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TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Happy Mother's Day!

See page 5 for Mother's Day Drawings

MBTA bus driver charged with sexual assault and kidnapping

By John Lynds

A MBTA bus driver that was working the route between Orient Heights MBTA Station in East Boston and Winthrop has been arrested and arraigned on charges of kidnapping, assault to rape, and indecent assault and battery.

Ali Ennab, 45, of Revere, is accused of allegedly attacking a woman after she boarded the #713 MBTA bus from Orient Heights to Winthrop on the evening of April 24. The alleged assault occurred and was captured by the surveillance system on board.

Ennab was arraigned in East Boston Municipal Court and John E. McDonald, Jr. set Ennab's bail at \$10,000 cash. Ennab was ordered to surrender his passport, stay away from the victim, not work as a bus driver or any transportation company for hire, and submit to GPS tracking. The Commonwealth also filed a motion to revoke bail on an assault and battery case out of Malden, which was allowed.

According to District Attorney Rachael Rollins the victim boarded the bus at Orient Heights and was heading to Winthrop just before 7:30 p.m. on April 24 but had missed her stop and was the only remaining person on the bus.

The woman, who does not speak English, was talking on her phone and missed her stop and then used a translator app to ask the driver to take her back to Orient Heights. The bus driver began speaking to her and identified himself as Ali, but he did not return to Orient Heights. Instead, he stopped the bus at a stop near the beach in Winthrop, and the victim began to feel nervous because she was the only passenger.

According to the DA's office Ennab then shut the bus off, got up and sat next to the victim and put his arm around her.

"He then pulled her closer to him and kissed her cheek," according to the DA's office. "The de-

See MBTA Page 2



The historic Nantucket Lightship, also known as Lightship No. 112 or simply LV-112 returned to its home berth in Eastie down near Piers Park at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina.

Nantucket Lightship returns home after seven months in dry dock

By John Lynds

After seven months in dry dock while undergoing extensive restorations and maintenance the Nantucket Lightship, has returned to its home port along East Boston's Waterfront near Piers Park.

Since 2009, Eastie has played host to this national treasure and now the giant red lightship is docked back on Marginal Street at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina after months of work.

"For the second time since 2011-12, LV-112 was re-launched from the historic Fitzgerald Shipyard in Chelsea after slightly more than seven months of a major and comprehensive \$1.4 million structural restoration," said leader of the ship's museum, the U.S. Lightship Museum (USLM), Robert Manino, Jr. "Mostly implemented inside the bow section, the restoration included rebuilding the anchor manger, the forward port and starboard ballast tanks, bulkheads, hull frames, lower forward floor frames, and various other structural sections throughout the ship including the mooring capstan on the bow weather deck. Also, more than a dozen sea-valves from the

bor Shipyard and Marina

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See LIGHTSHIP Page 3

First design of future Piers Park III released

By John Lynds

At a recent community meeting, the Trustees of Reservations unveiled a landscape architect firm's first draft of the future Piers Park III park design.

This initial design was created by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc (MVVA) using input from the January public meetings and from an ongoing online community survey.

MVVA's rendering features tide pools, grassy lawns, a picnic grove, kayak launch, natural plantings, and a salt marsh.

With the first design draft now published, Managing Director of the Boston Waterfront Initiative for the Trustees, Nick Black is asking Eastie residents and the general public for their continued comments, suggestions and questions. The input gathered from recent public meetings, as well as from an ongoing online survey and digital bulletin board, will help to inform the next draft of the design.

The online survey can be found at <https://one-waterfront.thetrustees.org/survey>.

"Right now we want to know what would attract you to this future waterfront park, what features of this first design do you like, and what's still missing?" said Black. "From the start our goal has been to create a park for, and with, the community so it's critical to hear different voices and incorporate public feedback into these designs. We expect this design process to continue throughout 2021, as we

See PIERS PARK Page 2

Eastie's Corner Stalk Farm seeking cannabis grow license

By John Lynds

For the past eight years, Shawn Cooney of Corner Stalk Farms has been quietly growing fresh green-leaf vegetables inside old shipping containers that have been repurposed to grow year round crops down on Condor Street along Chelsea Creek.

At last week's Eagle Hill Civic Association meeting Cooney said he's revisiting his plan to begin growing cannabis here in East Boston and will be seeking a grow license from the state.

"Currently we at Corner Stalk Farm produce lettuce and herbs for sale and in 2018 we got our hemp license from the US Department of Agriculture for the cultivation and

manufacturing of hemp products on the same space under Cloud Farming LLC," said Cooney at the meeting. "We've been growing (hemp) in this space since 2018 with no security problems. We're modular so we can isolate our hemp production, and future cannabis production, from our lettuce and greens production."

However, part of urban farming is making the business sustainable for the long term. With medicinal and recreational marijuana dispensaries open for business Cooney is looking toward cannabis as a much-needed cash crop to keep Corner Stalk going.

"If we get a cannabis li-

See FARM Page 6



Corner Stalk specializes in using Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA). Inside the shipping containers, cannabis will be grown with hydroponics, a soil-less growing method that allows the cultivation of plants using recirculated water with optimum nutrient inputs.

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## Piers Park // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

move into gathering ideas and presenting options for park activities and programming.”

Black said that poll questions and a Q&A session generated lively discussion during the recent public meetings where the first design was released. Participants asked questions ranging from the climate resilience of the future park to the size and height of the landscape, and whether a ferry stop might be an option.

Black said feedback on the first design will continue to be gathered throughout the spring and early summer, with additional public meeting dates being announced in the coming weeks.

“We hope to hear from a wide selection of people interested in this park,” added Black. “We want this to be a gathering place for families, and a favorite space for Bostonians—a world-class destination on our beautiful harbor and a real community resource for the neighborhoods behind it.”

Two years ago, the Trustees of Reservations submitted the only bid to Massport’s call for a private/public partner to come forward and help fund the design and construction of Piers Park Phase III.

The dilapidated pier is adjacent to Massport’s award winning Piers Park and the future Piers Park Phase II project.

The Trustees of Reservations operate 120 miles of protected coastline, which includes over 60 miles of trails, and a bunch of beaches and all sorts of other natural habitats in the state.

Massport has been working with the community and other stakeholders over the last two to three years to build out Piers Park Phase II. It was around this time the Trustees of Reservations started having conversations with Massport about their waterfront initiative.

The Trustees of Reservations spent a lot of 2019 working with Massport and others to investigate the site and understand what the conditions were so the Trustees of Reservations could start to piece together what the possibilities would be for a waterfront park that is active and engaging.

At a community meeting last week, Gabriela Ramirez introduced herself as the new Piers Park III Community Outreach Coordinator. Like Black,

Ramirez encouraged residents to take the project survey.

“We are using the survey for community input and we’re still interested in gathering the community’s thoughts, feedback and question (on the first design),” said Ramirez. “If you have not responded, please do so and, if you can, share the survey with your friends and your neighbors. We want to make sure that the designer has as much of the community’s input as possible. This will be our park and the Trustees really want to see what the community wants.”

Ramirez also reported that the Trustees will be hiring 12 high school-aged youth for their Boston Waterfront Ambassadors Summer Program.

“It’s a seven week paid job for youth ages 15 to 18,” said Ramirez. “The program runs from July to August and will be both virtual and in person. These Ambassadors will learn about the waterfront in East Boston and across the city and they’re going to be working on the Piers Park III project and engaging with the community.”

## MBTA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

endant told the woman he could get her a green card. She responded that she has a husband and doesn’t need a green card, then again asked him to open the doors because she wanted to get off the bus. He asked for her number and she called her phone from his phone so that his number would be there in case something happened to her. He then began eating his dinner and refused to open the doors to let her off the bus.”

According to the DA’s office, after eating, Ennab started the bus and the victim started walking toward the doors but Ennab turned the bus off again.

“She asked him to open the door and he lunged at her, ripping her mask off and kissing her face,” reported the DA’s office. “He groped her body and put his hand down her pants. She begged him to stop and he continued assaulting her. She recorded audio of the assault on her phone. In the audio, the victim can be heard in Spanish begging the driver to stop and open the



Ali Ennab, the MBTA bus driver accused of allegedly kidnapping and attacking a woman.

door. He responds, “Me, I’m boyfriend for you, it’s okay.” She continues to tell him no and to open the door. When an unidentified woman walked near the bus, she apparently caused Ennab to open the door allowing the victim to leave.”

