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# East Boston TIMES-FREE PRESS

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Wednesday, September 1, 2021

#### HARBORKEEPERS HOST ANNUAL MARITIME BEACH FESTIVAL



A young East Boston resident takes a turn getting a kite off the ground during the Harborkeepers annual Maritime Beach Festival in partnership with the US Coast Guard Sector Boston.



The event Friday featured face-painting, free kayaking, a sand castle contest, scavenger hunt and many more engaging and fun things to do.



Two East Boston girls get their kite ready for the sky. See Page 7 for more photos.

# EBNHC provides update on CEO transition process

By John Lynds

Boston Since East Neighborhood Health Center President and CEO Manny Lopes made the shocking announcement earlier this month that he would be leaving his post to serve as Executive Vice President at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Lopes and the Health Center's Board of Directors provided an update on the transition process.

Lopes and the board's chair, Rita Sorrento, reported after a series of discussions and interviews, the Board has voted unanimously to appoint EBN-HC Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Executive Director of Neighborhood PACE Greg Wilmot as Interim President and CEO effective November 1, 2021.

"Since joining the health center in 2017, Greg has made a considerable positive impact on staff, patients, and the EBNHC organization, as a whole," said Lopes and Sorrento in a joint statement this week. "Greg's leadership has contributed to a more than 48 percent growth in the Neighborhood PACE program, which now boasts a 95 percent satisfaction score - among the



**EBNHC COO Greg Wilmot to** serve as interim CEO after Manny Lopes leaves at the end of October.

highest in the nation."

Lopes and Sorrento said after his promotion to COO last September, Wilmot played a key role in helping to design and execute EBNHC's COVID-19 vaccination strategy, which resulted in over 100,000 doses administered in communities hit hardest by the pandem-

"Additionally, in the wake of last year's national reckoning on racial injustice, Greg led EBN-HC's Racial Equity Project, bringing an intentional and strategic focus to the health center's efforts to

See EBNHC Page 2

## Nantucket Lightship to host Labor Day Fireworks party

By John Lynds

On Thursday, for a \$25 donation to the Nantucket Lightship's U.S. Lightship Museum Museum (USLM) in East Boston, residents can have a front seat to the Labor Day Fireworks in Boston Harbor aboard Nantucket/LV-112.

Since 2009, Eastie has played host to this national treasure and now the giant red lightship and the ship recently returned back to the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina after months of restoration work at a drydock in Chel-

According to USLM leader Robert Mannino, Jr. the program for the fireworks will begin at 6 p.m. "Anyone who wants to

reserve a spot and join us Nantucket/LV-112's weather deck, with friends and family, to watch a spectacular fireworks display in Boston's inner harbor," said Mannino. "Nantucket/LV-112's berth has one of the best views of Boston's vibrant city skyline from the East Boston waterfront."

Mannino said guests can bring a picnic supper, their favorite beverages, and a beach or lawn chairs to sit on the decks of Nantucket/LV-112, which will remain at the dock.

"We'll supply the ship, panoramic views and lively music," said Mannino. "The ship's powerful rotating light beacon will be activated just before the fireworks begin."

#### A NOTE TO OUR **ADVERTISERS & READERS**

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 6TH** IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY **News and Advertising Deadlines for the** week of Sept. 9th & 10th will be FRIDAY, SEPT. 3RD AT 4PM

**Email news to** editor@reverejournal.com

**Email Advertisements to** deb@reverejournal.com

**Celebrate Safely** 

While the USLM will provide the views Mannino said the evening will also give the museum a chance to show off its restoration progress.

"Plus, this is a fundraising event for LV-112, for which we still have much work to do," he said. "The ship's restoration solely depends on the generous contributions of corporations, private foundations, federal, state and municipal grants, maritime enthusiasts and individuals such as you."

Mannino said tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/ celebrate-boston-harbor-fireworks..

In 1989, the lightship was declared a Nation-Historic Landmark (NHL). Since then there has been a push local-

Due to the Monday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day Holiday, Trash will be delayed by one day.

Capitol Waste Services, Inc

ly 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 Trea-

sures" grant. 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."

It is estimated that approximately \$2.3 million will be needed to complete LV-112's restoration and preservation.

## Sen. Boncore expected to announce his resignation

State Sen. Joseph Boncore was expected to announce today that he will be resigning from his seat to accept a major leadership position with the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council.

Boncore had been in talks for the past few months with the Council after emerging as the

leading candidate for the post. Boncore has served as senator in the First Suffolk and Middlesex District since 2016 when he won a special election. The senatorial district includes all of Revere and Winthrop, and portions of Boston and Cambridge.

# Wu and Edwards join coalition for safer streets around Eagle Square

By John Lynds

Last week the East Boston Times obtained a copy of security camera video from outside Channel Fish and other businesses in Eagle Square that shows horrific traffic accidents that include car crashes, pedestrians being run over, cars speeding through stop signs and near miss collisions on a constant basis.

The video was recently shared with At-Large City Councilor, Mayoral Candi-

date Michelle Wu and City Councilor Lydia Edwards and members of the East Boston Transportation Justice Coalition and the three have joined forces calling for transportation action and improvement in the square.

"We've seen dozens and dozens of near-miss accidents, people almost getting run over," said Policy Subcommittee Lead for the East Boston Transportation

See SAFE STREETS Page 2



East Boston

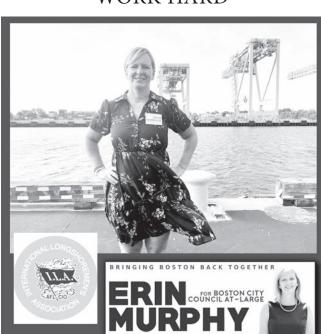
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#### MURPHY CONTINUES TO **WORK HARD**



Erin Murphy is working hard on the campaign trail. "I am proud to receive the endorsement of the International Longshoremen's Association! They are the largest union of maritime workers in North America, representing upwards of 65,000 longshoremen," she said. Murphy also stated, "Thank you ILA for your support! I am proud to have 33 endorsements and it is a true testament to my commitment to organized labor and improving working conditions for all Bostonians. I will continue to work hard to get elected and once on the Council I will be a strong voice for all of my union brothers and sisters! Please vote for #14 on

#### News in Brief

#### PARTY FOR CITY **COUNCILLOR AT-**LARGE CANDIDATE DONNIE PALMER

September 14."

The East Boston Republican Committee is hosting a party for Boston City Councillor at-large candidate Donnie Palmer. Everyone is invited to meet and talk with the candidate at Kelley's Square Pub on Tuesday, September 7, (day after Labor Day) from 5:30 to 7:00 p. m. Enjoy free pizza and drinks as you discuss Boston and neighborhood issues that are important to

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Kelley's Square Pub is at 84 Bennington Street in East Boston, near the MBTA Blue Line Airport station.

For more information please call Chris at (617) 569-4075 or Vera at (617) 909-5384.

