

East Boston

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State's Energy Facilities Siting Board approves controversial substation

By John Lynds

Despite widespread community opposition as well as opposition from over a dozen Massachusetts elected officials the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) unanimously approved Eversource's highly controversial plan to build a new substation in East Boston at the City Yards in East Eagle Square on Monday afternoon.

In a marathon meeting that lasted several hours and the adoption of several amendments to Eversource's plan that included a safety plan, flood zone management and community mitigation the board eschewed Eastie's already overburdened industrial infrastructure and rubber stamped the plan.

Despite state Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides saying at Monday's hearing that the substation would be placed in a "heavily, heavily industrialized area within an environmental justice community that has historically suffered disproportionate environmental harms and a heavy burden

of infrastructure" she still voted in favor of Eversource's plans as an EFSB board member.

During the hearing Theoharides dismissed historic calls for leaders to begin exploring a move to more renewable energy and begin taking climate change seriously as a "false politically motivated narrative".

"This context has weighed heavily on my mind as I've spent the last two weeks thinking about this decision, since our last meeting," said Theoharides. "The notion that a substation is part of a fossil fuel past is a false politically motivated narrative. Substations are a piece of infrastructure that will be critical in our ever growing electrification of building and transportation sectors."

Although she conceded that substations may deliver increasing amounts of clean and renewable energy produced by wind and solar in the future.

But as of now Theoharides said, "the communities of East Boston and Chelsea have a right to re-

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Distribution of mitigation funds from 99 Sumner St. project gets BPDA approval

By John Lynds

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) this month voted to approve mitigation funding to several local non-profits as part of the development project at 99 Sumner St., also known as the Hodge Boiler Works project.

The BPDA board approved \$49,000 at its February meeting that will be split between 13 local organizations including the Salesian Boys & Girls Club, East Boston Social Centers and the Veronica Robles Cultural Center.

The funds will be disbursed from the 99 Sumner Street Project Community Benefits fund maintained by the BPDA from contributions made by the developer.

In 2017 the BPDA ap-

proved a 'Notice of Project Change' for the Hodge Boiler Works waterfront development project.

When the site was owned by the DeNormandie Companies a few years ago, the group pitched a scaled down version of their original plan to build an eight-story, 119 unit residential complex. DeNormandie decided to build a five-story, 95 units building that is 80,000 sq. ft. less than the original design.

The Davis Companies scooped up the property and reverted back to the original plan of building 119 condo units. The Davis Companies will also pay into the BPDA's fund to create affordable housing units off site to the tune of \$2.19 million.

According to the Davis

See 99 SUMNER ST Page 4



JPNA members voted 33 to 6 in favor of supporting NYHG's plan to apply to the city for a liquor license for its "Eastie Landing" proposal on the waterfront that includes a tall ship restaurant and bar.

JPNA approves Eastie Landing's Tall Ship liquor license plan

By John Lynds

At its February meeting, the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) voted to support the Navy Yard Hospitality Group's (NYHG) efforts to seek a liquor license for an outdoor dining proposal that would include a Tall Ship and large patio near Pier I in East Boston.

JPNA members voted 33 to 6 in favor of supporting NYHG's plan to apply to the city for a liquor license for its "Eastie Landing" proposal on the waterfront.

Last year NYHG, which owns Reel House on New

Street in Eastie and other locations in Charlestown, the Seaport and Faneuil Hall, approached Massport with the idea of docking a 242 foot steel hull Tall Ship at Pier I to create a unique dining experience for Eastie residents. Over the spring and summer NYHG docked a tall ship at the pier and began an extensive rehab of the ship to accommodate three bars and a dining area.

However, NYHG's Charlie Larner said COVID put a damper on opening Eastie Landing last year but hopes to be up and running once the warm weather returns to

New England.

Larner said his group plans to finish refurbishing the Tall Ship as well as placing recycled materials, like old shipping containers, to activate the space and for decor and programming. NYHG has six shipping containers, which will be on the pier, and can be used for selling lobster rolls or tacos, or beverages. There will also be some shipping containers that house small retail operations. On the pier itself NYHG will be using string lights and materials such as the electrical ca-

See EASTIE LANDING Page 3

JPNA

approves two projects at Feb. meeting

By John Lynds

At its February meeting members of the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) approved two development projects—one on Maverick Street and another of Lamson Street.

The first project at 323 Maverick Street was supported 29 to 8 by JPNA members.

There, developer Boston Building Company LLC, who was represented by Attorney Jeff Drago wants to erect a three-family home on the site

All three units would be condo units and would include two, two-bedroom

See JPNA Page 4

Weekly COVID positive test rate decreases dramatically in Eastie

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Eastie stayed the same as did the weekly positive test—signaling a hopeful trend for a neighborhood devastated by the virus.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), of the 35,022 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 18.9 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Last week, 2,031 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and only 4.8 percent were positive. Again, this was the same positive test rate re-

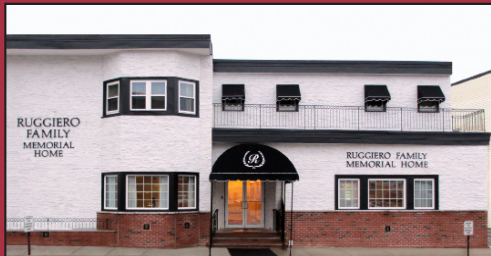
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AN UNFATHOMABLE NUMBER

When COVID-19 first came into our national consciousness more than a year ago, it was just a blip on the news. The prospect that a viral bug originating halfway around the world would alter every aspect of our lives seemed inconceivable.

And even if the virus did come here, America was not some third-world country. We had confidence that the world's best medical care system and scientific minds would work together to prevent something as seemingly trivial as a mere virus from overwhelming our nation.

But one year -- and 500,000 American lives -- later, that which was unimaginable has become a nightmarish reality.

To be sure, the unprecedented incompetence and outright malevolence of the previous administration contributed substantially to amplify and worsen the problems brought on by the pandemic.

But even in a best-case scenario, the virus would have upended every aspect of our lives. Although the politicization of the virus contributed to our nation's suffering, the pandemic still would have caused death and economic turmoil to an unprecedented extent.

The official count of 500,000 COVID deaths was surpassed this week. Let's hope that as we move forward and as the daily numbers of deaths and hospitalizations continue to decline, we have learned that despite our high-tech lifestyle, we are no match for Mother Nature.

The pandemic has exposed many problems in our country, including the inadequacy of our health care system, especially for minority groups, and the danger of politicizing scientific information.

Hopefully, we have recognized our multitude of mistakes and we will make the necessary investments in our health care and pandemic detection systems to ensure that we will be ready for the next pandemic.

As the philosopher succinctly put it, those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

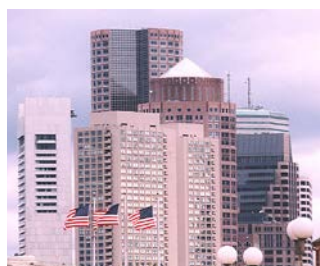
This winter has not been a particularly difficult one for us in the Northeast, although February has been colder and stormier than January.

But with temperatures reaching the 50s by the middle of this week, there is the feeling that spring is just around the corner.