Rollins said a woman should be able to ride a public bus without fear of kidnap and sexual assault

“Women, just like all people, have the right to not be harassed, violated, harmed, or objectified,” said Rollins. “As I have said, fathers need to start speaking to their sons,

and men need to tell their brothers, friends and colleagues about a new vision of masculinity where men are working to end violence against women and girls,” District Attorney Rollins said. “The allegations outlined in this case are deeply disturbing.”

Ennab, who is employed by Paul Revere Transportation LLC as a contract driver for the MBTA, was represented at arraignment by attorney Ross Schreiber. He returns to court May 25, 2021.

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven otherwise.

## Tunnel // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as more people return to work, school and traveling the numbers will tick up once again and the four month closure will pose significant impacts.

MassDOT plans to reroute Eastie, North Shore and Logan Airport traffic through the Ted Williams Tunnel during the closure.

At last week’s meeting one resident asked how MassDOT would ensure traffic is kept off neighborhood streets.

McLaughlin said MassDOT would only put detour signage on major routes but admitted that motorists using mapping apps like WAZE may prove to be a problem.

“We will be signing the main major routes, we’re not signing anything on any other routes,” said McLaughlin. “We will have real time monitoring so we’ll know what the volumes are so that we can adjust the timing as much as we’re able to to do so that people don’t go on to local streets. We’re

informing all of the mapping companies that these are the detours. However, we cannot dictate to them where they send people unfortunately.”

Mapping apps like WAZE, were cited by MassDOT as an unforeseen problem when the plaza was reconfigured. These apps help motorists avoid traffic and provide shortcuts to a commuters final destination. In the case of the traffic caused by the toll plaza project, these apps redirected many North Shore commuters off Route 1A and onto neighborhood streets adding to the unbearable traffic each morning in Eastie.

Now with MassDOT planning to close the tunnel for four months at a time when traffic should return to normal levels post-pandemic, residents are nervous that North Shore commuters will be getting off the highway well before the Ted Williams Tunnel and cut through Revere and the Eastie. Residents fear Bennington and Saratoga Streets will be used more heavily as a way to avoid highway traffic into the Ted Williams through-out the closure.

The proposed project consists of resurfacing the tunnel roadway including pavement and lane markings; rehabilitating the overhead arch and ceiling, including deteriorating suspended ceiling supports; restoring the historic portal facades and addressing the functional system deficiencies of the Sumner Tunnel. Once the project has been completed, the

Sumner Tunnel will meet modern fire and life safety codes with fireproofing, fire standpipe, fire alarm and CCTV upgrades. The tunnel will feature new LED lighting and security systems; new utility conduits and cables under the roadway deck which will improve cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel.

McLaughlin said the advantages of weekend and the subsequent full closure would minimize safety risks to tunnel workers and motorists; accelerates project completion; minimizes duration of disruption to local communities, businesses and road users; provides consistent detours and diversions for the traveling public; minimizes temperature and weather delays; and allows for high quality of work.

“We have a tunnel that is about 100 years old and we’re not replacing the tunnel, we’re rehabilitating the tunnel so that we can get another many decades out of it,” said McLaughlin. “And to do this it requires some shutdowns. There will be pain but that’s the nature of living in an urban environment like this. These are the types of things that we have to go through. But we think our solution is sensible and smart and safe in the long term.”

The next meeting will be a virtual design public hearing on Wednesday, May 19 at 6 p.m.

For more info and updates visit <https://www.mass.gov/sumner-tunnel-restoration-project>.

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## Virtual Community Workshop

# PLAN: East Boston Workshop

Thursday, May 20  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Register on Zoom  
[bit.ly/PLANEbMay20](https://bit.ly/PLANEbMay20)


### Event Description

In collaboration with the City of Boston, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) has prepared draft recommendations for Maverick Square, Day Square, Orient Heights Square, Suffolk Downs Square, and the connections between them. A document summarizing these draft recommendations will be made available in advance of the event on the PLAN: East Boston website [bit.ly/PlanEastBoston](https://bit.ly/PlanEastBoston). The document will be available in English and Spanish.

The first part of the workshop will orient attendees to the document and online feedback tool. The second part will focus on draft recommendations prepared for Day Square. Comments on draft recommendations can be submitted at this event, through the online engagement tool, or at follow up events. Future workshops will include draft recommendations for Neighborhood Residential Areas, and Waterfront and Evolving Industrial Areas Simultaneous English and Spanish interpretation will be provided. Please register for the event at [bit.ly/PLANEbMay20](https://bit.ly/PLANEbMay20)

**Contact:**  
Kristina Ricco  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201  
617.918.4238 | [kristina.ricco@boston.gov](mailto:kristina.ricco@boston.gov)

[bostonplans.org](https://bostonplans.org)

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20

**The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated**

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.** a public **MEETING** of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka **PIERPAC**) will be held via remote participation in light of the ongoing State of Emergency declared in connection with the COVID-19 Pandemic

A web link and Details on how to participate remotely shall be provided on the organization's website (in both English and Spanish) [www.ebpierpac.org](https://www.ebpierpac.org) on or before **May 14, 2021** at which time you may register to participate

It is the intention of the Committee to discuss in open meeting the following matter(s):

**REGULAR MEETING:**  
a. 6:30 pm - Attendance  
b. 6:45 pm - Approval of Minutes April 18, 2021

**New Business**

a. 7:00 pm – Update from Massport regarding Security and Maintenance Semi Annual Review (public comment to follow)  
b. 7:20 pm - Subcommittee Updates for Membership and Operation Security and Maintenance  
c. 7:40 pm - Treasurer's Report (Month Ending April 30)

**Old Business**

a. 7:45 pm - Update - Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM) Agreement (continued discussion)  
b. 7:55 pm - Update - Massport annual financial commitment (continued discussion)  
c. 8:00 pm – Anticipated adjournment

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, the Board, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L. 30A.s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED AND WELCOMED TO ATTEND**

A copy of this notice has also been posted on the organization's website at: [www.EBPierPAC.org](https://www.EBPierPAC.org) and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 5 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.  
By: Louise Montanino, President



Lightship // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

auxiliary engine room sea-chest were completely rebuilt, in addition to valves and piping associated with the ship trim and bilge pumping system.”

Mannino said routine maintenance also was performed, combined with an updated marine survey and ultrasonic testing (UT) of the ship’s shell plating below the waterline.

In 1989, the lightship was declared a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Since then there has been a push locally to restore the historic Nantucket Lightship, also known as Lightship No. 112 or simply LV-112.

Mannino, Jr. said the latest phase to historically restore the Nantucket Lightship was jointly funded by grants from the City of Boston’s Community Preservation Act and a National Park Service “Save America’s Treasures” grant.

“The majority of the funding was generously provided by a National Park Service “Save America’s Treasures” grant, a Community Preservation Act–Boston grant, in addition to individual and corporate donors,” said Mannino. “Because of the large amount of restoration work scheduled, additional specialized marine contractors were hired as part of the team in conjunction with the Fitzgerald Shipyard workers.”

The USLM, the non-profit organization that has been overseeing the Nantucket’s restoration, received a \$487,500 grant to restore internal structural components and provide general maintenance critical to maintaining the integrity of the ship’s hull and ability to remain open to the general public for decades to come.



The historic Nantucket Lightship, also known as Lightship No. 112 or simply LV-112, recently left dry dock after seven months of restoration.

At the time of its NHL designation the Nantucket was the last serving lightship and one of only two capable of moving under its own power.

The ship was docked in Oyster Bay, Staten Island at the time, and was purchased for \$1 by the USLM under the leadership of Mannino. The ship arrived in Eastie in October 2009.

The USLM’s primary mission is to restore and preserve the Nantucket Lightship as a National Historic Landmark, National Treasure, and operate the ship as a museum and floating educational center in Eastie that is open to the general public. In addition, the museum provides interactive educational programs for grade school students and under-served youths in Boston, especially in the Eastie.

Mannino said the remainder of restoration will be accomplished at the Nantucket’s berth.

“Upon completion of this phase, LV-112’s rehabilitation will be approximately 70 percent completed,” said Mannino. “The most critical and comprehensive portion of LV-112’s structural restoration is virtually done.

However, there is still a lot of interior restoration needed, which involves mostly cleaning, prep and painting. Also a moderate amount of structural and mechanical restoration work needs to be done.”

Mannino said at this point, based on the unanticipated restoration work that added to the initial dry-docking restoration plan USLM has reassessed the restoration project work that remains to be completed.

“It is estimated that approximately \$2.3 million will be needed to virtually complete LV-112’s restoration and preservation,” said Mannino. “The U.S. Lightship Museum is always seeking potential donors who would like to help support this unique historic cause of preserving this important National Historic Landmark and National Treasure and assist us in achieving Nantucket Lightship/LV-112’s restoration and preservation.”