#### **HVNA REMINDER**

The Harbor View Neighborhood Association would like to remind its members that we will not be meeting on Monday, September 6, 2021, since this is the Labor Day Holiday. We will be meeting instead on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6pm in the Salesians Boys and Girls Club Parking

The Board would like to wish all its members a safe and relaxing Labor Day. See you on September 13,

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BOSTON

Safe Streets // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Justice Coalition Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt. "We've seen vehicle on vehicle accidents, vehicle on pedestrian accidents and just a lot of stuff that is really kind of epitome of what's wrong with transportation in our neighborhood."

At a press conference in Eagle Square last Wednesday Wu, Edwards, Hewitt and concerned Eastie residents said they were there to call attention to needed safety improvements and upgrades to alleviate traffic congestion at Eagle Square and across the neighborhood and city. Edwards said Eagle Square is one of the most dangerous intersections in the neighborhood, and residents have called for critical infrastructure upgrades to eliminate traffic-related injuries and deaths and improve walkability and traffic flow.

"This area is the area I

get the most complaints about from constituents related to traffic," said Edwards. "Motorists just treat this area like a highway and I think the one thing that we all find frustrating from what we saw is that it's completely preventable. This is not something that we can't do something about--it just takes the vision. It takes movement to get things done. It's not for lack of efforts from the community and leaders like Celeste. It's not from lack of requests by my office to get it done. It's really a lack of prioritization by (current and former) Mayoral administrations. I have repeatedly heard about traffic concerns from pedestrians. We need sidewalks, crosswalks, and intersections that accommodate all of us, especially our family and friends with disabilities,"

Wu said safety should be a baseline guarantee for every neighborhood, and it needs to be part of city planning.

"This is an area that needs major redesign and again is within the power of the city to do something about it," said Wu. "The design of Eagle Square makes it one of the most dangerous intersections in the city, threatening the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. We need immediate action on urgent pedestrian safety improvements and changes that calm traffic flow in support of a broader vision for a safer, more connected Boston "



A security camera captures a car crash in Eagle Square.

Wu added that pedestrian safety is an accessibility

"It's an equity issue and ultimately an issue of justice," she said. "As Bostonians we pride ourselves on being a multi modal city when it comes to transportation. Unfortunately, just because we do it all - it doesn't mean we do it well. We need to turn our focus to address these concerns and ensure that we're keeping pedestrians safe and ensuring that we're keeping people moving as they live, work, recreate and conduct business in our communities."

Edwards said Wu understands more than anyone that the city needs to build a people-centered city that is focused on pedestrian

"I'm excited to be here, not only because Michelle (Wu) is my candidate (for Mayor) but because her vision is exactly what East Boston needs," said Edwards. "Getting down to the nuts and bolts of it, her vision is people-center and makes sure that we can move around safely. People are concerned about how they're able to walk in our busy squares; they just want to be safer."

East Boston is full of long, straight sections of roadway with nearly no traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, flashing pedestrian lights or crosswalks. Despite ongoing advocacy from residents, East Boston has not yet been selected for the Neighborhood Slow Streets Program, a City of Boston initiative to help reduce speeds and improve street safety, after multiple attempts to apply by community groups.

"What I find almost appalling is that East Boston groups have to submit an application to be considered



At-Large City Councilor, Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu.



City Councilor Lydia Edwards.



Policy Subcommittee Lead for the East Boston Transportation Justice Coalition Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt.

for a Safe Streets or a Slow Hewitt. "Then the application gets denied or doesn't get the attention it deserves or it gets overlooked and that's pretty horrendous."

City planner and author of Walkable City, Jeff Speck, said in recent years, even as driving has become marginally safer, we have witnessed a growing epidemic in pedestrian injuries

"Remarkably, 50% more Street neighborhood," said people are killed walking than a decade ago," he said. "These victims are disproportionately young, old, poor, and people of color. Smart cities, taking the Vision Zero model seriously, have been making their streets safer through design. There is no reason why Boston can't become a national leader in pedestrian and bike safety."

Rate = 11,096.0 reported cases per 100,000

# Eastie's weekly COVID infections increases 47 percent

By John Lynds

It's a good thing the City's new mask mandate policy for indoor venues went into effect last Friday because East Boston's COVID numbers increased dramatically between August 23 and August 30.

City health officials are scrambling to knock down the highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID virus here and across Boston as infections among unvaccinated breakthrough infections among the vaccinated continue to climb. Ahead of the new mask

mandate Eastie's weekly positive COVID test rate decreased 14 percent between August 16 and August 23 but skyrocketed Last week, 1509 Eastie

last week. residents were tested for the virus last week and 4.4 percent were positive--this was a 47 percent increase from the 3 percent report-

ed by the Boston Pub-

lic Health Commission

(BPHC) on August 23.

Of the 47,460 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 16.9 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was a decrease of 0.59 percent from the 17 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased 10 percent last week. According to the BPHC 22,636 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 3 percent increase from the 3.5 percent reported by the BPHC on August 23.

Fifty-five residents contracted the virus between August 23 and August 30 and there

age, gender and race.

ber of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by

23 and went from 74,940 cases to 75,888 confirmed cases in a week. There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past two weeks and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,406.

1.3 percent since August

On Monday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats

by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID

testing results in Boston neighborhoods

# COVID-19 rate (unadjusted for age) Lower than the rest of Boston Similar to the rest of Boston Higher than the rest of Bosto

Eastie's COVID infec-

tion rate increased only 0.57 percent and the rate went from 1,694.9 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,706.6 cases per 10,000 residents. additional

weekly COVID19 report breaks down the numhave been 8,009 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Citywide positive cases The statistics released of coronavirus increased by the BPHC as part of its

#### Citizens provides \$40.7 million construction loan for Phase III of the OH Public housing project

By John Lynds

This week Citizens Bank announced today that its Community Development Group provided a \$40.7 million construction loan to Trinity Financial to help Phase III of the Orient Heights Public Housing Development project get past the goalline.

Four years after kicking off the three-phase redevelopment of the Orient Heights Public Housing Development Trinity Financial began construction on Phase III of the project in January.

Like Phase I and Phase II, Phase III will tear down the old post World War IIera brick housing on Vallar Road and portions of Faywood Avenue and be replaced with 81 units of new public housing.

Eva Erlich, vice president of development for Trinity Financial said an additional 42 units of existing public housing would be modernized as part of Phase III.

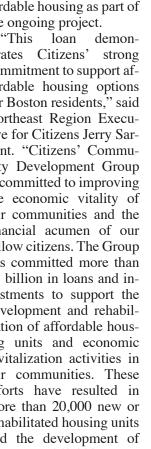
Phase III will also include the construction of a centrally located park for residents, the demolition of the existing community center and the expansion of open space.

The loan provides financing for the construction of the 81 new units and the modernization of the 42 existing units of affordable housing as part of the ongoing project.

strates Citizens' strong commitment to support affordable housing options for Boston residents," said Northeast Region Executive for Citizens Jerry Sargent. "Citizens' Community Development Group is committed to improving the economic vitality of our communities and the financial acumen of our fellow citizens. The Group has committed more than \$3 billion in loans and investments to support the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing units and economic revitalization activities in our communities. These efforts have resulted in more than 20,000 new or rehabilitated housing units and the development of more than 460,000 square feet of commercial space in low- and moderate-income communities served by Citizens."