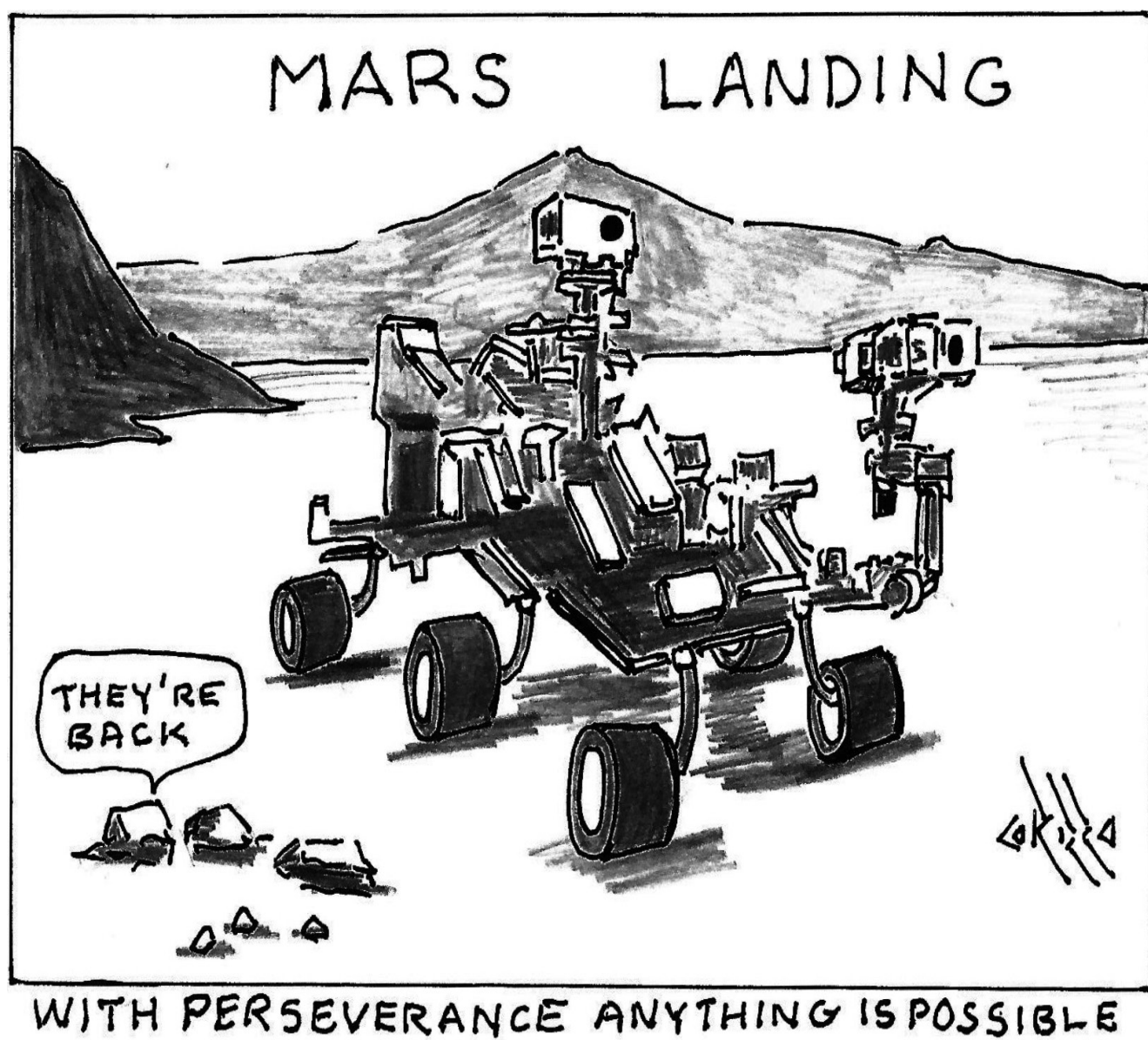
We realize that "spring" is a relative term for those of us living on the Massachusetts coast, but undeniably the onset of warmer weather will provide more opportunities to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine after months of being cooped-up amidst our pandemic quarantines.

Spring traditionally symbolizes rebirth and rejuvenation. That thought is especially meaningful in the spring of 2021.

Hopefully, the coming of spring and the availability of mass vaccinations will enable all of us to emerge from our cocoons and allow us to return safely to our pre-pandemic lives.



Forum



WITH PERSEVERANCE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

GUEST OP-ED

Making your funeral arrangements

Dr. Glenn Mollette

A good friend died recently. At the age of 80 all his life insurance had expired and his savings was spent. His family, financially, were living from week to week. His failing health along with Covid-19 put him in an Intensive Care Unit for days apart from his family where he died. His hospitalization brought more bills and financial hardship for those left behind. Needless to say, there wasn't any money to pay for a casket, embalming, plot of ground and a grave marker.

His young adult son put together their dire scenario and sent it out to everyone his family knew. Within a week 103 friends had given \$20,300 to momentarily rescue this family from their perilous situation. It was enough money to buy a casket, embalming, a plot of ground and a small grave memorial marker.

Do you have 103 friends who would give \$20 to \$2000 each to pay for your burial expenses? I know I do not. Such an outpouring was a testimony to his life and the lives of so many he had touched. This story is a

sad reminder that we must take prudent steps toward covering our burial/funeral costs.

I don't want my wife or children to have to figure it out after I'm dead. Often, we don't get a choice. We die way before we have time to make our final arrangements. This happens a lot. This is why we need to do it now or as soon as we can.

Another dear friend recently died very young. Her family was strapped for cash and went the route of cremation. Cremation is costing between \$2500 to \$7500 depending on where you live. Not cheap. My Navy son said, "Dad, just cremate me and scatter my remains over the north Atlantic." I pray he lives to be a hundred and his grandchildren have to do that.

Some of you know my wife died back in 2002. Her funeral cost me about \$10,000 and her grave plot was \$600. I was cash strapped at the age of 47. I had nothing but medical bills and a house payment. I wasn't prepared for a funeral, mentally or financially. The only thing that saved me was a year before she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a

good friend sold us small life insurance policies. He also talked us into paying extra for a disability waiver on the policy. The disability waiver was the only way I was able to maintain that life insurance policy which we used 13 years after he sold it to us. It was the only way I could have paid for that funeral, unless I could have borrowed more money on my house. This was doubtful because I already had a second mortgage on the house from trying to pay other medical bills. I would have been hurting and probably would have had to go the cheapest route available for her funeral. It was simply the grace of God and a wise insurance agent who saved us in that respect.

My mother and father in law both died recently and their funeral expenses alone were over \$14,000 each. Fortunately, they had saved enough money to cover these costs. You can spend less and you can spend more of course. The question is do you want your family to have to figure it out? Sit down with a trusted funeral director and begin making preparations now.

Decide which route you

want to go. Decide how much you want to spend. You can plan everything. Pick out everything. Most likely pay for everything. Just make sure you are dealing with a very trusted funeral director. Write out everything you want done including music, speakers and anything specific you want them to say. It's up to you of course. Make several copies of your wishes and what you have done. It's amazing how people lose stuff.

When we are dead, we won't care. We won't know, but we care now. I know most of us care about those we leave behind. This is one way we can help them to know how and what we want done and relieve their burden by making the arrangements ourselves.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

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Gubernatorial candidate and Eastie resident Ben Downing raises \$100,000 in a week

By John Lynds

Gubernatorial candidate, former State Sen. and Eastie resident Ben Downing hit a major fundraising milestone this week.

Downing, a progressive democrat who announced his candidacy for Massachusetts Governor on February 8, raised his first \$100,000 in one week according to campaign filings. Downing, who served as a State Senator from Western Mass but now lives in Eastie with his wife and two sons, said

he was excited by the support since his announcement earlier this month.

“These are good numbers,” said Downing Monday. “The exciting thing was there were no lobbyists donations, no super pac donations so it’s all real...real voters donating.”

Downing said so far the donations have poured in from friends, family and political supporters. “It’s just exciting to see people who you know write a \$10 check or \$100 check,” said Downing. “But whether it’s a \$10, \$100 or \$1,000

check it’s people saying they think it’s time for a fair and stronger Massachusetts, I was really excited to see the reaction to my candidacy.”

While easily raising the first \$100,000 feels good Downing admits there’s a lot of hard work ahead no matter who throws their hat into the ring for next year’s election.

“It takes time and I’m not blind to how much of an uphill climb it is,” said Downing. “Gov. Baker still has a sky high approval ratings but based on the calls, whether it’s

fundraising calls, political calls, outreach calls or just talking with people about what they’re seeing day to day--people are hungry for something different. People are hungry for us to take on big challenges and be able to execute day to day.”

In the end Downing said he’s been able to start garnering support in every corner of the state.

“We’ve got supporters from Cape Cod to the Berkshires so I’m excited about continuing to build off of that base,” said Downing.



Eastie resident and former State Sen. Ben Downing raised \$100,000 in one week for his bid for the Massachusetts Governorship.

Substation // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

liable electricity”.