Mannino said donations can be mailed to: U.S. Lightship Museum, P.O. Box 454, Amesbury, MA 01913, Online donations can be made via the PayPal link in this newsletter or through USLM’s GoFundMe page.

News in Brief

JPNA MAY 10 MEETING AGENDA

The Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association will meet on Monday, May 10 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm by a Zoom Video Conference.

REGISTRATION is REQUIRED!

In order to speak aloud as an abutter, one must register for this meeting by Sunday, May 9 at 7pm.

The following is the agenda for the upcoming monthly meeting:

AGENDA (subject to change):

- Greetings & Announcements
- Nominations for JPNA Board
- Boston Police Update
- Santa Fe Burrito Grill - 1st Meeting - Proposed Restaurant at 303 Sumner St.
- The Trustees of Reservations - Gabrielle Ramirez, Outreach Coordinator
- VOTE: 304 Sumner St - Erect addition and change occupancy from 3 to 4 units.
- Property Owner: 304 Sumner St, LLC
- Represented by: Richard C. Lynds, Esq

As a reminder, all questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. We ask all attendees to remain muted unless called upon to speak. Looking forward to “seeing” you all there!

We are using eBallot to manage the voting process. Within 48 hours after the meeting, eligible voters will be emailed a link that will allow them to vote online. All votes must be cast by Friday, May 14th at 7pm. Late votes will not be accepted, no exceptions.

We hope you and your loved ones are well. We

are all in this together as neighbors and friends. Please don’t be afraid to reach out.

2021 meeting dates are posted at jeffriespoint.org

**EAST BOSTON RESIDENT INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AT BC HIGH**

Jack Brodin (Class of 2022) and an East Boston resident has been inducted into the Robert J. Fulton, SJ Chapter of the National Honor Society at Boston College High School:

The National Honor Society (NHS) was created by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to recognize high school students who have distinguished themselves in their school and community.

Each year eligible juniors and seniors are invited to apply for membership in NHS. Applications are reviewed by a committee of BC High teachers to confirm that each student has attained a high standard of each of these characteristics: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

At BC High, NHS members are committed to service in the school and in the broader community. All students applying for membership must be current with the completion of required community services hours for their grade level at BC High. After induction into NHS, all members are expected to offer significant service to the school community as tutors in the Academic Resource Center, as ambassadors at Open House and Admissions events,

and in other capacities.

A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 is required of all applicants. Beyond the grade point average, applicants must be a positive presence in their academic classes. They must show initiative and dependability, work well with other students, exhibit a strong work ethic, and demonstrate openness to growth.

**LOVE YOUR BLOCK MAVERICK/CENTRAL CLEANUP SET FOR MAY 15**

Join with Maverick/Central Neighborhood Association, East Boston Main Streets, Tree Eastie, Mothers Out Front and Maverick Landing Community Services for a Spring Cleanup.

This event will be socially distanced. Gloves, bags and water will be provided. Due to safety guidelines, space and tools will be limited. There will be a max of 25 volunteers to a location. Masks required.

Choose your time and location

Saturday, May 15 from 9 AM to noon

Saturday, May 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Central Square in front of EB Social Center

Maverick Square in front of EBNHC

Take pride in your neighborhood and help clean up our streets and parks! We’ll pick up street and park litter, rake leaves and remove branches from parks. Receive a free tree seedling for your yard if you are interested.

For more information and to sign up visit the Maverick/Central Neighborhood Association Facebook page.



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## Boston Water and Sewer Commission

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# East Boston

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**PUBLISHER EMERITUS:** John A. Torrone

## THE BIDEN DEAL IS LONG OVERDUE

The ambitious proposal set forth by President Joe Biden last week in his speech to a joint session of Congress has elicited the usual negative response from the usual suspects.

However, those who oppose Biden's \$2 trillion plan to invest in America and its people display a total ignorance of history, specifically, the New Deal.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal policies raised the wrath of Republicans who, similar to Republicans today, claimed that the New Deal would cost too much and that it was tantamount to socialism.

But the reality of what the New Deal achieved dramatically transformed American life in countless ways and launched America onto its trajectory to becoming the greatest nation on earth. Among the highlights of the New Deal were:

-- The New Deal lifted millions of Americans out of poverty, especially older Americans via Social Security;

-- The New Deal gave power to labor unions, thereby leveling the playing field with corporate America and creating the great American Middle Class;

-- The New Deal enacted necessary government regulation that reined-in the excesses of Wall St. and the banks that had brought the Great Depression; and

-- The New Deal included much-needed investment in our infrastructure, including countless projects that still stand today in communities across the country.

The obvious benefits to the nation of the New Deal encouraged policy-makers to enact other programs of investment in America over the next to 40 more years under Democrats and Republicans alike, including the GI Bill (Truman), the national highway system (Eisenhower), Medicare (Johnson), and the Environmental Protection Agency (Nixon).

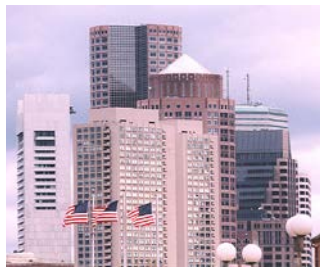
During this time frame, corporations paid their fair share of taxes, individual tax rates were much higher, and income-inequality was non-existent (by today's standards). America was the unquestioned leader of the world.

Today however, thanks to the shortsighted policies of the past 40 years (beginning with Reagan and abetted by Democrats) that have been highlighted by corporate welfare, excessive military spending, ever-increasing wealth and income inequality, and underinvestment in our people and our infrastructure, America has become the equivalent of a Third World country in many respects.

In short, America has gone from first to worst.

President Joe Biden's speech laid out a path to restore America to our former greatness.

To those who say that we cannot afford the Biden Deal, our response is simple: We can't afford not to.



# Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

### Work on your Mother's Day memories

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Plan your telephone call to say hello to mom this Sunday. Better yet, if possible, make a visit with a card or even some flowers or maybe some brownies or a special treat. Moms deserve to be treated special. Take her out to lunch or dinner if possible. It doesn't have to be Sunday, maybe Saturday would work better. Tell mom what she means to you. Let her know that you love her and that you give thanks for all she has done for you. Let her know she was a good mother and that you are grateful for everything. Moms need to hear it and you'll be glad for everything you do for your mother.

However, you may not be so fortunate. My mother Eula Hinkle Mollette, passed away many years ago. My son's mother Karen Mollette passed

away in 2002. The years go by quickly. For too many, Mother's Day can be a sad day because mom is no longer here. All you have is your many memories and too often memories are filled with mixed emotions. You remember what was wonderful, but you may start thinking about all you wish you had done or could do if you had her today. If you have your mother today then celebrate in every way you can.

Sadly over 200,000 women are in prison or jail in the United States today. Eighty percent of these women have minor children. Mother's Day is a painful day for these women and their families.

Millions of children live with parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs or both. These children are raised in sad environments where they have had to emotionally

and often even financially help their parents. Often, these daily struggles make it difficult to celebrate the "picture perfect" day that is touted by the flower and card companies. They may go to buy a Mother's Day card but just cannot find one that really expresses how they feel. Many children have been raised in painful, abusive environments and Mother's Day is depressing because they can't conjure up that many good memories of mom. Many of these children want mom to be well and healthy. They want to know that they are loved by mom. Unfortunately, there are so many adults who have mothers who could never turn their lives around. They are often exhausted from trying to make "Mom and family" work.

Mother's Day is our opportunity to try to do the right things again. Us-

ing words like, "I care, love, appreciate, thank you and any that express your heart's desire to be connected are worthwhile expressions. When you do the best you can do, you can at least look back and know that you tried.

When Mom and our loved ones are no longer with us then all we have are our memories. If you have any time left to work on your Mother's Day memories you won't regret it in the years to come.

*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.*

## LETTER to the Editor

### ELECTRIC SILVER LINE BUSES FOR HEALTHIER NEIGHBORHOODS

To the Editor,

I thoroughly agree with a recent public opinion piece co-authored by Senator Joe Boncore and Maria Belen Power in which they rightly criticize the MBTA's proposal to replace the Silver Line's aging buses with more diesel

hybrid vehicles instead of new electric buses. This project could be an opportunity for the Commonwealth to begin to address the huge disproportionate environmental burdens imposed by the State on East Boston and Chelsea. These are densely populated communities directly under Logan Airport's flight paths and overrun with major highways spewing toxic pollutants

without interruption.