Erlich said Trinity was grateful to Citizens for their support of the third phase of the Orient Heights redevelopment.

"These resources will help to produce and preserve 123 much-needed affordable apartment homes in East Boston,"



she said. "Trinity Financial believes in investing in communities and the people who live in those communities, and we're pleased to partner with Citizens on this important project." The loan comes on the

heels of a \$19 million line item by Acting Mayor Kim Jnaey in the city's budget a few months back.

"Orient Heights has been a staple of the East Boston community for seven decades, and this investment will help to finish its redevelopment," said Janey. "This invest-

ment preserves a vital housing resource and will secure a better quality of life for hundreds of East Boston families for decades to come."

The \$51. 6 million Phase II portion of the project wrapped up last summer on Vallar Road. There, crews demolished 87 old units in four buildings and constructed 88 replacement state-funded public housing units in two townhouse buildings and one mid-rise building. Phase II also included improvements to the existing infrastructure and open spaces. Phase II leveraged \$10 million in proceeds from the sale of the Winthrop Square Garage, as well as \$1.83 million in Inclusionary Development Policy Funds, secured from the Davis Companies' 99 Sumner Street development in East Boston.

Phase III is part of the larger effort to transform the 331-unit BHA owned public housing development that was originally built in 1951. Trinity completed Phase I of the project in 2018 where 90 units of public housing were replaced with 120 units

of public housing both in townhouse and apartment-style buildings.

In January 2015, the BHA selected the development team of Trinity Financial and East Boston Community Development Corp. to work with BHA and Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) and finalize a redevelopment strategy for the site. This development team secured financing to implement the redevelopment, and will own and manage the buildings post-redevelopment.



A photo of the completed Phase II portion of the overall Orient Heights Public Housing Development project. This week Citizens Bank announced today that its Community Development Group provided a \$40.7 million construction loan to Trinity Financial to help Phase III of the project

#### Hazmat situation quickly resolved last Thursday at East Boston fire house on Maverick Street

By John Lynds

The Boston Fire Department's Engine 9 and Ladder 2 station on Maverick Street was evacuated last Thursday due to a Level 3 Hazmat situation.

The station was evacuated after firefighters in the station began to smell chemicals and could not determine the source.

A Hazmat team was called in and Deputy Chief Steven Shaffer said the team detected high levels of Hydrogen cyanide and Hydrogen sulfate in the

after the firehouse was evacuated the Hazmat determined chemical contamination was emitted from an overcharged battery on a spare fire apparatus parked in the station.

Fire crews were able to mitigate the chemical build up and Eastie firefighters were able to safely return to the station later in the afternoon. There were no injuries reported.



Boston Fire Department's Deputy Chief Steven Shaffer tells the media outside the Engine 9 and Ladder 2 fire station that the Hazmat situation within the building was due to an overcharged battery on a spare fire apparatus parked in

# According to Shaffer,

## EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a healthcare institution, business leader, and community partner," they said. "We feel strongly that given his experience, background, and history at the health center, Greg is a strong, dedicated, capable leader and is well-prepared to support this transition."

Prior to November, Lopes and Sorrento said the Board will work closely with Wilmot to ensure he is familiar with key initiatives and to make introductions where necessary.

"Concurrently, EBN-HC's Board of Directors will continue to develop and define next steps to establish a permanent replacement," they said. "We estimate that this process will take several

months." Prior to joining EBNHC in 2017, Wilmot worked at AllWays Health Part-

ners, a member of Mass

General Brigham, where he led the organization's MassHealth Accountable Care Organization strategy and operations. Additionally, Wilmot previously served as Boston Medical Center's director of business development, where he partnered with clinical and administrative leaders at the hospital and across key partners to create new opportuni-

ties for growth and expand clinical services and quality goals. Wilmot also worked for former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's Executive Office of Health and Human Services as senior advisor and director of strategy and performance management and held various operational and management roles at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

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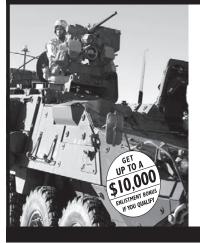
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ANNOUNCEMENT Grant **Application** Deadline will be Sept. 3, 2021

For more information contact

Lorene Schettino for an application 617-561-6336 by email: lorene.schettino@gmail.com or apply online at:

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After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 781-992-5304, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

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# East Boston

Times-Free Press

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley **PUBLISHER:** Debra DiGregorio EDITOR:: Cary Shuman

PUBLISHER EMERITUS: John A. Torrone

#### ENJOY A SAFE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

There's a temptation for people to splurge at the end of things. We all are familiar with the idea, "If this is the last, let's make it a blast!"

We don't have anything against that sentiment, but all too often that sort of mindset leads to risky behavior and tragic outcomes.

If there is nothing else we have learned after being in the newspaper business for more than 50 years, it is this: A person can do everything right and live by the book for their entire life, but all it takes is one mistake of judgment that can change everything, both for themselves and others.

Persons who otherwise might not have a drinking problem can indulge just a bit too much at an event such as an end-of-summer celebration and -- presto, in the snap of a finger -- they have killed or maimed themselves or others in a driving, boating, or other accident.

And then there are the problem drinkers among us who look for any excuse to "celebrate," which means getting hammered at a Labor Day weekend gathering, instantly making them a threat to the safety of themselves and others.

However, the usual excessive partying is not the only danger we face this Labor Day weekend. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is lurking everywhere and no one - not even the vaccinated -- are safe from infection.

As we are writing this, the forecast calls for a sunny Labor Day weekend with pleasant temperatures in the 70s (a welcome respite after our washouts of the Memorial Day and July 4 holiday weekends), which means that we will be able to engage in our Labor Day activities outdoors where we can socialize safely -- though from a distance.

But if our festivities are not outside, all of us need to be wary of gathering indoors unless everybody is

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Labor Day weekend.

#### THE 13 SERVICE MEMBERS WERE TRUE HEROES

Every American was saddened last week upon hearing the news of the suicide bombing by a terrorist in Afghanistan that claimed the lives of 13 U.S. service men and women, 11 of whom were Marines and one each from the Army and Navy.

If any of our readers have not had a chance to read the personal stories of these brave and dedicated young men and women, we encourage you to do so. Their life-stories are inspirational and demonstrate the high-quality of the dedicated individuals who serve in our armed forces today. They were amazing young men and women who came from disparate backgrounds and from all across the country, but who stood united in their desire to show the world the best that America can be.

These 13 service members knew of the danger they were facing outside of the Abbey Gate at Kabul's Hamid Karzai Airport, yet they continued to process the hundreds of Afghan nationals who were seeking to come to the United States to flee persecution from the Taliban.

They did their duty in the face of danger for which they made the ultimate sacrifice.

Contrary to what the pundits and usual-suspect politicians are saying, the incredible effort by these 13 soldiers and their comrades that resulted in the airlifting of more than 125,000 of our Afghanistan allies stands as a testament to the ability of our military to complete its mission.