John Walkey, an Eastie resident and member of the group Green-Roots who has been fighting the substation plan said EFSB’s decision, while disappointing, is hardly surprising. “We know that our national regulatory system for our energy sector is dominated by the regulated industry, so why should Massachusetts be any different?,” said Walkey. “It does really expose the hypocrisy of those who talk

up climate resiliency and social equity while at the same time continue accepting money from corporations like Eversource and effectively doing their bidding. This is not what democracy looks like; it is what systemic environmental racism looks like. And this is not the end of this fight by a long shot.”

Walkey said activists plan to appeal this decision to the State Supreme Judicial Court and will be challenging their application for a Department

of Environmental Protection Waterways Division Chapter 91 license.

“This isn’t a fight you walk away from because this is where we live, where our children play, and where we already grapple with so many other environmental burdens that affect our health,” said Walkey. “If they can convince us that this substation is needed, which they have yet to do, they will still have to convince us that Massport, by far the largest single user of electricity in East Boston, is not the most appropriate and sensible location for it.”

The substation was approved to be sited at the City Yards back in 2017. The proposal voted on by the EFSB on Monday was to allow Eversource to move the proposed substation to western edge of the City Yards and further away from American Legion Playground.

Rep. Adrian Madaro

who lives on Eagle Hill with his wife maintained that the substation proposal is the wrong idea, provides the wrong energy source, and is in the wrong location.

“East Boston continues to be overwhelmed by more than our fair share of environmental burdens. We don’t need another,” said Madaro. “My wife and I are expecting our first child and will be raising our family on Eagle Hill. Our kids will play at the playground right across from this proposed project, as I did as a child. Should this project proceed, our children will grow up with this substation and all the effects it brings. East Boston is well known as an environmental justice community that has historically dealt with one of the most disproportionate shares of environmental burdens in the Commonwealth.”

Madaro went on to say that Eastoe residents suf-

fer from a variety of environmental burdens including a major international airport, a highway running through the neighborhood, oil tanks along the shoreline adjacent to this project site, and more.

“This misguided substation proposal should not move forward. It will become yet another environmental burden on a community which has shouldered more than its fair share,” he said “Throughout the public process, my colleagues and I, in addition to countless residents of East Boston have raised several important and well-founded concerns regarding the substation proposal. Chief among them is the proposed location and the safety concerns it presents.”

The proposed substation is sited on the waterfront of Chelsea Creek and would be located in a flood zone as recognized by the City of Boston.

“With well documented flooding of the area during several major storm events in the past few years, and increased flood risk of the East Boston shoreline due to climate change a constant factor considered by state and city agencies in planning processes across the neighborhood, concerns about locating a major electrical substation in this area are not unwarranted,” said Madaro. “Moreover, the substation is located in close proximity to a large field of oil tanks along the creek, another potential safety risk. Such concerns are further compounded by the fact that the substation lies on the edge of the Eagle Hill neighborhood, a densely populated working-class area, and directly abuts two city parks, the American Legion Playground and the Condor Street Urban Wild, which are frequented by countless residents.”



The state’s Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) during Monday’s board meeting. The EFSB unanimously approved Eversource’s highly controversial plan to build a new substation in East Boston.

Eastie Landing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ble wraps as tables. Larner has said NYHG is trying to be creative and use recycled material as much as possible.

NYHG also wants to do a weekly Movie Night that drives families down to the pier early in the week. With regards to live entertainment the only “at-night-event” would be Movie Night. When it comes to the stage for the concert series NYHG only plans on doing a summer concert series during the daytime.”

The ship itself has a 4,500 square foot main deck that will house three bars. One of the bars is at the stern and the stern bar will be doing a lot of small fundraising events

and other functions. The food that NYHG will have coming out of a galley kitchen will be raw selections, small plates focusing on Mediterranean fare, and charcuterie

Like over at the Reel House, the NYHG would provide free water shuttle services between Eastie Landing and the other three NYHG restaurants in Eastie, Charlestown

and the Seaport.

NYHG wants to not only gear this proposal to adults but to children and families as well with seasonal activities like a pumpkin patch in the fall

and a winter wonderland during the holiday season.

This is not the first time someone has proposed a floating restaurant in Eastie. Eight years ago Boston Harbor Cruises’ Principal

Owner Rick Nolan wanted to anchor a floating restaurant off Eastie’s shores. However, after community support Nolan delayed the idea before finally abandoning it all together.

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News in Brief

MARCH 2021 HVNA MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association, (HVNA), will be on Monday, March 1, at 6 p.m. Please note this meeting will be presented in English and Spanish for our Harbor View residents. The meeting will be on Zoom.

Please check the website (harborvieweastboston.com), for instructions to participate by video or telephone. HVNA will continue to stream the meeting via facebook live as well as at Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/harborview-na>.

Agenda
Welcome/Introduction(5min)

Announcements(5min)
Boston Police Station 7 Update, Officer Dan Simmons(10min)

Plan:East Boston, Jason Ruggiero, BPDA Update on future meetings.(10min)

177 Coleridge Street, 1st Presentation, Gerry DiPierro, owner of DiPierro Construction for homeowner Eric Nelson. Add a private roof deck with a spiral staircase along the exterior of the building. This deck will be only for Unit # 2. An abutters meeting was held on February 11, 2021.(15min)

Eastie Farms, Director, Kannan Thiruvengadam and Manager Alex Grara will present success with turning vacant and

underutilized parcels into productive beautiful areas. (15min)

355 Bennington Street. Informational presentation by Redgate Development, Molly Kelly, Project Manager. Proposal is to demolish existing structures and build 180 Units of rental housing with 7000+SF of retail space and 82 parking spaces. This is an Article 80 Project that will have BPDA meetings and review. A virtual meeting will be held on March 4, 2021 by BPDA with Raul Duverge from 6pm to 8pm. This is an opportunity for HVNA to get a snap shot of this proposal. This project is not in the Harbor View Neighborhood but it is in Day Square and is of concern for all of East Boston.(30min)

Our next meeting will be on April 5, 2021.

Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna>.

MVES RECEIVES \$5000 GRANT FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Everett Citizens Foundation in support of the MVES Social Engagement Program.

“Thanks to the grant from the Everett Citizen Foundation, the Social Engagement Program has been able to reach out to many lonely and isolated seniors in the communi-

ty and provide them with friendly conversations and feelings of social connectedness which is vitally important during these challenging times,” says Social Engagement Program Coordinator Linda Cornell.

Open to MVES consumers, the Social Engagement Program is designed to help improve the health and well-being of isolated older adults in the community by providing meaningful social connection—whether it be through regular visits (when safe to do so), telephone calls, or email.

“Fostering closer relationships between the City of Everett and local organizations like MVES, who provide direct support and services to our residents, is precisely the reason I pushed for the establishment of the Everett Citizens Foundation. Since its inception, the ECF has provided grants to 50 local organizations and I want to thank the members of the Board for their diligence and our partners at Encore Boston Harbor for their financial support,” said Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria.

“The ability to engage socially is vital to the health and wellbeing of individuals. We are inherently social beings. I am very proud that the Everett Citizens Foundation voted to provide financial support to MVES’s Social Engagement Program,” said Matthew Lattanzi, Esq., Staff Support to the

Everett Citizen Foundation.

The Everett Citizens Foundation was established by the Host Community Agreement between the City of Everett and Wynn Resorts that was approved by the voters of Everett in 2013. The Foundation receives an annual payment of \$250,000 from Encore Boston Harbor, which is distributed among local groups, associations, and programs with important City initiatives.

If you are interested in knowing more about Mystic Valley Elder Services’ Social Engagement Program or other programs, please visit mv.es.org or call 781-324-7705.

TSA SEEKS TO HIRE OVER 6,000 AIRPORT SECURITY SCREENING OFFICERS

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is launching re-

cruitment efforts nationwide to fill over 6,000 Transportation Security Officer (TSO) positions by summer 2021.

“TSOs are a critical first line defense in securing our nation’s commercial air transportation system,” said Melanie Harvey, acting Executive Assistant Administrator for TSA’s Security Operations. “Each day, our officers screen hundreds of thousands of airline travelers ensuring they arrive at their destinations safely. We expect to screen a higher number of travelers regularly by the summer months and will need additional officers to support our critical mission.”