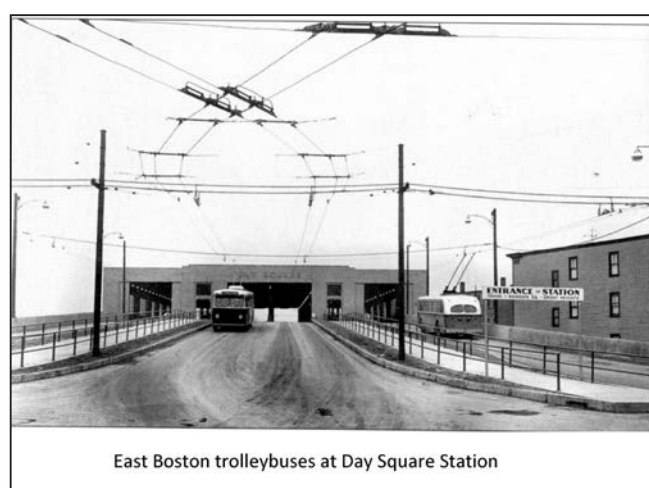
It is astonishing that the MBTA is unable to devise an engineering solution for an all-electric bus to serve the Silver Line route. It would certainly not be precedent setting. Perhaps the MBTA could dust off its archives that illustrate how all-electric buses were successfully operated for many years in East Boston and other communities, providing

reliable, quiet and pollution free bus service before being replaced with diesel vehicles.

I have attached a few photos showing these successful all-electric buses serving East Boston for years.

Thank you,

**John Vitagliano**  
**Former Commissioner,**  
**Boston Transportation**  
**Department.**



East Boston trolleybuses at Day Square Station



This trolleybus was one of a fleet that served East Boston until 1961, when they were replaced by diesel buses. The trolleybuses were quiet, fast and pollution free.

## Local mothers build living art exhibition to educate community on air pollution

On Saturday, May 8, from 1-4 pm in honor of the Mother's Day weekend, environmental justice organization Mothers Out Front East Boston and a number of community partners will transform East Boston's Central Square into a COVID-safe education hub through a community art build called "Pollution and Solutions." The event is made possible by a City of Boston Love Your Block grant and will educate the community on the negative health impacts of air pollution in neighborhoods surrounding Logan Airport, as well as the solutions at our disposal.

"Whether walking our kids to school or waiting for the bus, East Boston residents are constantly at risk for breathing in harmful pollutants released into the air by Logan Airport,

related car traffic, diesel school busses, gas leaks, and other sources," says Sonja Tengblad, coordinator of the East Boston Chapter of Mothers Out Front. "Air pollution disproportionately affects people of color worldwide, and since East Boston is made up of almost 60% Latinx families, we wanted to illustrate this reality through our art installation."

Childhood asthma is up 360% and adult chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is doubled in neighborhoods bordering Logan Airport. In addition, increased exposure to ultrafine particulate (UFPs), pollution particles so small they can more easily enter the bloodstream and damage organs, is linked to childhood developmental problems, autism, early-onset

dementia, premature birth, and birth defects, stroke, and many other health problems.

To bring attention to this often invisible problem, Mothers Out Front invites local residents to join them in East Boston's Central Square to fill life-size letters spelling the word "AIRE" with flowering plants and greenery donated by Schumacher Landscaping, a project designed by Danielle Meeker Emond of Eastside CO/LAB. Located at the corner of Bennington and Meridian Streets, across from the Liberty Tree Plaza Shopping Center, the installation, featuring bilingual signage, invites attendees to learn more about how to protect themselves and their families from air pollution. Event participants can also:

- Watch the creation of

a beautiful sidewalk mural by local artist Sury Chavez of Galeria de Chuwi.

- Learn about urban forestry organization TREE Eastie's new Adopt-A-Tree program which will help East Boston plant trees to clean our air.

- Enter a free raffle to win an Austin Air Systems HEPA filter, one of only a couple of models of filters that effectively protect against COVID and ultra-fine particulate pollution.

- Download the Air Partners air quality app to detect air pollution in your neighborhood.

- Learn more about exciting new air pollution mitigation legislation filed by State Rep. Adrian Madaro.

- Take home free tree seedlings to grow at home. Recent studies have

See MOTHERS Page 7

## 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@eastietimes.com**.

Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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# Mom's The Word!

Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms in our community!



For Mamie,  
love Miranda



For Mom, Jackie,  
Love Grace



For Mom, Jackie,  
love Lulu



For Mom, Marissa,  
Love June

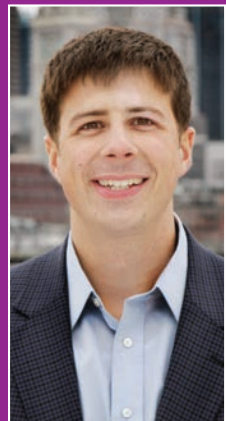


For Mom, Renee,  
love Jayden



For Mom, Chrissy,  
love Tatum

WISHING ALL  
EASTIE MOMS  
A WONDERFUL  
MOTHER'S DAY



STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**ADRIAN  
MADARO**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May your day be filled with Love, Joy, & Laughter



**LYDIA EDWARDS**  
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**Erin Murphy for Boston  
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*Happy Mother's Day!*

Here's to all the moms who guided their families through a very tough year. This is YOUR day!

I am a mom, a public school teacher, and a community advocate. I will work hard every day for academic success in our schools, safer neighborhoods, and a healthier Boston for ALL.

I ask for one of your four votes in September.

**ERINFORBOSTON.COM**



## Farm // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cense, hopefully with your (EHCA) approval we will still be a lettuce farm,” explained Cooney. “We will also still be a hemp farm under the license we’ve had since 2018.”

Cooney said the hemp and cannabis growing operations would be both under Cloud Farming and if they succeed in getting a cannabis grow license from the state it will be used for cultivation and manufacturing of cannabis only.

“There will be no retail sales on site,” said Cooney. “Eventually we may be able to produce oil and rosins and sell those products to other manufacturing operations that sell to dispensaries.”

Inside the shipping containers, cannabis will be grown with hydroponics, a soil-less growing method that allows the

cultivation of plants using re-circulated water with optimum nutrient inputs. Compared to the harmful chemical and grey water runoff created by industrial farming and urban pollution, Corner Stalk has no runoff and uses no pesticides or harmful chemicals. To top it off, Corner Stalk’s leverage vertical growing technology is able to grow 20 plants per square foot of farm space.

As for security, Cooney said all the grow units in the repurposed shipping containers are secure.

“They’re all metal construction, stainless steel, aluminum and corten steel,” he said. “There will be no retail on site, there’s no foot traffic, there’s no cash and there’s no transactions. They are already video monitors inside and we have a 24 hour surveillance set up with human

monitoring.”

Cooney added that expanding to a cannabis grow operation could potentially bring an additional 15 living wage jobs for local residents to Corner Stalk.

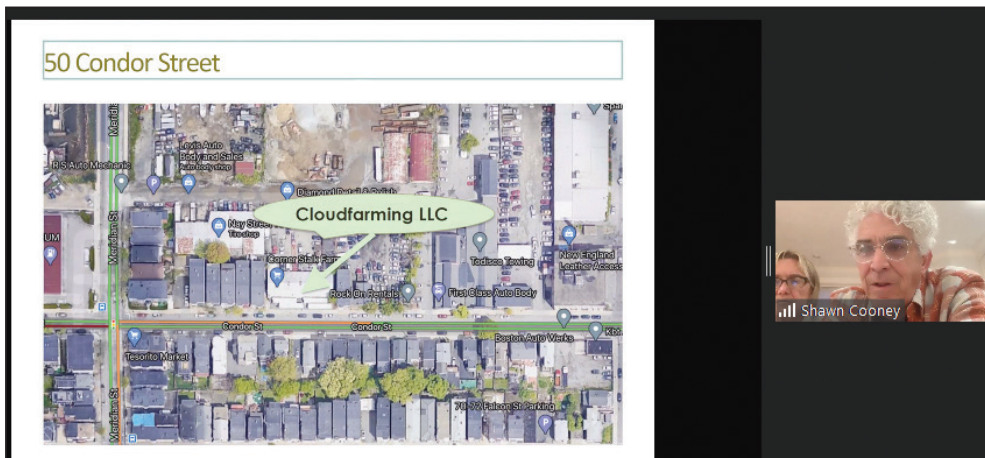
Cooney’s Corner Stalk, which opened a fresh veggie stand a few years back at the Boston Public Market in downtown, specializes in using Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA). Cooney said LED lighting, temperature control and automatic water flow within insulated shipping containers creates the ideal environment that leafy greens need. A year round growing season and dense planting allow maximum productivity so when there’s a blizzard or heat wave, Cooney is still harvesting delicious leafy greens.