No other nation on earth could have accomplished what we did in Afghanistan over the past two weeks -and no other nation even remotely will be able to come close in the future.

Our military could have packed its bags and said, 'Good luck," when the Afghan government fled, but instead we made a herculean effort to get our people and allies out of the country.

The Supreme Sacrifice made by those 13 servicemen and women forever will stand as a reminder to the world of America's resolve and strength, which once again has proven that we are the greatest and strongest nation on earth by any measure.

# 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.

for length and content.

Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit



# Forum

# GUEST OP-ED

## Afghanistan will never go away

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Afghanistan is an unending nightmare that will never go away.

We got Osama Bin Laden. We wanted to avenge the heinous deaths of September 11, 2001. We were all mad and we are still angry about what evil people did on that day. We will never forget. We could have covertly taken out Bin Laden and many more terrorists without all that our political leaders have done over the last 20 years.

Thousands of parents lost their children in Afghanistan. Thousands of spouses lost husbands and wives. Children lost their parents. These precious Americans will suffer the rest of their lives over the loss of their loved ones.

The long Afghanistan war broke the hearts of Americans as 6,294 Military and American contractors have been killed. Sixty-six thousand Afghan national military and police have been killed. Over 47,000 Afghan civilians killed. Aid workers killed. Journalists killed. The Afghanistan and Iraq war has cost Americans \$2 trillion. Financially it will never be over for most living Americans.

There are reports that the United States has committed to pay \$2 trillion more in health care, disability, burial and other costs for roughly 4 million Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans. America has a tough job caring for our own Veterans. For years we did a very poor job of providing good care for Veterans with physical and mental needs.

The estimated interest costs of these wars by 2050 is \$6.5 trillion.

There will never be an end to our 20-year nightmare war in Afghanistan. Families will suffer every day from the grief of the loss of loved ones who sacrificed their lives. Every year we all will pay on the trillions of dollars in debt created by the war. For the rest of most American's lives, we will pay on the trillions of dollars of money that we have committed to care for Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans. As we pay these huge obligations, Americans will struggle to pay for health care. Senior adults will be given minimal cost of living increases. American young people will be buried by college debt.

Further, reports indicate that we have handed over to the Taliban approximately 22,000 Humvees, 8000 large trucks, 42,000 pick-up trucks, 358,000 assault rifles, 64,000 machine guns and 126,000 pistols, plus 155 mineproof vehicles. We have equipped them with billions of dollars of highpriced items that we will pay on forever. They will use American equipment to dominate a defenseless nation of people that will now be left behind to try to survive a revitalized

We may be finally leaving Afghanistan, but Afghanistan, for our generation, will never go away.

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.

# The Boston Election Department announces preparations ahead of the 2021 Elections

The City of Boston's Election Department today announced its preparations ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections, including the availability of vote by mail and early voting for both the Tuesday, September 14, 2021 Preliminary Municipal Election and the Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Municipal Election. The City of Boston has also installed ballot drop boxes across the city for voters to drop off completed vote by mail ballots.

Applications for vote by mail ballots have been mailed out to every registered voter in Boston. Voters are asked to fill out the application, including their signature, as applications received without a signature will not be accepted. To be eligible to vote by mail in the Preliminary Municipal Election, applications must be returned to the Boston Election Department by Wednesday, September 8, at 5 p.m.

Vote by mail applications can be returned by U.S. mail with the prepaid postcard or in-person at the Boston Election Department, City Hall, Room 241.

If a registered Boston voter did not receive or lost their application, they can request a new ballot application by completing the form available on the City's vote-by-mail website. The form can be sent to the City of Boston's Election Department, via mail, email, fax, or in-person. The Boston Election Department is located at

**Boston City Hall** City Hall Square, Room Boston, MA 02201

Fax: 617-635-4483, Tel:

617-635-VOTE (8683) Email: absenteevoter@ boston.gov

#### Vote By Mail

The Election Department will send out vote by mail ballots as soon as the application requests are processed. Once a voter receives their ballot package, they should follow the enclosed instructions. It is important to sign the yellow ballot affidavit envelope. Unsigned ballot affidavit envelopes will cause a ballot to be rejected. To return ballots by U.S. mail, make sure to apply sufficient postage. While ballot package weight can vary, two First Class stamps is generally

sufficient. To be counted, ballots must be received by the Boston Election Department or in a ballot drop box by the close of polls on Election Day, Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8

#### **Tracking Your Ballot**

Boston voters can track their ballot request through the state's website. We will continue to mail ballots as applications arrive, until the application deadline of 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

#### **Ballot Drop Boxes**

The Boston Election Department has placed 20 ballot drop boxes around the City, including at both the first and third floor entrances of Boston City Hall. All drop boxes are monitored under 24 hour video surveillance. Drop boxes will also be available at each early voting location during the scheduled voting hours. To find a location of a ballot drop

box, visit here.

#### **In- Person Early Voting**

Voters registered in Boston can vote during the early voting period from Saturday, September 4 through Friday, September 10, 2021, at any of the early voting sites. Hours and locations for early voting can be found here.

All early voting sites are equipped with electronic poll books for voter check in. Early voting locations are well staffed with poll workers and language interpreters, and fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

#### **Voting on Election Day**

Polling locations for the Boston Preliminary Municipal Election will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Ballots will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese Vietnamese. Lanand

guage assistance will be available on Election Day by translators at polling locations or by contacting the Election Department's translation phone bank. Those interested in volunteering can apply to be a poll worker here.

#### On the Ballot

The September 14, 2021 Preliminary Municipal Election includes eight candidates for the Office of Mayor, 17 candidates for Office of City Councilor at-Large and the following City Council Districts: District 4, District 6, District 7, District 9. The remaining districts are not required to have a preliminary election as there are already only one or two

candidates running. For more information on how to participate in this year's elections, please visit boston.gov/ election.

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## East Boston Ward I Democratic Committee endorses Michelle Wu for mayor

By John Lynds

With Boston's September 14 Primary just around the corner the East Boston Ward I Democratic Committee has endorsed At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu for Mayor of Boston and made two other key endorsements in the City Councilor At-Large

Historically, Eastie has been a bellwether in municipal elections and has picked the winner in Boston Mayor's races dating back to Ray Flynn. The most recent was back in 2013 when Eastie voters went with Marty Walsh over the heavily favored John Connolly during that year's race to replace the late Mayor Thomas Meni-

Throughout the election season, candidates have made their presence known here and have tried to cultivate support among Eastie voters throughout the summer.

According to the latest polls, Wu has pulled ahead of Acting Mayor Kim Janey and leads the pack. At-Large City Councilor and former East Boston High School teacher and coach Anissa Essabi-George is now tied for second place with Janey and City Councilor Andrea Campbell and John Barros, former Former Chief of Economic Development, round out the rest of the field. However, 25 percent of voters polled are still undecided--setting up what is sure to be an exciting primary that will narrow the field of mayoral candidates down to two for the No-

vember 2 general election. Wu, who was also endorsed by East Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards over the summer, was the first candidate to launch a campaign for mayor.