Based on anticipated seasonal travel trends in the months ahead and the progress of COVID-19 vaccinations for the general public, TSA has launched national efforts to recruit new employees in support of screening operations at approximately 430 airports na-

tionwide. Targeted recruitment, virtual job fairs, and opportunities in dozens of cities have already been announced for individuals seeking part-time and full-time opportunities. Benefits include access to medical coverage, vacation and sick leave, and retirement plans. TSA is committed to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work environment and encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including military veterans and persons with disabilities.

TSA seeks those who want to take the initial step into a rewarding federal career and support TSA’s critical mission of protecting our nation’s transportation systems. A “Day in the Life of a TSO” video is available to learn more about our mission essential security screening position. To view open positions for TSOs around the country, visit TSA.gov/TSO.



An artist rendering of the project at 99 Sumner St. The BPDA just approved the first round of mitigation to local organizations as part of the project.

JPNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

units and one, three--bed-room unit. The first floor unit would be handicap accessible.

Drago said his client made some modifications to the project after listening to JPNA members and abutters.

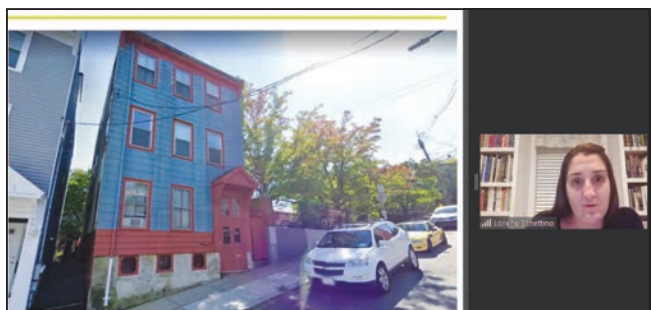
“We reduced the height of our proposal to 39 feet to match the height of the adjacent building,” said Drago. Drago also added that his client gained the support of the neighbor to the right after reducing the height and assuring there

would be a 3 foot buffer between his building and the proposal.

The next project at 19 Lamson St. was supported by JPNA members by a vote of 32 to 6.

There, developer 542 East Sixth, LLC, represented by Attorney Lorene Schettino, plans to gut rehab the existing structure, extend the living space into the basement and replace the roof

The units are all planned as condo units and consist of two, three-bedroom units and one, two-bedroom unit.



Attorney Lorene Schettino talks about her clients project at 19 Lamson St. at this month’s JPNA meeting.

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Notice of Public Hearing

CITY of BOSTON

The City of Boston's **Department of Neighborhood Development** announces a public hearing seeking citizen input on the housing and community development priorities for the Program Year 2021 (7/1/21 - 6/30/22) Action Plan, in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105(b).

The Action Plan is submitted annually to the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and serves as the City's application and plan for using an estimated \$28 million in HUD resources from: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, this will be a Virtual Hearing held on 3/10/21 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Interpretative services in Spanish and Chinese will be provided. To request another language, including American Sign Language, call 617-635-3880 at least 7 days prior to the hearing date. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

To access the hearing link, go to:
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/hearings-and-public-comment>

Tim Davis, Deputy Director (DND)

99 Sumner St. // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Companies the project that is under construction will result in a six story, 125,678 sq. ft.. mixed-use development.

Last year the BPDA announced the application process for \$49,000 in community benefits funding, which was secured through the Article 80 process for the Hodge Boiler Works project. According to the BPDA Funding was prioritized for applicants whose services benefit local residents, with an emphasis on residents of East Boston. To be eligible for this community benefit funding, the applicant had to be a non-profit operating in Massachusetts and/or an organization that has identified a local non-profit as its fiscal agent.

The BPDA worked with local elected officials and the Mayor’s Office to notify various

community organizations about the availability of the mitigation funds.

The BPDA, along with the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development, notified organizations and publicized the availability of the fund.

Twenty-one organizations applied for the mitigation funds in this first round of funding. At the BPDA board meeting it was stated that a variety of factors were used by the review committee when scoring applications including organizational background, experience in the neighborhood,

And expected outcomes of the program or project. BPDA staff has reviewed the applications of various community organizations and identified the following recipients of the 99 Sumner Street Project Community Benefits Fund:

- East Boston Social Centers, Inc. \$5,000

- Young Men’s Christian Association of Greater Boston, Inc.\$3,500
- Eureka Ensemble Corporation \$3,500
- Greater Boston Legal Services, Inc. \$3,500
- Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, Inc.\$3,500
- Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Inc. \$3,500
- Salesian Boys and Girls Club, Inc. \$5,000
- The Salvation Army \$2,500
- Steppingstone Foundation, Inc. \$3,500
- Speak for the Trees, Inc. \$3,500
- Union Capital Boston, Inc. \$3,500
- Veronica Robles Cultural Center Corp. \$3,500
- Youth Connect (Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston as fiscal agent) \$5,000

Aside from the 119 condo units there will be a

7,200 sq. ft. public facility as part of the project. The project also calls for 83 off-street parking spaces, 119 bicycle storage spaces within the building for residents and 28 exterior bicycle storage spaces to be made available for the general public, visitors, and residents.

Approximately 35,750 square feet of the project site will be used as public open space that will include one of the last links missing from the East Boston Harborwalk. This missing link will finally connect the Charlton Wharf site with Lopresti Park. With Clippership Wharf, Portside at Pier One and the Boston East Site completed, the Harborwalk will be one continuous path that extends from the Hyatt Logan Airport Hotel all the way to the Boston East Site on Border Street.

Councilor Edwards files hearing order on ZBA reforms

Special to the Times

Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards has filed a hearing order to discuss the implementation of reforms to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) that she proposed and were implemented by Mayor Walsh in an executive order in February of 2020.

“The ZBA continues to be one of the main sources of constituent calls and emails to my office,” said Councilor Edwards. “Last year I filed some reforms that the Mayor implemented through an executive order. We’ve made

some progress in making the board more accessible and transparent, but not all of the commitments have been met and the pandemic has added new challenges to accessibility. We need to check in and have a conversation about what we can do to ensure residents have a voice when projects in their neighborhood are going through the process.”

The hearing will also address financial disclosure requirements that were required as part of the executive order.

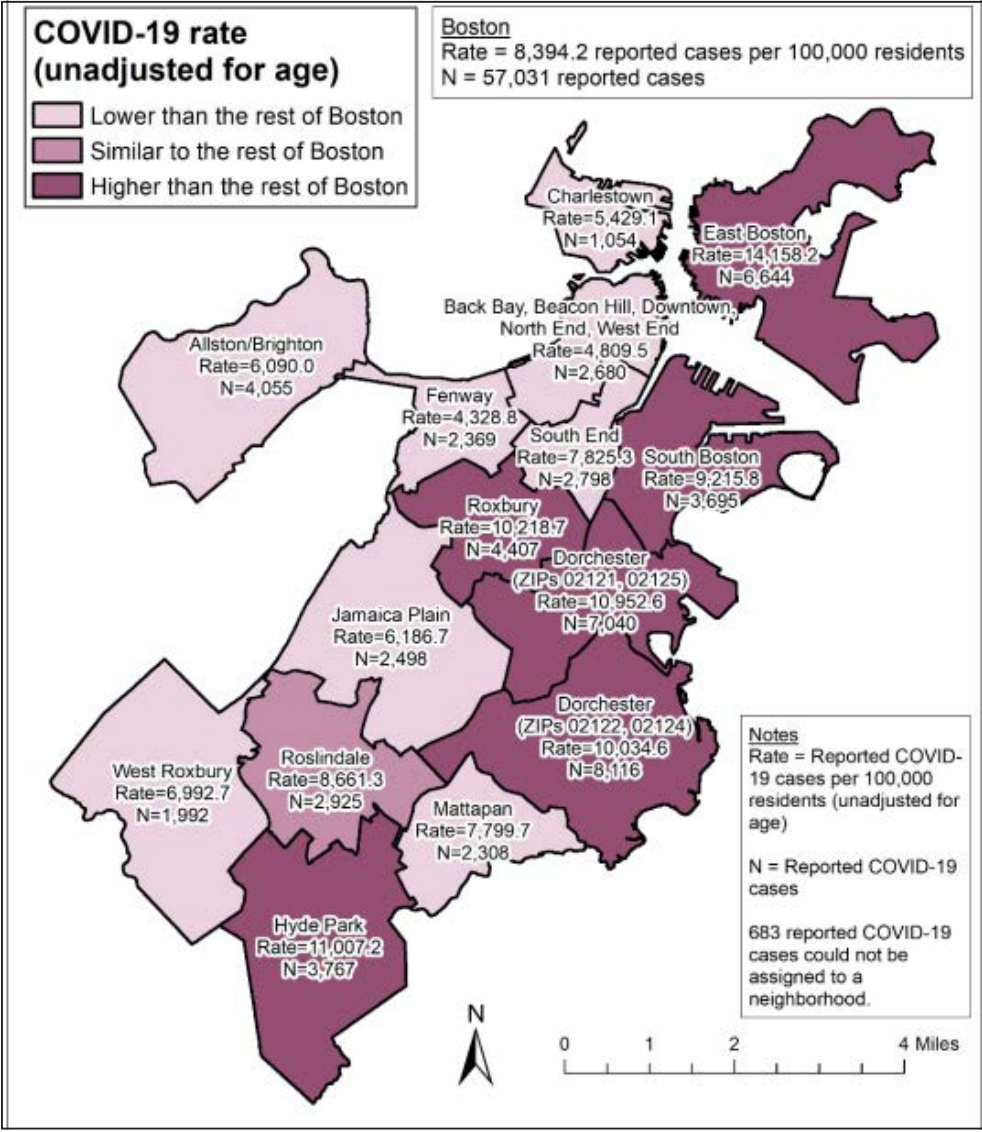
“I filed a hearing order recently on the inclusion-