Corner Stalk Farm’s Shawn Cooney outside one of the old shipping containers that have been repurposed to grow year round crops down on Condor Street along Chelsea Creek.



LED lighting, temperature control and automatic water flow within insulated shipping containers creates the ideal environment that leafy greens need.



Corner Stalk Farm’s Shawn Cooney pitches his plan to grow cannabis at his facility on Condor Street.

## Groups urge passage of Save Hotel Jobs Act

Staff Report

The American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA) and UNITE HERE, the largest hospitality workers union in North America, joined forces to call on Congress to pass the Save Hotel Jobs Act. The bill, introduced by U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist (D-Fla.), provides a lifeline to hotel workers, providing the assistance they need to survive until travel returns to pre-pandemic levels.

Chip Rogers, president and CEO of AHLA, applauded Senator Schatz and Representative Crist for introducing this critical legislation to support hotel workers.

“Every day, hotels are closing for good, and hardworking, loyal employees are sadly being let go,” said Rogers. “No industry has been more affected by the pandemic than hospitality. Government-issued travel bans and restrictions, which are meant to slow the spread of the virus, have wiped out 10 years of job growth in our industry. Now, millions of jobs and thousands of businesses are at risk—not just hotels, but the many businesses and workers hotels also support in the community. Congress must step up now to support the hotel industry workforce with targeted relief.”

D. Taylor, president of UNITE HERE, representing more than 300,000 employees said, “UNITE HERE members do critical work cleaning hotel rooms, cooking food, and welcoming travelers that is essential to our economy. Hospitality workers have been devastated by the pandemic, with 98 percent of our members laid off at the peak of the shutdowns and more than 70 percent still out of work today. The Save Hotel Jobs Act will provide important assistance in bringing back good hospitality jobs and making sure that workers who were laid off during the pandemic are recalled back to work.”

“The pandemic has left millions of hotel employees out of work and many

more struggling to get by with less hours. They need help,” said Senator Schatz. “Our bill creates a new grant program that will bring back hotel jobs, pay workers, and help our economy recover.”

“After a devastating year for the Florida tourism industry and the incredibly hardworking employees whose labor makes it all possible, I am proud to join the American Hotel and Lodging Association, UNITE HERE, and Sen. Brian Schatz to announce legislation that will get our hotel workers back on the job and give our tourism economy the jump start it needs,” said Rep. Crist. “With the end of the pandemic within our sights, we need to make sure that the workers and hotels make it through to the other side as well. That’s what the Save Hotel Jobs Act is all about. When the rest of America is ready to return to Florida’s beaches safely, our workers and hotels will be ready!”

The pandemic has been devastating to the hospitality industry workforce. Leisure and hospitality has lost 3.1 million jobs during the pandemic that have yet to return, representing more than a third of all unemployed persons in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Even starker, the unemployment rate in the accommodation sector specifically remains 330 percent higher than the rest of the economy.

Unfortunately, the road to recovery for the hotel industry is long. While leisure travel will start returning this summer as more people are vaccinated, business travel—the largest source of hotel revenue—is down 85 percent and is not expected to begin its slow return until the second half of this year. Full recovery is not expected until 2024.

The Save Hotel Jobs Act will provide critical support to hotels and their workers during this crucial period. Key provisions include the following:

- Supporting Hotel Workers: Direct payroll grants will be utilized for payroll and benefits expenses for workers.

## Face coverings continue to be required on MBTA vehicles, stations, platforms

Staff Report

The MBTA is reminding customers that face coverings continue to be required while onboard vehicles, on station platforms, and within the

MBTA system for all riders, including those who have been fully vaccinated.

On April 27, both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Baker-Polito Administration updated guidance regarding face coverings for fully vaccinated individuals. While the CDC and the Commonwealth’s guidance relax the need for face coverings in some settings, face coverings are still required while riding MBTA vehicles and within the MBTA system. This includes outdoor bus stops and all outdoor platforms for the Commuter Rail, subway, and trolley systems.

Effective April 30, civ-

The legislation would also require grantees to give laid-off workers recall rights to ensure those who lost their hotel jobs due to the pandemic are able to get back to work.

- Allowing Worker-Friendly Tax Credits: Provides a Personal Protective Equipment Tax Credit to promote worker safety measures, which would allow for a payroll tax credit for 50% of costs associated with the purchase of personal protective equipment technology designed to reduce the impact of the pandemic, increased testing for employees, and enhanced cleaning protocols that do not negatively impact the level of work for housekeeping staff.

Empty or permanently closed hotels have a ripple effect on communities throughout the country, hurting a wide range of businesses that rely on the presence of hotel guests, such as restaurants and retail, hotel supply companies and construction. For every 10 people directly employed on a hotel property, hotels also support an additional 26 jobs in the community, according to a study by Oxford Economics. With hotels expected to end 2021 down 500,000 jobs, based on the pre-pandemic ratio, an additional 1.3 million hotel supported jobs are in jeopardy this year without additional support from Congress.

This crisis has been especially devastating in urban areas, hurting minority communities. Urban hotels, which are more reliant on business and group travel and more likely to host larger events, ended January down 66 percent in room revenue compared to last year. That does not include the lost revenue from groups, meetings and food and beverage, which contribute significantly to business in these markets. According to recent reports, New York City has seen one-third of its hotel rooms—more than 42,000—wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 200 hotels closing permanently in the city.

il fines related to MBTA face-covering enforcement efforts are no longer in effect, though those who refuse to comply with the face covering requirement may be denied boarding of or be removed from MBTA vehicles and the system.

There continue to be exemptions to the face-covering requirement for individuals with certain medical conditions and those who are so exempt do not need to produce documentation of their condition.

For more information, visit [mbta.com](http://mbta.com), or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, on Facebook /TheMBTA, or on Instagram@theMBTA.

### 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](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)

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# Mothers // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

shed light on communities of color being disproportionately impacted by air pollution. A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences finds that Latinos inhale 63% more pollution than they make, African Americans inhale 56% more, and non-Latino whites are exposed to 17% less pollution than they make.

“Residents of East Boston are regularly exposed to extremely high concentrations of air pollutants, including ultrafine particles, or UFPs,” says Scott Hersey, an environmental engineer from Olin College of Engineering who has studied air quality in surrounding neighborhoods of Logan since 2018. “Academics, elected officials, and communities need to work together for the type of systemic change that reduces residents’ exposures to these pollutants. In the meantime, there are strategies, like indoor HEPA air purifiers that can safeguard the air that people are breathing. But all of this work depends on awareness-building about pollution that you can’t see with your eyes and the ways you can protect yourself and your community. Art is the perfect medium to visualize the invisible and mobilize a community for action.”

This event is outdoors and is open to all community members. Spanish interpreters will be available. Please wear a face covering. Selfies are encouraged #SpeakUp4Aire.

Rain date is Sunday, May 9 from 1-4 pm, Mother’s Day. The art installation should extend through the month of May.

\*\*\*\*\*

El sábado 8 de mayo, de 1 a 4 de la tarde, en honor del fin de semana del Día de la Madre, la organización de justicia ambiental Mothers Out Front: East Boston y varios socios comunitarios transformarán Central Square en East Boston en un centro educativo a través de un proyecto de arte comunitario llamado “Pollution and Solutions” (“Contaminación y soluciones”). El evento seguirá todas las normas de seguridad relativas a COVID-19. El evento es posible gracias a una subvención del programa Love Your Block de la ciudad de Boston y tiene como fin educar a la comunidad acerca de los impactos negativos para la salud causados por la contaminación del aire en los vecindarios que rodean el aeropuerto Logan y también acerca de las soluciones que se encuentran a nuestra disposición.

“Ya sea que caminando con nuestros hijos a la escuela o esperando el autobús, los residentes de East Boston corremos constantemente el riesgo de respirar contaminantes dañinos esparcidos en el aire por el aeropuerto Logan, el tráfico de automóviles relacionado con el aeropuerto, los autobuses escolares que usan combustible diésel, las fugas de gas y otras fuentes de contaminación”, explica Sonja Tengblad, coordinadora de la delegación de East Boston de Mothers Out Front. “La contaminación del aire afecta en forma desproporcionada a las personas de color en todo el mundo, y como casi el 60% de las familias de East Boston son de origen latino, queríamos ilustrar

esta realidad a través de nuestra instalación artística”.