"I'm honored and energized to stand with the Ward 1 Democrats in organizing to build community and transform what's possible in politics and policy," said Wu in a statement. "The issues affecting East Boston are a microcosm of every challenge throughout our city, and I know that together, we can tackle our biggest challenges through building coalitions for bold, urgent leadership."

This endorsement adds to Wu's support among Ward Committees, where she has already earned the endorsement of the Ward 4 Democrats (parts of Back Bay, Fenway and the South End) and Ward 5 Democrats (Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, and Bay Village). No other candidate in the mayoral race has received the endorsement of any Ward Committee.

"I'm excited about the work Michelle has already done to advocate for East Boston, where we have historically had to fight to be heard," said ward committee chair Vicki DiLorenzo.

DiLorenzo said the Ward I Committee also endorsed incumbent At-Large City Councilor Julia Mejia and candidates David Halbert, and Ruthzee Louijeune for City Council At Large.

"I'm excited about these impressive candidates and the work they've already done to advocate for East Boston, where we have historically had to fight to be heard," she said.

Councilor Mejia is

the first and only Latina member of the Boston City Council and support among Eastie voters has been strong. According to the 2020 census Eastie has the largest Latino population among any neighbor-

hood in Boston.

"We are humbled to know that our Mejia Movement has earned the trust and support of the Ward 1 Democrats," said Mejia. "The struggles and triumphs of their neighborhood represent the crossroads we are facing in Boston today. East Boston and its residents have been hit harder than most by COVID-19, are fighting tooth and nail against rapid gentrification, and are seeing effects of the climate crisis sooner via lack of tree canopy, while also harboring some of our city's greatest cultural gems and local small businesses. We are ready to stand alongside them, and look forward to collaborating with Ward 1 and its residents throughout our next term."

Halbert, who lived in East Boston for 14 years before moving to Dorchester, has personally experienced the issues facing the neighborhood. Although Halbert now lives in Dorchester he has strong relationships in the community and was once a Ward I Committee member and organizer and served on community boards like the Piers Park Advisory Committee.

"I am honored and excited to have the endorsement of the Ward One Democratic Committee," said Halbert. "As a former East Boston resident and Committee member, I look forward to working with the members to ensure residents aren't pushed out of the neighborhood due to our housing crisis, that all of our local businesses can thrive, and that East Boston families have great schools - with the support our children deserve - at every level, and in every corner of the neighborhood."

Louijeune, a former housing justice attorney who also worked as the top lawyer on Elizabeth Warren's presidential campaign, has been running a strong campaign both here and across the city. She has received a high level of support from both longtime Eastie residents as well as newcomers.

"I am honored to have the endorsement of the Ward 1 Democrats," said Louijuene . "I am fully committed to working alongside the Eastie Dems and local elected officials as we fight for high quality and affordable housing and public transit, combat the negative externalities associated with Logan Airport on the community, and work toward a healthier, more sustainable, and prosperous future for the working class families that call East Boston home."



At-Large City Council candidate Ruthzee Louijeune.



At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu.



**Incumbent At-Large City** Councilor Julia Mejia.



At-Large City Council candidate David Halbert.

# EX GRA

FOR AT-LARGE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL



Alex Gray is a father, attorney, and public servant running to be Boston's first blind City Councilor.

Alex is running for At-Large Boston City Council because his work for Governor Deval Patrick and Mayor Martin J. Walsh has brought him to every neighborhood in the city and given him the experience to do the job on Day One.

**VOTE TUESDAY, SEPT. 14** 

(III) VoteAlexGray.com

info@votealexgray.com Paid for by The Gray Committee

FOR MAYOR

Michelle Wu will fight for our neighborhoods.



# Election Day is Sept. 14, but you can vote early!

## **VOTE EARLY**

PAID FOR BY THE WU COMMITTEE

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## Caregiver Solutions

with Meg Hogan, CEO of Boston Senior Home Care

Did you know that in Massachusetts, there are an estimated 10,400 grandparents with the full-time responsibility of raising their grandchildren? Today, a growing number of grandparents have taken on the parenting role for their grandchildren, when parents experience personal or emotional difficulties and children need care.

Raising grandchildren can be incredibly rewarding. Many grandparents acknowledge that they derive immense satisfaction from providing their grandchildren with a safe, stable home environment in which to grow and thrive. However, it can also be stressful. At times, the physical, emotional, and financial demands of caregiving can leave many grandparents feeling ovewhelmed. Luckily, they do not have to go it alone. In fact, studies show that grandparents who cope well with the responsibilities of raising grandchildren are those who seek out assistance and support.

Boston Senior Home Care's Caregiver Solutions program can help by providing a variety of services and supports tailored to meet the needs of grandparents, such as training, education, resources and support. For grandchildren, the program can provide technology, scholarships for after-school programs, counseling, and more.

Raising a grandchild has both joys and challenges. With Caregiver Solutions, you can be confident in your caregiving role. You can depend on us. For more information visit bshcinfo.org or call 617-292-6211.



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#### EBCC PARTICIPATES IN BETTER BEACHES EVENT

East Boston Chamber of Commerce participated in the Better Beaches Event at Constitution

The Better Beaches event was held at Constitution Beach on Friday, August 27, hosted by the Mayor's Office of Public Services and The Harborkeepers.

The Harbor Keepers provided coastal themed activities such as kayaking, a display boat, guided zumba, yoga, painting, games, and a DJ (Trike Called Funk). The Eastie community participated in contests winning prizes, enjoyed refreshments, and took away some fun and colorful giveaways. Fun was had by all who attend-

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce offered some activities that included chances to win prizes. Young Anderson won the last of the three American flags that were given out as prizes for finding the metal coin among the plastic gold colored pirates treasure coins in the treasure chest at the Chamber's table.

Congratulations to the Mayor's Office of Public Services and The Harbor Keepers for such a successful event.

If you are interested in joining the Chamber please email at contact@ eastbostonchamber.com, for more information about us visit our website www.eastbostonchamber.



The East Boston Chamber of Commerce's table at the Better Beaches event.



Anderson won the last of the three American flags that were given out as prizes for finding the metal coin among the plastic gold colored pirates treasure coins in the treasure chest at the Chamber's table.

#### VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON

# **JON SPILLANE**

**BOSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE** 



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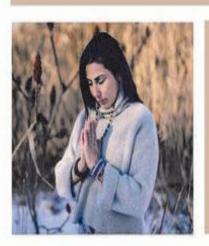
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#### HARBORKEEPERS HOST ANNUAL MARITIME BEACH FESTIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE US COAST GUARD SECTOR BOSTON

On Friday, August 27 the Harborkeepers hosted the annual Maritime Beach Festival in partnership with the US Coast Guard Sector Boston. The event, sponsored by a host of local supporters as well as the US Coast Guard, Save the HarborSave the Bay Better Beaches Program and the Massachusetts DCR, Cargo Ventures and the Mayor's Office of Public Service, featured a whole host of activities throughout the day.

The festival featured marine activities, art, performances, demonstrations by the United States Coast Guard, free kayaking, face-painting, a sand castle contest, scavenger hunt and many more engaging and fun things to

Around 500 people attended the day-long free beach event



Volunteers from the New **England Aquarium per**formed water activities with Eastie youth.