ary development policy because we need to be exploring all options to create and preserve affordable housing. It’s more important now than ever,” added Councilor Edwards. “Being able to know who owns what will be key as we move forward with affordable housing reforms.”

The hearing order will be introduced at Wednesday's council meeting and assigned to a committee. A public hearing will then be scheduled where members of the public will be able to testify.



Renegade’s Pub in Orient Heights Square.



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

COVID-19 // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ported two weeks ago.

Citywide, 29,757 residents were tested and 3.8 percent were COVID positive--a 21 percent decrease from the 4.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At at press briefing last Thursday Mayor Martin Walsh said the average number of positive tests recorded each day was 209. That’s down by about 13 percent from the week before, and daily new cases have continued to go down since early January.

“Our current community positivity rate was 4.8 percent,” said Walsh. “That’s below our 5 percent threshold, and the lowest positivity we’ve seen since October. The rate went down in every neighborhood, and every neighborhood is now below 8 percent, which is good news. An average of 4,263 people were tested each day. That’s up by three percent over the week before and does not include college testing.”

The Mayor said Boston continues to work with the State on the vaccine rollout.

“On Wednesday, the Governor announced that, as of February 18, anyone 65 or older, or who has two or more qualifying medical conditions, is now eligible for the vaccine,” said Walsh.

The Mayor noted that moderate and severe asthma are now included in that list of conditions, which is a good thing.

“This was an important decision, to ensure that more residents of color who face elevated risk are eligible sooner,” said Walsh. “In addition, everyone in Phase 1 continues to be eligible if you have not been vaccinated

yet -- including health care workers, first responders, and residents and staff in long-term care and congregate care settings.”

The full updated schedule is at Mass.gov/Covid-Vaccine.

Walsh said the City of Boston will continue to advocate on behalf of Boston residents, and increase equity in this process for any resident or community that may face barriers. He said the City is focusing on access in the Black community; the Latino community; the Asian community; and our immigrant communities.

“We’re also focusing on access for elderly residents and those with disabilities,” he said. “We’re doing targeted outreach to these communities through City departments, Community Health Centers, and nonprofit partners.”

Eastie’s COVID infection rate increased only by 1.45 percent last week and went from 1,395.5 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,415.8 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 839.4 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 95 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 6,644 confirmed cases, up from the 6,549 reported two weeks ago.

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 2.8 percent percent last week and went from 56,079 cases to 57,675 confirmed cases

in a week. Thirty-four additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,248 total deaths in the city from COVID.

Renegade’s // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Scalon said Daly has been with Renegade’s since it first opened four years ago and is the current general manager of the restaurant and bar that promised to clean up a forgotten corner of Orient Heights Square with a successful business model.

“I think and I hope most people would agree that they delivered on that promise and continue to do so and are good neighbors in that location,” said Scanlon.

Ackerman, who is the bar’s majority owner, will stay on in an advisory role in case Daly needs any help from him after he transfers the ownership of Renegade’s

In 2017 Renegade’s owners transformed the old Victory Pub into a no-frills pub complete with wooden tables, a zig zag bar, a large chalkboard listing the constantly rotating beer selection and a huge mural commemorating all things Eastie.


The limited menu lives up to Renegade’s motto of ‘Beers, Burgers and Bourbon’. The appetizers range from onion rings to Engine 56 fries with smoked bacon, renegade sauce, crumbled bleu cheese, and fried jalapeños. There are also stuffed tater tots, buffalo wings, panko crusted chicken tenders and salads. But what really keeps people coming back to Renegade’s are the burgers. All burgers are large enough to fill a hungry stomach but not so overpowering that you’ll need a nap after downing one of these juicy treats.

The staple burger is the Renegade Burger with renegade sauce, muenster, arugula, and red onion jam. There’s the Blue Burger with bacon, red onion, arugula, local bleu cheese, and bleu cheese sauce or, our favorite, the Bandit Burger with bourbon BBQ sauce, fried onions, bacon, cheddar and red onion jam. Renegade’s also offers up a veggie burger with quinoa, black beans, garlic mayo, cucumber, tomato and lettuce, a blackened salmon burger and fried or grilled chicken sandwiches done two different ways.



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Hunts Large Canned Tomatoes 28 oz.....	4/¢5.00
Barilla Pasta Sauce 24 oz.....	2/¢5.00
Alexia Frozen Potatoes.....	2/¢6.00
Rays Bagels	2/¢5.00
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(ex cracker cuts)	
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Naan Bread.....	¢2.59

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Fresh & Crisp Green Bell Peppers.....	¢1.59/lb
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Care Dimensions receives \$5,000 grant from EBSB Charitable Foundation

Staff report

Care Dimensions, the largest hospice and palliative care provider to adults and children in Massachusetts, is proud to announce receiving a \$5,000 grant from East Boston Savings Bank Charitable Foundation (“Foundation”) to support the nonprofit’s telemedicine program. This program provides a free smartphone equipped with a HIPAA-secure, telemedicine application and internet connection for hospice and palliative care patients who don’t have access to the internet or a device to support real-time video nursing support and consultation.

“When the pandemic began and we implemented video visits to supplement limited in-person visits, we realized that many of our patients had no access to the internet or a device to be able to participate in this type of support,” said President and CEO Patricia Ahern, RN, MBA, FACHE. “The pandemic challenged us to be creative about ensuring continuity of care and healthcare equity for all patients. We are very grateful the Foundation has invested in our mission.”

A partner to Care Dimensions since 2010, the Foundation helps community organizations with

in their service area with an emphasis on assisting health and human services agencies and the support of low-income persons.

“For more than two decades through our Charitable Foundation, EBSB has been assisting charitable organizations like Care Dimensions by providing funding for programs that help improve the lives of those that are in need,” says Richard Gavegnano, Chairman, President and CEO of East Boston Savings Bank. “We feel very strongly about being a resource for these organizations especially during challenging times like the present.”

“Our program offers ad-

ditional support and peace of mind for some of Care Dimensions’ most vulnerable patients and caregivers who lack adequate digital access,” said Vice President of Philanthropy, Donna Deveau, M.Ed.

Care Dimensions is the largest hospice and palliative care provider to adults and children in Massachusetts. As a nonprofit, community-based leader in advanced illness care, Care Dimensions provides comprehensive hospice, palliative care, grief support in more than 100 communities in Massachusetts. Founded in 1978 as Hospice of the North Shore, Care Dimensions cares for patients wher-

ever they live – in their homes, in skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities, in hospitals, or at our two inpatient hospice facilities, the Care Dimensions Hospice House in Lincoln and the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers. Additionally, Care Dimensions HomeMD program provides in-home primary care to patients over age 65 in select communities on the North Shore and Greater Boston who have difficulty leaving home. The Care Dimensions Learning Institute educates more than 7,000 health care professionals and community members each year on advanced

illness and end-of-life topics. Please visit www.CareDimensions.org to learn more about Care Dimensions.