El asma infantil ha aumentado un 360% y la enfermedad pulmonar obstructiva crónica (EPOC) en adultos se ha duplicado en los barrios que lindan con el aeropuerto Logan. Además, el aumento de la exposición a partículas ultrafinas (UFP, por sus siglas en inglés), o partículas contaminantes tan pequeñas que pueden entrar más fácilmente en el torrente sanguíneo y dañar órganos, está relacionado con problemas de desarrollo infantil, autismo, demencia temprana, nacimiento prematuro y defectos congénitos, accidentes cerebrovasculares y muchos otros problemas de salud.

Para llamar la atención sobre este problema que a menudo es invisible, Mothers Out Front invita a los residentes locales a venir a Central Square en East Boston para llenar letras gigantes que forman la palabra “AIRE” con plantas con flores y otras plantas de follaje decorativo donadas por Schumacher Landscaping, en un proyecto diseñado por Danielle Meeker Emond de Eastside CO/LAB. La instalación artística, ubicada en la esquina de las calles Bennington y Meridian, frente al Centro Comercial Liberty Tree Plaza, tendrá señalización bilingüe e invitará a los asistentes a aprender más sobre cómo protegerse a sí mismos y a sus familias de la contaminación del aire. Los participantes del evento también podrán:

- Ver la creación de un hermoso mural en la acera a cargo de la artista local Sury Chavez de Galeria de Chuwi.
- Informarse acerca de la organización forestal urbana TREE Eastie, cuyo nuevo programa Adopt-A-Tree ayudará a plantar árboles en East Boston para limpiar nuestro aire.
- Participar de una rifa gratuita para ganar un filtro HEPA de Austin Air Systems, uno de los únicos modelos de filtros que protegen eficazmente contra la contaminación por COVID y partículas ultrafinas.
- Descargar la aplicación de calidad del aire Air Partners para detectar la contaminación del aire en su barrio.
- Obtener más información sobre la nueva y emocionante legislación de mitigación de la contaminación del aire presentada por el representante estatal Adrian Madaro.
- Llevarse árboles de semillero para plantar en casa.

Estudios recientes han confirmado que las comunidades de color se ven afectadas desproporcionadamente por la contaminación del aire. Un estudio publicado en Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences revela que los latinos inhalan un 63% más de contaminación de la que producen; los afroamericanos inhalan un 56% más; y los blancos no latinos están expuestos a un 17% menos de contaminación de la que producen.

“Los residentes de East Boston están expuestos regularmente a concentraciones extremadamente altas de contaminantes atmosféricos, incluyendo partículas ultrafinas”, explica Scott Hersey, ingeniero ambiental de Olin College of Engineering,

que ha estudiado la calidad del aire en los barrios lindantes con el aeropuerto Logan desde 2018. “Los académicos, los funcionarios electos y las comunidades deben trabajar juntos para lograr el tipo de cambio sistémico que reduce la exposición de los residentes a estos contaminantes. Mientras tanto, hay estrategias, como purificadores de aire HEPA para interiores, que pueden proteger el aire que la gente respira. Pero todo este trabajo depende de generar conciencia sobre contaminación que no se puede ver con los ojos y sobre las formas en que pueden protegerse a ustedes mismos y a su comunidad. El arte es el medio perfecto para visualizar lo invisible y movilizar a una comunidad para la acción”.

Este evento tendrá lugar al aire libre y está abierto a todos los miembros de la comunidad. Habrá disponibles intérpretes de español. Por favor, use una mascarilla o cubierta facial. Los invitamos a tomarse selfies y usar el hashtag #SpeakUp4Aire

En caso de lluvia, el evento se realizará el domingo 9 de mayo, Día de la Madre, de 1 a 4 de la tarde. La instalación artística permanecerá en el lugar hasta fin de mayo.

# Weekly COVID positive test rate drops in Eastie

By John Lynds

East Boston’s weekly COVID 19 positive test rate decreased for a second week in a row after experiencing increases week over week throughout April.

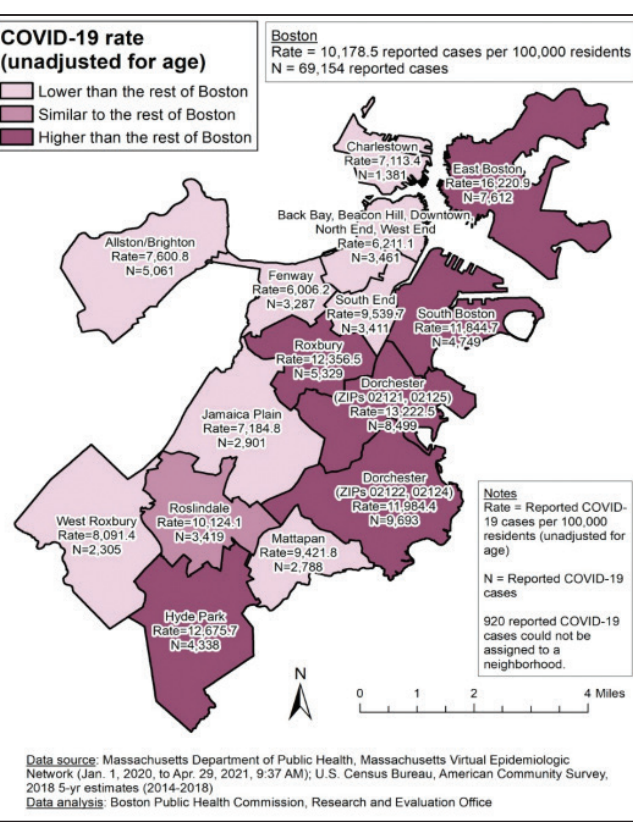
According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), last week 1,398 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 5.7 percent were positive--a 3.4 percent decrease from the 5.9 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Of the 39,558 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 19.2 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was the same percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased once again.

According to the BPHC 19,498 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive--this was a 2.8 percent decrease from the 4.6 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Eastie’s COVID infection rate increased by 1 percent last week and went from 1604.4 cases



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

per 10,000 residents to 1622 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 83 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 7,612 confirmed cases, up from the 7,529 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 neighbor-

hood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased less than one percent last week and went from 68,795 cases to 69,441 confirmed cases in a week. Six additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,370 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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# Successful sale of Green and Sustainability Bonds takes place

Staff Report

The State Treasurer’s Office officials announced that the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the Trust) has successfully completed the sale of approximately \$351.4 million in two series of new money Green and Sustainability Bonds. The Sustainability Bonds were the first such issuance from the Trust and the first in the nation for a state revolving fund. Additionally, it was the Trust’s sixth Green Bond issuance. The sale achieved a true interest cost of 2.099% with maturities ranging from 2022-2041.

The Series 23A Green Bonds and Series 23B Sustainability Bonds (AAA/Aaa/AAA) sold to retail investors on April 28 with an institutional investor order period on April 29. The sale saw strong participation, with \$687 million in orders including five new investors and four ESG funds. Strong Massachusetts re-



The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

tail investor participation generated \$93 million of orders. “This sale illustrates the positive environmental strong investor demand for municipal bonds with and social impact,” said

State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair of the Trust. “The Clean Water Trust team is leading the nation in the state revolving fund municipal markets. First, with their groundbreaking green bonds, and now with this sustainability bond issuance. We will continue to stress the importance of utilizing these opportunities in support of our local communities and our environment.”

The proceeds from the sale will finance projects that are selected based on criteria that identify the most relevant public health and environmental related projects while adhering to the standards of the federal Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Series 23A Bonds are designated by the Trust as “Green Bonds” and are expected to provide environmental benefits.

The Series 23B Bonds are designated by the Trust as “Sustainability Bonds” and are expected to provide both environmental and social benefits. The bond proceeds will finance projects in communities identified as the most disadvantaged, based upon affordability criteria developed by the Trust and support additional reductions in interest rates, mitigating the construction costs of these critical infrastructure projects. The criteria apply an Adjusted Per Capita Income (“APCI”) formula based on per capita income, employment rate, and population change. The communities selected are those with an APCI metric lower than sixty percent of the Commonwealth’s APCI.

The Trust’s State Revolving Fund Bonds, Series 23A and Series 23B underwriting syndicate was led by Morgan Stanley as the book-running senior manager and Jefferies and RBC Capital Markets as the co-senior managing underwriters.