**Boston At-Large City Council candidate Ruthzee Louijeune** during the event.



A demonstration of an ATV during the annual beach event.



Representatives of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries educated attendees on the dangers of overfish-



Representatives of Boston Sea Rovers talked about their dedication to increasing awareness and appreciation of the marine environment just off our shores.



Pat Capogreco with Harborkeepers Director and Founder Magdelena Ayed.



ble dance floor.



The festival featured marine activities, art, performances, demonstrations by the United States Coast Guard, free kayaking, face-painting, a sand castle contest, scavenger hunt and many more engaging and fun things to do.



A youth pets an Atlantic lobster during the event.



The event wouldn't be complete without a mobile DJ to provide celebratory music.



Piers Park Sailing provided free kayaking for residents.



Some local youth participate in some arts and crafts.



The event included dozens of demonstrations and hands-



The little one shows just how big a shark's jaw really is.





The event was sponsored by a host of local supporters as well as the US Coast Guard Sector Boston.



activities.



These youth hold up a giant sea turtle shell.







Some of the engaging, inclusive, and stylistically consistent interpretive signs already installed along Eastie's Harborwalk. Friends of the Boston Harborwalk/Boston Harbor Now are currently working on a sign about Eastie immigration that will be installed on Harborwalk at Portside at Pier One. The two groups are looking for residents that may have a photo that captures the more recent waves of immigrants.

# Interpretive signage being placed around Eastie's Harborwalk

By John Lynds

The Friends of the Boston Harborwalk, affiliated with Boston Harbor Now, is involved in a multi-year effort to add engaging, inclusive, and stylistically consistent interpretive signs along Boston's 43-mile Harborwalk, including right here in East Bos-

If you've walked along the new segments of the Harborwalk in Eastie recently, the signs you see are the result of the ongoing effort by the two waterfront advocacy groups.

So far 11 signs at Boston East, The Mark, Clippership Wharf, and one at the shipyard have been installed that give visitors a history of the locations

along Eastie's shores from shipbuilding to immigration.

"Our researchers-writers create the content probono," said volunteer and lead from the Friends of the Boston Harborwalk/
Boston Harbor Now Signage Committee Liz Nelson Weaver. "The developer or property owner pays for design, manufacture,

30 signs our team created are in place in four Boston neighborhoods. Each sign is 42" x 24". We work closely with all stakeholders to enhance the Harborwalk for the enjoyment of residents and visitors."

and installation. In total,

Weaver said Friends of the Boston Harborwalk/ Boston Harbor Now are currently working on a sign about Eastie immigration that will be installed on Harborwalk at Portside at Pier One.

"I'm searching for a photograph I can use on the lower panel that captures the impact of the more recent waves of immigrants," said Waever. "The photo could be of one of the festivals that includes folks from various countries. Or

it could be some community activity that drew folks from many different countries. Many community events have been cancelled since March 2020, so it's absolutely fine if the photo is from 2018, 2019 or earlier."

Anyone in possession of such a photo can email it to nelsonlizm@gmail.com.

# Transfer student disparities grow across racial and ethnic lines

In the 2020-21 academic year, higher education lost about 191,500 transfer students, or 8.4% compared to the previous year, according to research released today by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. The COVID-19: Transfer, Mobility, and Progress Academic Year 2020-21 Report, the fifth in the series, reflects the pandemic's full-blown impact on

postsecondary students. This is the first comprehensive report to assess effects of the pandemic on student transfer during the entire academic year, in which 2.1 million undergraduate students transferred to a college other than their last enrolled institution between July 2020 and June 2021.

"The bright spot for students is the increase in upward transfer into highly selective four-year colleges and universities," said Doug Shapiro, Executive Director, National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. "As transfers overall decline and equity gaps grow, however, this small segment alone cannot erase the larger concerns of diminished opportunity for students."

How enrollment and transfer patterns continue to persist or diverge going into the upcoming academic year remains to be seen, but the Research Center expects as the pandemic continues, there will likely be further divergences among students and institutions, deepening the longstanding concerns over disparities in student mobility and progress.

2020-2021 Year in Review Highlights include:

• While every pathway of transfer suffered declines, the rate of decline was not the same. Upward transfers, moving from two-year to four-year colleges, held up relatively well, with only a 1.3% decline or about 11,900 student losses. Pandemic-driven losses were more notable in the fall. In fact, upward transfers increased in spring.

• Disparities in upward transfer mobility increased during the pandemic year. Asian and Latinx upward transfers grew (+5.9% and +1.4%, respectively), but Black and Native American upward transfers fell further than pre-pandemic decline (-6.1% and -4.1%, respectively) while White students saw a drop consistent with the pre-pandemic rate of decline (-4.4%).

Only highly selective

institutions expanded their total transfer enrollment for the year, thanks to an unusually large one-year growth in upward transfer (10.3%). This growth included all student groups, irrespective of gender, race, and ethnicity, or transferring within states or into different states (see the figure on the following page).

• Patterns of upward transfer mobility along institutional selectivity, gender, and race and ethnicity shifted over the course of the academic year, most notably changing from highly selective colleges leading the growth of upward transfers in fall 2020, to marked increases in Latinx upward transfers in spring 2021 that were more concentrated at less competitive institutions.

• As upward transfer inflows grow at high-

ly selective colleges and a few leading primarily online institutions, their persistence post-transfer appears to be suffering. In contrast, no significant persistence rate drops attributable to the pandemic are found nationally (all transfer pathways combined).

• Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) had substantial transfer student losses this year (-70,400 students, -11.8%), while Historically Black Colleges and Universities remained largely unaffected. Both saw post-transfer persistence rates falling due to the pandemic, except that HSIs made a small gain in the latter part of the year. Following national patterns, declines in mobility at these institutions were largely driven by men.

By The Numbers (July 2020 – June 2021):

There were approximately 2.1 million transfer students and 11.8 million non-transfer students. Fall transfer students accounted for 64% of the total transfer enrollment for the academic year.

• Transfer enrollment fell by 191,500 students or -8.4%; non-transfer enrollment fell by 456,100 students or -3.7%. The previous year, transfer enrollment had dropped 69,300 students or -2.9%.

• All transfer pathways were affected but in different ways:

• Lateral transfers

fell 114,400 or -11.9% (-38,700 or -3.9% the previous year) Between 2-year col-

leges, -83,600 or -15.2% (-27,600 or -4.8% the previous year)

Between 4-year col-

leges, -30,800 or -7.5% (-11,100 or -2.6% the previous year)
• Reverse transfers fell

65,200 or -16.2% (-19,200 or -4.5% the previous year)
• Upward transfers fell

• Upward transfers fell 11,900 or -1.3% (-11,400 or -1.2% the previous year)

Fall – fell by 15,500 or -2.3% (-5,800 or -0.8% the previous year)

Spring – increased by 2,400 or +0.9% (-8,700 or -3.2% the previous year)

• Lateral transfers account for 60% of the total decline (44% in two-year colleges and 16% in four-year colleges); reverse transfers account for 34%;

and upward transfers ac-

count for 6%.