The East Boston Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established in 1998 by East Boston Savings Bank to provide funding to support charitable causes and community development activities within the communities of East Boston Savings Bank. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed more than \$7 million in funding to support many deserving charitable causes and community development activities.

Five arrested for gun charges, including a 13-year-old boy

By John Lynds

Boston Police are looking to enroll a juvenile arrested with four others in East Boston on gun charges earlier this month into a diversionary program. At a recent community meeting District A-7 Captain Kelly McCormick said the 13-year-old from Eastie charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition in a program that could help turn his life around.

Around 11 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, members of the Boston Police Youth Violence Strike Force recovered five firearms and placed five individuals under arrest for firearm related charges in the area of Maverick Landing Hous-

Mariona, 20, of Brockton, and charged him with Assault by Means of a Dangerous Weapon Gun, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition; Maurice Nunez, 25, of Boston, was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition; Deandre Clark, 21, of Brockton, was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition; and Henry Smith, 21, of Chelsea, was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

The 13-year-old was arrested with the other four men and charged with gun offenses. Captain McCormick said the teen could benefit from a diversion-

young age.

According to police, while stopped in traffic on London Street the Boston Police Youth Violence Strike Force officers observed a group of males congregating in the walkway area of 23 London St. The officers then observed one of the males, later identified as Erick Mariona, starting to walk towards the cruiser.

As Mariona got closer to the cruiser the officers observed a firearm in his right hand. He continued walking towards the cruiser, then stopped and allegedly raised the firearm pointing it directly at the officers.

The officers immediately exited their cruiser and ordered Mariona to drop the gun. Mariona turned and began running down an alleyway towards

leyway, which was covered in snow. As Mariona reached the end of the alleyway he turned towards the officers and raised the firearm in their direction a second time. Mariona then slipped on the snow and fell to the ground. It was only then that the officers were able to apprehend him and recover a firearm. The firearm, a 9mm, was loaded with 10 rounds of ammunition in the magazine and one round in the chamber.

Additional officers on scene stopped the four individuals Mariona was with and conducted a pat frisk of all four. One of the officers on scene approached a pile of snow that was in close proximity to the where the group was standing and immediately observed the handles of two black firearms in the snow pile.

The first firearm recovered from the snow, a Springfield Armory 9mm, was loaded with 12 rounds



The five guns recovered earlier this month in Eastie by the Boston Police Youth Violence Strike Force. Four men and one juvenile were arrested.

of ammunition in the magazine and one round in the chamber. The second firearm recovered was a Taurus PT709 Cal 9mm, which was loaded with five rounds of ammunition in the magazine and one round in the chamber, and had an obliterated serial number.

Further investigation by police into the snow pile revealed two additional firearms. The third firearm recovered from the snow

was a Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm, which was loaded with 11 rounds of ammunition in the magazine and one round in the chamber as well as having an obliterated serial number. A fourth firearm, which was buried further down in the snow pile, was also recovered. The firearm, a SCCY CPX-Z 9mm, contained nine rounds of ammunition in the magazine and one round in the chamber.

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Taylor, Erin	Puleo, Francesco P	910 Saratoga St #8	\$472,000
Barss, Suzanne M	CB Equities Saratoga St	946 Saratoga St #202	\$655,000
Paulino, Ivan I	CB Equities Saratoga St	946 Saratoga St #203	\$645,000
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Department of Early Education and Care adopts innovative parent co-pay model for families receiving child care subsidies

Staff report

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) adopted a new, first-in-the-nation, parent co-pay model that will dramatically reduce child care payments for families receiving state

subsidies by exempting family income up to the federal poverty level. The Board of Early Education and Care approved a parent co-pay schedule that will reduce the average co-payment for families from 10% to 2.4% of their overall monthly income. This change marks a substantive step forward in EEC’s efforts to make child care more accessible and affordable to families across the Commonwealth. Since March 2020, EEC has fully covered the cost of co-payments for families receiving state subsidies during the current public health crisis, totaling more than \$43 million. Over the last year, EEC worked with the Urban Institute, a national organization with expertise in child care subsidies, and with other family and child care provider advocates to develop the new co-pay model. Under the leadership of Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy – who was appointed in August 2019 – the fee scale is the first in the country to address the impact of co-payments on the lowest income families by creating the federal poverty level exemption. “This progressive reform will not only provide relief to most families that are eligible for child care subsidies, it will also ensure consistency and fairness in parent contributions as their income rises,” said Education Secretary James Peyser. Co-payments are based on

a percent of each family’s income above the poverty threshold that ranges from 4% to 15% of eligible income, and parent co-pays will only be required when a family’s income rises above the threshold. The percentage of families in Massachusetts required to pay a co-pay is expected to drop from 72% to 58%, and 98% of these families will now pay a co-pay of 7% or less than their overall income, the federal benchmark of child care affordability. The new model uses a co-pay schedule built on 28 incremental income ranges by family size, spanning incomes from 100% of the poverty threshold to 85% of state median income, which is the maximum income eligible for child care subsidies under federal regulations. When considered as a percent of families’ full income, co-pays are expected to range from <0.01% to 12% of a family’s full income for the vast majority (99%) of families above the poverty threshold. Co-pays for siblings are also charged at a discounted rate. EEC will build an online calculator and develop additional technology to support implementation of the new parent co-pay schedule. EEC licenses 6,700 child care providers, with capacity to care for 200,000 children aged birth to 15 years old. EEC provides child care subsidies that support approximately 55,000 children each month.

bpda

Virtual Public Meeting

355 Bennington Street

Thursday, March 4

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/355BenningtonPublicMeeting

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 443 5444

Project Proponent:

413-419 Bremen Street LLC

Project Description:

The Proposed Project consists of the redevelopment of an approximately 50,807 square foot parcel of land located at 355 Bennington Street and includes the demolition of the existing structure occupying the site and the construction of a mixed-use building with up to 180 residential units, ground floor retail space, off-street vehicle parking, and public realm improvements. Simultaneous Spanish interpretation service will be provided during this meeting.

mail to: **Raul Duverge**

Boston Planning & Development Agency

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4492

email: raul.duverge@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:

3/19/2021

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South End State Rep. and emergency room physician Jon Santiago announces bid for Mayor

By John Lynds

This week South End State Representative and an emergency room physician Dr. Jon Santiago announced his candidacy for Mayor of Boston. In a two minute video, produced in both English and Spanish, Santiago tells his personal story and calls on neighbors across the city to join together and write the next chapter of “our Boston story.”

Santiago is currently serving his second term as the State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District that includes the South End, Roxbury, Back Bay, and Fenway. He is an emergency room physician employed at Boston Medical Center and also serves as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve and has deployed overseas.

“We are living through an unprecedented crisis, the impact of which will last far beyond today. It’s a turning point for our city, but in it I also see great

possibilities,” said Santiago. “I see and hear it in the voices of my neighbors, patients, and constituents. I’ve spent my life in service to others and now I’m running for mayor to lead us through this moment and to a recovery rooted in equity and opportunity. I will bring our city back, stronger than ever. Today, we set out to bring neighbors together to write the next chapter of our Boston story.”

On Monday Santiago’s launch video titled “Our Boston Story” reintroduces the candidate to voters and tells how his early years in Boston led to a life of service - in the Peace Corps, as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve deploying overseas, an emergency room physician, and as a state representative.

“I’ve heard from many friends across every neighborhood about the challenges Boston faces in this critical moment and



South End State Representative and an emergency room physician Dr. Jon Santiago announced his candidacy for Mayor of Boston Monday.

its future,” said Santiago. “Our Boston story has always been about hard working people—everyday heroes who dig deep and harness the spirit of our city to keep moving us forward. Beginning right now, we’re building a grassroots movement to bring our city together to write our next chapter.”

In the video Santiago is

seen walking home from an overnight shift in the ER with his voiceover saying it is this time that he often reflects on his life and the future of his community.