# MassDOT Exit Renumbering Work taking place on I-93 in Boston

Staff Report

Officials from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) are announcing that it will begin installing new milepost-based signs at various times and locations on Interstate 93 northbound and southbound between Boston and Methuen. The sign in-

stallation operations will take place nightly during overnight hours from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning. The work is expected to be completed in approximately four weeks.

The work on Interstate 93, between Boston and Methuen, is expected to follow the schedule below:

- Work between old exit 13 to exit 27 (South-east Expressway between Dorchester and the Tip O’Neill Tunnel) will begin on Sunday, May 2.
  - Work between old exit 28 to exit 48 (between Boston/Somerville and Methuen) will begin on Sunday, May 9.
- Exit numbers 1 through 12 will remain the same

exit numbers as they are already consistent with the existing mile markers.

Sign installation operations on Interstate 95 were completed on Thursday, April 22. The work along this corridor was broken up into four construction segments that took approximately eight weeks to complete.

All work is weather dependent and construction dates may be adjusted as conditions warrant.

MassDOT’s Statewide Exit Renumbering Project is converting all exit numbers on roadways, per Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. Interstates and major roadways in Massachusetts previously utilized a sequential exit numbering method.

For information on the scheduled installations, visit: <https://newmassexits.com/#it-schedule>. If needed, a GIS shapefile with the specific numbering information is available on Massachusetts’ GeoDOT site.

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# OBITUARIES

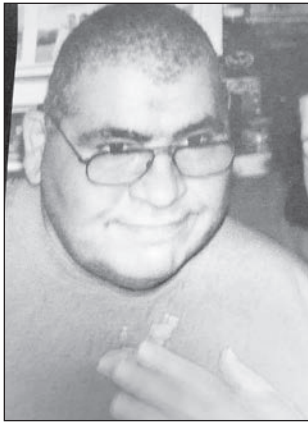
## Richard Giordano

Boston University Police Officer for 37 Years

Richard Giordano of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away on April 30 at the age of 75.

Richard worked as a police officer for 37 years at Boston University. In his spare time, he enjoyed watching war movies, old westerns and shows on military history. He will be missed by all who knew him.

The cherished son of the late Albert and Serafina (Castorina) Giordano, he was the beloved husband for 35 years of Patricia (Jones), devoted father of Stacey Zolla and her husband, Christopher of Derry, NH, Richard Giordano and his wife, Kristen of Pelham, NH, loving step-father to Robin No-



ble of Wakefield, Melissa Haugh of North Carolina and Jeffery Blanchard of North Carolina. He also leaves behind 12 grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery on Friday, May 7 at 11 a.m. For guest book please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

## Officials award \$8.8 million for COVID-19 vaccine in priority areas

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced \$8.8 million in additional grants and contracts to community-based organizations as part of the Massachusetts Vaccine Equity Initiative to increase awareness and access to the COVID-19 vaccine in the 20 cities and towns hardest hit by the pandemic. The awards are part of the Administration's investment of \$27.4 million in federal funds announced in March.

The funds, which will be distributed to select community- and faith-based organizations statewide, include \$6.8 million to 25 organizations over 24 months to reduce barriers to vaccination for priority communities and populations most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Community-based organizations, community health centers, and behavioral health centers will provide guidance about vaccine eligibility, assistance to register for online appointments and translation services, among other supports. Services will be delivered by bilingual and bicultural staff and community health workers, who have experience serving priority populations.

"As we continue to focus on the unequal burden of the COVID-19

pandemic on individuals in our hardest hit cities and towns, we're working hand in hand with communities on vaccine outreach and access efforts," said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. "That means building trust and confidence in vaccine safety and efficacy and helping eligible residents overcome barriers to get vaccinated."

Organizations will receive funding to directly administer vaccination to groups that were not reached by other outreach efforts. These organizations can be deployed to smaller venues with populations that may require more intensive one-on-one vaccination support, such as substance use disorder treatment facilities, places of worship, homeless encampments, food pantries/congregate meal locations, LGBTQ+ community programs, shelters and day programs, and immigrant assistance centers.

Award Recipients are:

- Boston Medical Center
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- Dimock Community Health Center
- Fenway Health
- Lynn Community Health Center

Community-based organizations who serve the 20 priority commu-

nities, and beyond those communities, the priority populations who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 may apply for funding here.

An additional \$1.96 million in funding is being administered by Health Resources in Action (HRIA) in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. These funds are being awarded to 38 organizations to support their efforts to expand vaccine education and awareness that address the specific needs of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other communities of color within the 20 prioritized communities. As part of an initial round of funding that began in December, 20 awardees have already begun community outreach, communication, and education. This latest award supplements that initial funding and will support 18 additional community and faith-based organizations serving the 20 prioritized communities, with a focus on those disproportionately impacted.

Newly Funded Organizations:

- Asian Women for Health
- Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition International Institute of New England, Inc.
- Multicultural AIDS Coalition

- The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
- North Shore Latino Business Association
- Greater Lowell Health Alliance
- The Joint Committee for Children's Health Care
- The Psychological Center
- Malden YWCA
- Community Economic Development Center
- The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
- Brockton Area Multi-Services, Inc.
- Elevate New England
- Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts
- Jewish Family Service of Metrowest
- Synergy Partnership
- New Life Community Empowerment Center

Announced by the Baker-Polito Administration in February 2021, the Vaccine Equity Initiative focuses on 20 cities and towns with the greatest COVID-19 case burden, taking into account social determinants of health and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). These communities are Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester.

## Happy Mother's Day

### Rosemarie (Mona) Leone

— May 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 —

It has been 7 long years that we couldn't celebrate

Mother's Day with you, to see

your beautiful smile, and hear your voice,

seeing you sit in your chair at the kitchen table drinkin Dunkin iced cofee and scratching tickets.

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Children, and Grandchildren



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### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING  
Docket No. SU20D1476DR  
Remberto Alarcon vs. Sindy Paola Rosales Moradel  
Upon motion of plaintiff(s) for an order directing the defendant(s), to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for Divorce 1B. Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action.

It is Ordered that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with 6/10/2021. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.  
Date: 4/08/2021  
Megan H. Christopher  
Justice of Probate and Family Court

5/5/21  
EB

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT NOTICE AND ORDER:

Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor  
Docket No. SU20P04886D  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
In the interests Of: Jalina Estrada Of: East Boston, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES  
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/10/2020 by Theresa Clark of East Boston, MA will be held 05/11/2021 9:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located Go to Zoom.us or call 646-828-7666, ID#1612617215. You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing. The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor. If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filing out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice. Date: April 29, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 5/5/21 EB

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT NOTICE AND ORDER:

Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor  
Docket No. SU20P10006D  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
In the interests Of: Jasmine M. Estrade-Clark Of: East Boston, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES  
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 06/23/2020 by Theresa Clark of East Boston, MA will be held 05/11/2021 9:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located Go to Zoom.us or call 646-828-7666, ID#1612617215. You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing. The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard. A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice. Date: April 29, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 5/5/21 EB

### LEGAL NOTICE

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR  
Project File No. 606476  
A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed Summer Centennial project in Boston, MA.  
WHEN: Wednesday, May 19, 2020, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
WHERE: <https://virtualmeeting.link/summer-DPH>  
Passcode: 321308  
Webinar ID: 880 0481 6749  
Dial in option: 888 788 0099

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Summer Centennial project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of resurfacing the tunnel roadway including pavement and lane markings; rehabilitating the overhead arch and ceiling, including deteriorating suspended ceiling supports; restoring the historic portal facades and addressing the functional system deficiencies of the Summer Tunnel in an accelerated manner to minimize the overall duration of impacts to the travelling public and surrounding communities. Once the project has been complete, the Summer Tunnel will meet modern fire and life safety codes with fireproofing, fire standpipe, fire alarm and CCTV upgrades. The tunnel will feature new LED lighting and security systems; new utility conduits and cables under the roadway deck which will improve cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel. A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the webinar. Right-of-way plans can be made available to affected property owners upon request. Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth,

P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 606476. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing. This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings). JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E. CHIEF ENGINEER 5/5/21, 5/6/21 EB, W, L

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# State officials launch summer learning programs and organizations

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced the establishment of summer learning opportunities and the availability of more than \$70 million in funding for school districts and community organizations to offer summer learning and recreational programs that will help students, who have been impacted by a year of remote and hybrid learning, grow academically and socially.

Students at every grade level will have opportunities to take part in a mix of academic and recreational programs offered at schools, after-school providers, community colleges and

recreation sites. Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Education Secretary James Peyser and Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley made the announcement while visiting Galvin Middle School in Canton, where school officials are planning to boost learning opportunities for students this summer.