- Transfer enrollment fell more for males:
- Males fell by 112,900 or -12.1% (-37,100 or -3.8% the previous year) • Females fell by 76,200
- or -5.8% (-32,200 or -2.4% the previous year)
   Black transfer stu-
- dents fell at the sharpest rate of all groups:
  • Whites declined by 86,700 or -9.1% (-59,900
- or -5.9% the previous year)

   Blacks declined by 39,500 or -12.9% (-15,400)
- or -4.8% the previous year)
   Latinx declined by 31,900 or -8.4% (+3,300
- year)
   Asians declined by 4,500 or -4.2% (-2,100 or

or +0.9% the previous

-1.9% the previous year)
• Native Americans declined by 1,900 or -9.9% (-1,000 or -4.9% the previous year)

The COVID-19 Transfer, Mobility, and Progress Report series, with support from Ascendium Education Group and ECMC Foundation, identifies changes in student transfer pathways that are attributable to the pandemic by using historical data as the pre-pandemic baseline and the Clearinghouse's current enrollment data. By providing the most up-to-date information about student transfer available online for free, the Research Center enables schools, institutions, organizations, and policymakers to better adapt and serve students, particularly those from the most vulnerable populations, during the pandemic and beyond. About the National Stu-

dent Clearinghouse® Research Center™

The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center is the research arm of the National Student Clearinghouse. The Research Center collaborates with higher education institutions, states, school districts, high schools, and educational organizations as part of a national effort to better inform education leaders and policymakers. Through accurate longitudinal data outcomes reporting, the Research Center enables better educational policy decisions leading to improved student outcomes.

The Research Center analyzes the data from 3,600 postsecondary in-

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Sun: 7:30am-7pm

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See STUDENTS Page 9

#### Fresh and Local

# Dips for dinner

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In a recent New York Times Food video, host Vaughn Vreeland cooked a week of meals for himself as a solo diner. He made dips for dinner for one of the meals and inspired us to explore this menu option.

You can collect a few dips with a visit to a grocery store or as takeout from restaurants with dippable or spreadable items on the menu. (Most dips can be used as spreads, so we are including both ways of enjoying them.) The healthiest and perhaps tastiest options can come from your kitchen with an assist from a food processor, blender, or mortar and pestle.

#### **Healthy Dip Options**

Penny went straight to her favorite bean cookbooks as a starting place for planning this menu. Many cultures rely on

beans or legumes as a base for a dip or spread. Our favorite source for dried beans is Rancho Gordo. Their cookbook, "Heirloom Beans: Great Recipes for Dips and Spreads, Soups and Stews, Salads and Salsas, and Much More from Rancho Gordo" is a great place to start.

One of this book's recipes combines black beans with cauliflower. That can be spread on toast or scooped up with a tortilla or flatbread. By combining the beans with a grain you create a complete protein. If you add a chopped vegetable like the cauliflower, you have added both flavor and nutrition.

Dips for dinner could also be a mezze (also called meze or mezza) spread. Penny enjoyed a MasterClass on this topic hosted by Yotam Ottolenghi. In his class notes he wrote, "If you're going to serve a mezze spread, there are a few things

to keep in mind. First, there's the matter of making things in advance cooking and serving so many different dishes in one meal is a lot of work. Fortunately, many components can be made well ahead of time, and plenty of dishes taste better the next day." His choice of mezze included Muhammara (a roasted pepper dip), a pea spread, and a garlic hummus recipe.

You can also mix up dips from different cultures to make an international selection. Two Italian favorites are Tuscan bean dip and Sicilian caponata. You could even top the bean spread with the caponata the way you might top a red lentil dal dip from India with chut-

#### **Leftovers Can Be Dippable Flavor** As you read through dip

and spread recipes you'll

see that there is a lot of



Here's a pantry-ready spread. Mash a can of smoked trout, add a bit of plain yogurt, season with pepper, and serve with multigrain crackers and celery sticks.

freedom for the cook to exchange one ingredient for another. This means that these dishes are the perfect place to use up bits of flavor sitting in your refrigerator as a leftover. If you have an extra ear of corn, cut it off the cob and add it to salsa or bean-based dip. Leftover greens sautéd with garlic and olive oil just need a can of cannellini beans and a minute in a blend-

er or food processor to be ready to dip or spread.

And, if you prefer to let the pros do the preparation, you'll find shelves of hummus, dips, and spreads in supermarkets. When we visit the Middle Eastern markets in Watertown, we always bring home a few containers of the various mezze they offer. Baba ganoush is a favorite because it takes a bit more work than many of the recipes mentioned

You could also sample a dinner or brunch of dips and spreads at a local restaurant. Try anoush'ella in the South End or Krazi Meze & Wine in the Back Bay.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

# Students // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

97% of the nation's postsecondary enrollments in Title IV degree-granting institutions in the U.S., as

stitutions, which represent of 2018. Clearinghouse data track enrollments nationally and are not limited by institutional and state boundaries, while

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SU21D0720DR

Portillo Plaintiff Claudia Denise Villamizar Diaz Defendant To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown

Marlon Amilcar

The Complaint is on file a the Court. An Automatic Restraining

Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are required to serve upon: Marlon Amilcar Portillo 7 Trenton St. #1 East Boston, MA 02128-1010 your answer on or before day 10/14/2021. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed

to the hearing and adjudica-

tion of this action. You are

your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at Boston: 24 New Chardon St. 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02114 Witness, Brian J. Dunn, Esquire, First Judge of said Court. Date: July 16, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

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#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Pasquale Leone

Retired Piping Designer

Pasquale A. Leone of East Boston passed away peacefully on August 27.



Mr. one worked as a piping designer several prestigious firms,

including United Engineers and Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. He also served his country as a U.S. Marine during the Korean Conflict. He loved cooking for his family and was an avid horse-racing

The beloved husband of Joan (Gately) Leone, he was the devoted father of Laura Webb of Stoneham, David Leone of Marshfield, and Christopher Leone of East Boston; dear brother of John and Frank Leone, Clementina Cornetta, and Mildred Pirone and cherished grandfather of Alex, Audrey, Andrew, Kathryn, Michael, Amanda and Christopher. He is also survived by many loving nieces and neph-

Family and friends will honor Mr. Leone's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St. (Orient Heights) East Boston today, Wednesday, September 1 from 4 to 8 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in pro-



cession to St. Joseph, St Lazarus Church, Ashley Street, East Boston. A Funeral Mass honoring Mr. Leone's life will follow at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Mr. Leone being laid to rest with military honors in Puritan Lawn Memorial Park.

To show his love for East Boston, the Leone family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Boston High School Scholarship Fund, 86 White Street East Boston MA 02128, attention Headmaster Phillip Brangiforte or through our website, www.ruggieromh.com.

In accordance with the City of Boston Five-Point Plan for the Delta Variant of COVID-19, face masks are required at all times when indoors. To leave an online condolence or view Mr.Leone's tribute video please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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

#### Eleanor Carfagna

She cherished and loved her family above all else

Eleanor "Ellie" M. (Abbott) Carfagna was born and spent most of her life in East Boston, the devoted daughter of the late Dennis James and Ann Abbott of East Boston.