“To think about my patients and try to understand why they ended up here. The daughter in the grips of substance use; a homeless family looking for shelter; the young man, another victim of gun violence. And now these same families, impacted by COVID-19,” says Santiago in the video. “I’ve come to learn that my patients are a reflection of Boston. Their stories speak to our greatest challenges. Disparities in health and wealth; rising rents; struggling schools. I’ve spent my life in service to tackle these very issues. I’m running for mayor to lead Boston through this crisis...to a recovery rooted in equity and opportunity.”

Santiago grew up in

subsidized housing and attended Boston Public Schools.

After college he joined the Peace Corps to help those less fortunate.

“I took an oath to serve in the Army and deployed overseas,” he says. “I came back to Boston to work as an ER doctor, now on the frontlines fighting COVID-19. My commitment to service is what compelled me to first run for public office. Every day I wake up ready to serve the people of Boston. But our city is now at a turning point. The pandemic has exposed our vulnerabilities. This moment requires a leader who sees each and every one of you. I’m ready to serve.”

To accompany the launch Santiago unveiled a new website at www.jonsantiago.org, which is already serving as an online organizing hub and a home for every Boston voice to share input, give

feedback, and engage in a dialogue with the campaign. In the days ahead, the campaign will be announcing COVID-safe online citywide organizing events.

Santiago’s elected service began in 2019 when he was sworn in as state representative for the 9th Suffolk District. Since then, he has been a leading voice on the COVID-19 response substance use issues, and vaccine equity across the Commonwealth. He has been appointed Vice Chair of the Joint Committee for COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness Management. He has been a staunch advocate for organized labor as a former member of CIR/SEIU and has championed transportation equity, environmental justice, and economic recovery for small businesses in Boston.

Santiago lives in the South End with his wife, Alexandra.

RMV encouraging motorists to start to renew expired inspection stickers

Staff report

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is ramping up

customer communication efforts to encourage anyone driving one of over 584,000 registered vehicles with an expired Massachu-

setts’ inspection sticker on their vehicle’s front windshield to make a plan to get their annual inspection and update their sticker as soon

as possible. All vehicles registered in Massachusetts must pass a yearly vehicle emissions and safety inspection, also known as

the Massachusetts Vehicle Check Program, which is essential to the safety of the Commonwealth’s environment and roadways.

soon as possible.”

The RMV is teaming up with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass-DEP), Massachusetts State Police (MSP), local law enforcement, and other business partners to remind customers of this time-sensitive requirement. While driving any motor vehicle without a valid inspection sticker is a traffic violation that may result in a fine and impact individual insurance rates, the RMV is asking law enforcement to use their discretion at this time and help remind and not cite those with expired stickers it’s time to renew.

“We encourage individuals to proactively check the current status of their motor vehicle inspection stickers, and not wait to schedule a safety inspection, if warranted,” said Chelsea Chief of Police and President of the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs of Police Association Brian Kyes.

RMV records show that approximately 584,000 active vehicle registrations in Massachusetts currently have an expired inspection sticker. An email reminder will be sent to the 437,000 individuals with an address on file. Other communication efforts will include social media outreach, reminders to RMV business partners and law enforcement, and buck-slip reminders will be included in registration mailings to encourage customers to “Check Ya Stickah” and take appropriate steps as needed.

and Tiania and dear brother of the late Vincent and Clara DiBenedetto. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral arrangements were by Vazza’s “Beechwood” Funeral Home, Revere.

Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Louis’ name to New England Center and Home for Veterans, 17 Court St. Unit 2601 Boston, MA 02108. For online guest book, please visit www.vazzafunerals.com.

OBITUARIES

Ralph Giorgio

Of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston

Ralph B. Giorgio of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully on February 19. The loving son of the late Joseph and Mary (Constantino) Giorgio, he was the devoted father of Christina Giorgio, dear brother of Patricia Parker and her husband, Ray, Arlene Riccobene and her husband, Ronald, and the late Joseph Giorgio; cherished grandfather of Oliver and loving companion of Barbara Mortimer. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews,



and cousins.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church, 320 Winthrop St., Winthrop on Friday, February 26 at 10 a.m. All family and friends are invited to attend. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

William Wilson, Jr.

Self-employed painter

William J. Wilson, Jr., 43, of Everett, formerly of North Reading, died unexpectedly at his home on Friday, February 19.

He was born in Boston on November 14, 1977, was raised and attended school in North Reading and was a graduate of North Reading High School.

He worked as a self-employed painter. Bill always said, the best things he had in life were his children and family. He enjoyed bike riding, drawing, fishing, he loved his body art and music.

Family members include his loving children, William and Lila; his parents, William J., Sr. and Juanna G. (Garcia) Wilson; his sisters, Carrie Ann Wilson-Long, Juanna



C. Wilson-Prochilo and Jamie M. Wilson-Henderson. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at the Croswell Funeral Home, 19 Bow Street, North Reading on Thursday, February 25 from 4 to 8 p.m. There will be no funeral service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his memory to the charity of one’s choice: www.croswellfuneralhome.com.

Louis DiBenedetto

Late proprietor of Lou’s Donuts Shop in Orient Heights

Louis DiBenedetto, 90, of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away on Monday, February 8.

Louis was the late proprietor of Lou’s Donuts Shop in Orient Heights East Boston, and Affiliate of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor. Louis served his Country during the Korean War in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The cherished son of the late Ralph and Maria (Vassallo) DiBenedetto, he was the beloved husband of the late Giuditta “Judy” (Polcari) DiBenedetto; loving father of Louis DiBenedetto and his wife, Joyce, Peter DiBenedetto, Tommy DiBenedetto and his wife, Patty, Robert DiBenedetto and his companion, Kristen Irving and Maria DiBenedetto; adored grandfather of Jared, Christian, Brittany, Mary, Tommy, Elizabeth



and Tiania and dear brother of the late Vincent and Clara DiBenedetto. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral arrangements were by Vazza’s “Beechwood” Funeral Home, Revere.

Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Louis’ name to New England Center and Home for Veterans, 17 Court St. Unit 2601 Boston, MA 02108. For online guest book, please visit www.vazzafunerals.com.

Collette Grant

Of Revere

Collette (Costello) Grant of Revere died unexpectedly on February 12 at the age of 75.

Born in Chelsea on October 15, 1945 to the late Joseph and Yvette (Giguere), she was the devoted mother of Eric M. Grant and his husband, David Finkelstein of Brooklyn, NY, and Heather Ford of Revere; cherished grandmother of Lynsdale Ford Jr., Sydney, Casey and Zachary Ford; dear sister of Michael Costello and his wife, Jane of New Hampshire, Cathy Costello of Malden and the late Raymond Costello and his surviving wife, Pastor Catherine Costello of North Carolina. She is also survived by countless friends.

Due to the current re-



strictions with Covid-19, all services were privately held by the immediate family. Interment at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody. A Celebration of Collette’s Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Rossetti Cowan Senior Center, 25 Winthrop Avenue, Revere, MA 02151. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

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

IN LOVING MEMORY



Francis M. Vatalaro

Feb. 27, 2018 — Feb. 27, 2021

*His smiling way and pleasant face
Are a pleasure to recall,
He had a kindly word for each
And died beloved by all.
Some day we hope to meet him,
Someday, we know not when,
To clasp his hand in the better land,
Never to part again.*

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

SIXTY CANDIDATES APPLY FOR DIVERSITY DIRECTOR JOB

CHELSEA - More than 60 candidates applied for the new Diversity Director position within the City of Chelsea – a new department that will have high-level status and will be charged with making City government more inclusive and welcoming.

It's a department proposed by City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Councilor Leo Robinson last summer in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, and in response to a list of demands from young people in Chelsea. Earlier this year, the City put together a Hiring Committee chaired by City Attorney Cheryl Fisher Watson. That Committee is currently interviewing candidates, and reportedly has some great options.

Fisher Watson said they had approximately 60 applicants and the Committee has reviewed all 60 applicants. They were ranked and from those rankings, six or seven were interviewed.

The goal will be to forward three applicants to the City Manager for the final hiring decisions.

Councilor Damali Vidot, who is on the Committee, said she was excited about the pool of applicants.