•Acceleration Academies

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will help school districts launch Acceleration Academies, which allow students to learn and build skills working intensively on one subject in small, hands-on learning environments with

excellent teachers.

Students benefit from small class sizes, longer uninterrupted instructional blocks, individualized attention, project-based lessons and teacher flexibility for learning time. The Baker-Polito Administration will commit up to \$25 million in grants for districts to operate Acceleration Academies using federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Response (ESSER) discretionary funds. This will be a multi-year program that the Department anticipates will impact more than 50,000 students statewide each year.

Acceleration Academies will include:

•Early Literacy Academies

mies for incoming kindergartners, rising first and second graders; and

•Math Acceleration Academies for rising third and fourth graders, as well as eighth and 10th graders.

•Summer School Matching Grants

DESE will also offer summer school matching grants, up to \$15 million in federal ESSER funds, for school districts to offer four-to-six-week, in-person programs with a mix of in-person academic and recreational activities. The Department is making these funds available to schools to enhance or expand their existing summer programs while also including mental health services and additional supports for students with individualized education plans and English learners.

•Summer Acceleration to College

High school graduates

from the Class of 2021 will be able to participate in Summer Acceleration to College, a new program that provides recent graduates access to credit-bearing math and English courses at no cost to them as they prepare for college.

Fourteen community colleges in the Commonwealth will participate in this program, expected to be funded at \$1 million.

•Summer Step Up

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) will support school districts to offer Summer Step Up, a new program aimed at giving extra support to young learners entering school in the fall.

In addition to these programs, the Baker-Polito Administration will:

•Provide early literacy tutoring grants this summer and during the 2021-22 school year, funded at \$10

million.

•Launch a new K-8 Math Acceleration program to help teachers increase student learning over the summer and throughout the school year.

•Expand the Biggest Winner Math Challenge – which was piloted last summer – to serve approximately 2,500 gifted math students, costing approximately \$2.5 million.


•Offer college courses over the summer for rising high school juniors and seniors who are enrolled in approved Early College programs, costing approximately \$1 million.




•Help camps and community organizations expand educational enrichment as part of their existing summer programs by making at least \$3 million in funding available.

To learn more, please contact DESESummerProgramming@mass.gov.

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Bhatt, Hemang	Mt 243 Condor Street LLC	243 Condor St #4	\$740,000
Manousaridis, Nicholas	Coppersmith Way LLC	1 Coppersmith Way #1	\$432,000
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Adams, Margo N	Tays Realty LLC	115 Falcon St #1	\$737,000
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Manidis, Tatiana	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #303	\$625,000
Belger, John G	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #304	\$655,000
Xin, Zhimei	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #305	\$640,000
Liu, Yawen	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #316	\$1,010,000
Wu, Lining	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #318	\$960,000
Porres, Gary	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #320	\$615,000
Wang, Yuxuan	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #412	\$1,220,000
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# Disinfectants could be made safer

More than 400 common disinfectants currently in use could be made safer for people and the environment with the simple application of UVC light, a new study from the University of Waterloo shows.

Benzalkonium chloride (BAK) is the most common active ingredient in many disinfectants regularly used in hospitals, households, and food processing plants to protect against a wide range of viruses and bacteria – including all strains of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 – but its toxicity means that it can’t be used in high concentrations. It also means that products containing BAK are harmful to humans and the environment.

Researchers at Waterloo discovered that the

chemical’s toxicity could be fully neutralized using ultraviolet light (UVC) when tested on cultured human corneal cells.

“Our results show that a disinfecting procedure using BAK followed by UVC radiation can minimize the harmful effect of BAK residues on humans and the environment,” said Dr. David McCanna of Waterloo’s Department of Optometry & Vision Science. “Such a procedure also has a great potential to maximize the disinfection efficacy by utilizing two different antimicrobial mechanisms.

“As the pandemic continues, our findings are especially important as it provides another method to make our hospitals, food, homes, and the environment safer.”

While an important

ingredient for a disinfectant’s efficacy, BAK is a severe human skin and eye irritant. The chemical’s high toxicity limits the ability to use products with a high concentration of BAK to better protect against harmful viruses and bacteria. High levels of BAK residue are also harmful to the environment, proving especially toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates, and birds.

After exposing a BAK solution to germicidal ultraviolet-C lamps, they applied the solution to cultured human corneal cells for five minutes and analyzed for cell metabolic activity and viability. The BAK solutions were completely neutralized by UVC as the solutions no longer harmed the cultured human corneal epithelial cells.



More than 400 common disinfectants currently in use could be made safer.

“With concerns about the spread of COVID-19, people are utilizing products with BAK as an active ingredient more than ever,” said Waterloo alumnus and lead author Dr. Manlong Xu, who is currently a clinical research fellow in the University of Alberta’s Department of

Ophthalmology and Visual Science.

“For many industries, there is the demand to improve the efficacy of standard disinfection procedures, while also keeping in mind any potential negative impact on the environment.”

The study, Neutraliza-

tion of the eye and skin irritant benzalkonium chloride using UVC radiation, authored by Waterloo’s Faculty of Science’s Dr. McCanna and Dr. Jacob Sivak and Dr. Xu was recently published in the journal Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology.

## MBTA Control Board commits to funding the Transit

Staff Report

The FY22 budget, approved April 26 by the MBTA’s Fiscal and Management Control Board, includes a commitment to fully fund the T’s Transit Priority Group, a special unit dedicated to delivering bus lanes, transit signal priority (TSP), and collaborative planning programs with service-area municipalities. The four-person team has dramatically accelerated the MBTA’s planning and project delivery capacity

for bus priority projects, which are proven to make transit faster and more reliable.

Since its creation in 2019, the MBTA Transit Priority Group has been funded with generous grant support from the Barr Foundation as a part of their philanthropic commitment to addressing climate change and advancing equitable mobility in Metro Boston.

“In the last few years, the MBTA’s bus priority network has gone from a couple streets along the

Silver Line to a robust web of corridors spanning ten cities and towns across our service area. These targeted improvements, which are aimed at making bus service more reliable on some of the region’s most congested roadways, are a key component of the MBTA’s Better Bus Project, a broad-ranging, multi-year initiative aimed at transforming our bus system,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. “The MBTA would not have been able to make these advances



without the steadfast commitment and partnership of the Barr Foundation.”

Since the Transit Priority Group’s launch in 2019, 13.6 miles of bus lanes have been constructed on Metro Boston roadways, bringing the total region-wide network to nearly 20 miles. These reliability benefits have had a far-reaching impact. While 3 percent of passenger miles travelled are in bus lanes, reliability benefits extend to 41 percent of passenger miles travelled systemwide.

“A decade ago, rapid, reliable, high-quality bus service was something few in Metro Boston had even heard of or believed was possible here. Now, it’s becoming a reality with potential to improve the transit experience for thousands of bus riders every day,” said Senior Program Officer at the Barr Foundation Lisa Jacobson. “The Barr Foundation was pleased to help launch the Transit Priority Group at the MBTA to bring world-leading ideas to help solve congestion, access, and climate chal-

lenges in our communities.”

Notable projects spearheaded by the Transit Priority Group since 2019 include:

- A first-of-its-kind transit facility in Metro Boston: a center-running bus lane project currently under construction on Columbus Avenue in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain to dramatically improve bus service reliability, accessibility, and rider comfort.
- An unprecedented regional joint procurement effort led in partnership with MAPC to significantly reduce construction costs for quick-build transit and active transportation projects for 13 metropolitan area municipalities, which the MBTA estimates will save taxpayers a projected \$2 million over the course of this year.
- In response to COVID-19 service needs leading to the implementation of the MBTA’s Rapid Response Bus Lanes Program, a partnership with the cities of Boston, Somerville, Everett, and Chelsea to build up to 14

new bus lane miles on critical transit corridors.

- Working with MassDOT and six different municipalities to deliver 10 Shared Streets and Spaces and Shared Winter Streets and Spaces projects.
- Expanding bus priority projects to several new municipalities, including Chelsea, Malden, and Lynn.
- Continuing previously initiated projects such as implementing TSP on the Green Line in Brookline and Boston.

In the next several months, the Transit Priority Group is working closely with four municipalities to deliver more than four miles of bus lanes, standardize the preferred design approaches through a bus speed and reliability toolkit, and kick off a regional collaboration to define the next generation of TSP for Metro Boston.

For more information, visit [www.mbta.com/bus-priority](http://www.mbta.com/bus-priority) or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @MBTApics.

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