how best to address individual, family, and community trauma. The hearing will be streaming live at boston.gov/city-council-tv on Friday, Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. Visit <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/13670831> for more information.

Center // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

open since July.” Pasquariello added that the Social Centers cannot overstate how critically important this EEOST grant is due to EBSC’s multiple facility needs in recent times. “We have been serving approximately half the children we serve at our infant and toddler facility at Central Avenue Public Housing in Chelsea and at a pre-school and school age facility in Orient Heights Public Housing,” he explained. “All of those public housing facilities are being demolished and rebuilt, to provide improved housing for residents, within the coming year--and so we at the Social Centers have had to identify facilities into which to relocate all those children, without disruption. This is meeting a critical community need, as ~90% of the chil-

dren we serve come to us with vouchers or subsidies based on family income or other family needs.” In the end Pasquariello said it took many people to make a grant of this magnitude possible. “I want to thank the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Governor Baker, the Department of Early Education and Care, Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy, the Children’s Investment Fund and CEDAC, Theresa Jordan, Bree Horwitz and Kira Taj, for their work to make these critically needed funds available for the early education and school age field,” said Pasquariello. “East Boston’s own Tanya Hahnel has led us in this work, bringing a variety of expertise that we needed and leading the grant writing. Many members of our team at the Social Centers

worked on the plans, budget, grant writing, attachments, site visit and more to make this possible; they include Cerlyn Cantave, Marisa DiPietro, David Cali, Gloria DeVine, Lisa Melara, Michele D’Ambrosio, Krysten Buccella, and others. Our elected officials have been instrumental in supporting this project and making this work possible--and have written letters of support. We couldn’t have done this without the support of Rep. Katherine Clark, Mayor Walsh, Sen. Boncore, Rep. Madaro, and Councilor Edwards. The East Boston CDC is making this beautiful space available and wrote a letter of support, as did the Boston Opportunity Agenda, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Neighborhood Villages, and the Franklin Square House Foundation. “

The EEOST grants are financed through the state’s capital budget and provide matching funds that leverage private investment. The \$6.5 million awarded by the Baker-Polito Administration for the FY20 EEOST grants will leverage more than \$36 million in additional financing to improve learning environments for nearly 900 children. “The current public health crisis underscores the need for safe learning environments that support the healthy growth and development of all children,” said Samantha Aigner-Treworgy, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. “We are thrilled to be able to support these seven programs across the Commonwealth as they turn their projects into reality.”

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ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU20P2073EA

Estate of:
John A. Burton
Date of Death
10/26/2019
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kathleen Arnold of Milford, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Kathleen Arnold of Milford, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an 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 12/18/2020. 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. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 06, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
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11/18/20
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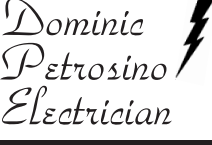
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day as COO.”

“Catholic Charities has met the needs of our neighbors in so many crucial ways during this challenging year and every year since 1903,” said Tuthill. “I am humbled and honored by the opportunity to help expand its



Tuthill has been honored for publicly sharing her experience with breast

Tuthill begins her new position at the end of the calendar year, and will step down from her role on the Board at that time.



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