"We have some amazing candidates and we've narrowed it down now to a couple of folks," she announced at the Feb. 8 Council meeting.

A decision is expected in March.

•MORE MARIJUANA LICENSES

Council President Roy Avellaneda has proposed to increase the number of marijuana licenses from four to six in the City. While there was trepidation at first for the new industry, Chelsea has embraced it and already has one recreational marijuana store operating since November. Others are expected and Avellaneda said he hopes they can explore capping the number

at six and not four.

"In light of some of the delays because of marijuana expansion, I feel this warranted consideration," said Avellaneda.

However, Councilor Calvin Brown warned caution on the matter, and said an increase in licenses for marijuana outlets was not what voters approved some years ago on the ballot.

"When the voters went to the ballot in 2016, it passed in Chelsea," he said. "There were certain expectations of what that meant. Now, to do this is something we need to pay attention to because it goes beyond the intent of the law when we voted on it... We need to slow down on this."

Councilor Damali Vidot disagreed and said the marijuana question passed easily in Chelsea, perhaps as much as 10 percent, and she said there is an appetite for local people to try to get into the industry. To do so, they need more licenses.

"For Black and brown and immigrant communities this is a chance to build equity and affluence," she said. "This is an opportunity to level the playing field. I don't think we're necessarily moving too fast."

Councilor Todd Taylor said one thing to consider is those that invested in the City and already opened, thinking that there would only be four competitors. With more competitors, he said, that makes their license potentially less valuable.

"The concern I have is adding additional licenses and whether it might affect people who have already invested in a license and a business that's open," he said.

The matter will be brought up again at a future meeting.

•TAX ON ROAD SALT

Council President Roy Avellaneda also proposed at the Feb. 8 meeting a tax on road salt coming out of the Eastern Salt complex on Marginal Street.

He proposed a Home Rule Petition that would allow Chelsea to charge

something like 1 percent or less on the sale or transfer of a quantity of road salt. It would be levied on any company with salt storage in Chelsea.

It was moved to a Subcommittee on Conference.

•STOP WASTING FOOD

Councilor Giovanni Recupero was quite bothered during the meeting Feb. 8 about many people he sees taking food from the local food pantry relief efforts, and then throwing most of it away.

He encouraged those that don't need the relief food not to take it if they only plan to waste it. He said the problem is much larger than many would expect, particularly in his district.

"Please, if you get food, don't throw it away," he said. "I've been seeing food boxes that people get thrown in garbage cans. I'm in favor of giving out food to those that need it. I'm not in favor of wasting it. Give it to someone that needs it."

•IN THE CHAMBER?

Councilor Leo Robinson said he was only trying to ask a simple question of those that have been helped by the City's Business Relief Fund, but apparently it's a question others don't support.

At the Feb. 8 meeting, Robinson asked that the City gather responses about Chamber of Commerce membership amongst those that have taken assistance from the City's business fund. He said he simply wanted to know if they were members, or if they had joined since getting the City help.

Both Councilor Damali Vidot and Council President Roy Avellaneda objected, and said the Council and City had no authority to promote the Chamber of Commerce.

"I don't see anything wrong with them asking if it's only for informational purposes," said Councilor Todd Taylor.

"I think it's a very simple question to ask," said Robinson.

The matter was voted down 7-3.

WINTHROP HOUSING AUTHORITY BEGINS VACCINATIONS



Residents and staff of the Winthrop Housing Authority are shown above ready to receive the first COVID-19 vaccine shot. Shown to the right, Health Dept. workers fill out the forms.

REP. RYAN LANDS CHAIRMANSHIP

CHELSEA - State Rep. Dan Ryan was appointed to his first chairmanship position late last week by House Speaker Ron Mariano, with the veteran representative taking the lead on the House Election Laws Committee.

Ryan has served for his first several terms on important committees, such as transportation, but gaining a role as a chairman indicates somewhat of a promotion within the legislative body.

Ryan said this week he knew it was going to be a very busy Committee, with a lot of hearings and testimony to be heard given the changes to the voting and Elections systems during COVID-19. The future of those changes, and any new alterations, will likely be hashed out in his new Committee in the coming months.

"I want to thank Speaker Mariano and his leadership team for putting their trust in me to take on this important role," he said. "The COVID pandemic has certainly tested our resolve as a country and Commonwealth. This past year has laid bare the fragility of many sectors of society. However, out of necessity, we have also pulled together to test

some ideas that have been around for a while. Early voting, no-excuse absentee voting and other forms of ballot access initiatives were very popular. It will be a lot work right out of the gate to refine these processes for this year's elections - as well as for the long term. We need to ensure that elections are safe and fair with as much access to the ballot box as reasonably possible."

Due to the anticipated agenda of the Committee, Ryan was not assigned to any other Committees as a member in the coming session.

TDM HEADS TO CITY COUNCIL

EVERETT - After more than a year of discussion about Transportation Demand Management (TDM) within the City's development process, and several months of presentations to the Planning Board, the Board approved a recommendation to adopt a TDM plan - sending the matter now to the City Council for potential passage.

The TDM was proposed and discussed in early 2020, and even before, as development in Everett began to ratchet up and both the City and the development community looked for predictability

in regards to parking, traffic and transportation.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria has endorsed the plan that his Administration has proposed via Transportation Director Jay Monty - something that is central to his philosophy of pushing public transit so there could be more density in the buildout along Everett's main corridors.

"The whole premise here is we want the Site Plan Review process to take a holistic look at the transportation impacts," said Monty. "Zoning in most communities use parking and traffic as a proxy for transportation impacts. The two are kind of conflicting. The more parking, then the more traffic. It becomes a vicious spiral where there's more parking, more traffic and then more impacts. That's what the mayor has been saying the last several years now."

The TDM plan works where it gives developers and the City more choice.

Monty compares it to a menu in a restaurant. The developer still has some choice as to what they will choose to mitigate the transportation impacts of their project, but the City sets the menu and what is offered. In that way, there are no surprises and the

See REGION Page 9

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MALDEN CATHOLIC HOLDS ROLLING RALLY FOR ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Malden Catholic High School (MC) held an Accepted Students Rolling Rally on February 13 to welcome the incoming Class of 2025. Families paraded in line through the back parking lot, honking their horns in celebration to begin the spirited festivities that included triumphant music and a performance by the MC cheerleaders.

“This has been an outstanding enrollment season,” announced Mr. John Thornburg, Headmaster. “We are up to 140 students enrolled.”

Scholars filed individually through a line of applauding cheerleaders as their names were announced. With a burst of confetti, Mr. Thornburg presented each student with a certificate of admission on stage.

“Malden Catholic is the only school in the area that has continued to hold in-person classes,” explained Mr. Thornburg. “What Malden Catholic has to offer cannot be delayed.”

Students received a special \$500 waived registration fee, and Malden Catholic backpack gift for registering.



Peter Walsh, holding his certificate of admission, with Headmaster Thornburg.



Katana O'Keefe holding her certificate of admission, with Headmaster Thornburg.



Isabella Mejia receiving her MC backpack gift for registering



Isabella Mejia, of Revere, with her family, sitting in the parade line of cars for the Accepted Students Rolling Rally.



Morgan Hardy, holding her certificate of admission.



Valentina Tate, of Revere, walking through a line of cheerleaders.



Cheerleaders performing during the opening celebration of the Accepted Students Rolling Rally.



Lopi, as the Lancer mascot, and juniors, Khloe Camblin and Lily Baglio, bursting confetti into the air as each student walked on stage



Headmaster, Mr. John Thornburg, welcoming the Malden Catholic Class of 2025.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

MALDEN CATHOLIC STUDENTS ACHIEVE HONOR ROLL FIRST QUARTER

Malden Catholic High School students have completed the coursework for the first quarter for the 2020-21 school year. Malden Catholic divides honors into three sections: Headmaster's List, First Honors and Second Honors.

Headmaster's List is achieved by having over a 90 in all classes, First Honors is achieved by having over an 85 in all classes and Second Hon-

ors is achieved by having over an 80 in all classes.

The following East Boston resident achieved:

Headmaster's List: Samantha Seeley

First Honors: Rocio Rodriguez Cabarcas

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renowned universities including Har-

vard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Georgia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design.







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