After a long battle with dementia, Ellie is finally at peace and passed away on August 29 at the age of 94. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred Carfagna of Medford and her devoted and beautiful daughter, Jean Ann (Carfagna) Festa. Eleanor leaves behind

her beloved children and their spouses: Alfred Carfagna and his wife, Joanne, Carol Carfagna-Foley and her husband, John, Richard Carfagna and his wife, Mary and the spouse of her late daughter, David Foley. She is also survived by her cherished grandchildren: Richard and Ronee Festa, Emilia and Aria Carfagna and her great granddaughter, Gianna Festa.



pendent woman and a nurturing and loving mother and friend. She cherished and loved her family above all else.

All who loved her are grieved by the passing of this wonderful woman and will forever treasure her memory.

A private celebration of her life will be held at a future date. If you wish to celebrate Ellie's life, please donate to the Dementia Society of America or the Alzheimer's Foundation.

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#### September is designated Suicide **Prevention Awareness Month**

September is Suicide Awareness Prevention Month and for many the subject of suicide is off limits. They believe the mere mention of suicide around friends and family can cause suicidal thoughts for them. Nothing could be further from the truth.

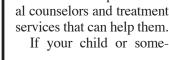
Approximately 47,500 Americans died by their own hand in 2019, making suicide the 10th leading cause of death in this nation. Suicide rates in the US have climbed 33% in the last decade. One of the ways to reduce that number is by talking about suicide and suicidal ideation, which can spur meaningful conversations about mental health and potentially save

Even more concerning is that suicide and suicide attempts among our nation's youth (ages 10-24) are on the rise. According to information released last year by the CDC, 19% of youth had seriously considered attempting suicide, 16% had made a suicide plan, 9% had made a suicide attempt, and 2.5% had made a suicide attempt that was significant enough to require medical treatment.

Join the conversation, and reach out to those who have been personally affected by suicide, raise awareness, and connect those struggling with suicidal ideation to professional counselors and treatment services that can help them.

one you love is struggling with depression or thinking about suicide, get help now. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), is a free resource, available 24 hours a day for anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. The Crisis Text Line is a free 24/7 text line where trained crisis counselors support individuals in crisis. Text "Jason" to 741741 to speak with a compassionate, trained Crisis Counselor. Confidential support 24/7, for free.

The Jason Foundation (JFI) is another available resource. Although September is set aside as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, JFI works toward suicide prevention all year long. JFI is dedicated to the awareness and prevention of youth suicide through educational programs that equip youth, parents, educators, and the community with the tools and resources to identify and assist at-risk youth. Many times, young people exhibit clear warnings signs prior to an attempt. By knowing the warning signs and knowing how to help, you could save a life. Visit The Jason Foundation's website to learn more about youth suicide, the warning signs, and how you can help make a difference. JFI has never charged a school, community, or individual for the use of their programs or resources. http://www.jasonfoundation.com





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# Celebration of Life Ann (Speciale) Colvario

Ann M. (Speciale) Colvario of Saugus, formerly of East Boston, died on July 9, 2020.

The late proprietor of Willie's Classic Barbershop, formerly of Maverick St., East Boston, she was the beloved mother of Gina Colvario Krupka and her husband, Mike Krupka of RI and the late Diane Colvario VanMeter.

Join us at 2pm on September 7, 2021, her birthday, for a celebration of life to honor Anna. Come share your favorite memories of this beautiful and loving soul. To be followed by a memorial mass at the Don Orione,

150 Orient Ave, East Boston, MA 02128. Please contact her daughter Gina for additional

information at: (401)580-5800 or email: ginackri@hotmail.com



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# District Attorney Rachael Rollins releases mid-term report

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins today released a mid-term report highlighting the work of her office in the first 33 months of her administration.

The 43-page document is built around the five core values of the office: Help Heal. Be Brave. Serve Humbly. Respect Everyone. Work Smart. A first year, annual report was in preparation for release in the spring of 2020, but the global pandemic forced a recalibration of the office and its work, so a final document was not produced.

"I am fiercely proud of what SCDAO has accomplished in my first two and a half years in office and this report reflects those accomplishments," said District Attorney Rachael Rollins. "It also provides an analysis of crime trend

dence to assess the public safety impacts of the policies we implemented."

Under the heading Help Heal, the mid-term report outlines several achievements including: implementing a Rollins campaign promise to presumptively decline to prosecute a list of 15 non-violent, non-public safety focused, low level misdemeanors, and to instead seek potential non-carceral alternatives. The presumption is rebuttable. This policy has not resulted in the increase in crime some predicted. In fact, data show that the opposite appears to be true;

reviewing more than 1,100 cases of some 818 people in custody during COVID where SCDAO staff either did not oppose or actively worked to achieve the release of 236 people. The report

may explain reduced infection rates in the state's county jails compared to state DOC facilities; creating one of the first in the nation programs that developed guidelines for, and to have started delivering fully tele forensic interviews and partially remote forensic interviews for child victims of sexual assault; working to open the Grand Jury -- one of the first in the nation to safely reopen -- and seeing two separate, socially distanced Grand Juries return more than 164 indictments in 58 days. Additional grand juries have returned more than 1,600 indictments since August, 2020 all involving some of our Commonwealth's most violent, serious cases.

The report states that "being brave is central to the work of the criminal prosecutor" and in the Be Brave chapter, the report

notes that our ADAs, victim witness advocates, investigators and administrative staff interact with people who are going through some of the worst, most traumatic experiences in their lives. Prosecutors must review evidence and draw conclusions.

"Being Brave means it is the job of this Office to hold itself and others accountable, especially when it becomes clear that our system has no consistent, overarching audit function," the report Some of the highlights

in Be Brave include: being the first jurisdiction in the nation to bring, and win, an injunction against ICE, effectively halting civil arrests in and around the public areas of Mascourthouses. sachusetts The Biden Administration has implemented policies consistent with our legal

position; filing, and winning, emergency petitions with the Supreme Judicial Court to uphold prosecutorial discretion, particularly when the discretion is used to decarcerate rather than incarcerate; welcoming researchers to full access and unfettered review of Suffolk County data and committing to change course if the data indicate a need to do so; In addition to the re-

cent National Bureau of Economic Research paper which looked at 17 years of Suffolk County data and showed that non-prosecution of non-violent misdemeanors reduces recidivism, a Harvard data scientist and PhD candidate has analyzed cases impacted by SCDAO's non-prosecution polices and the preliminary findings indicate:

The share of the non-violent, non-serious misdemeanor cases declined, dismissed or diverted increased following the release of the Rollins Memo from 54 percent (in the four years prior to Rollins being elected) to 77 percent in the one year after her election; At the same time, the recidivism rate for those cases and the violent recidivism rate both

decreased. • Being the first DA's Office in the nation to advocate to our state's highest court in favor of individualized sentencing for every 18-20 year old in

first degree murder cases. The Serve Humbly section, noting the on-going trauma still felt in and around Mission Hill some thirty years after the police invasion following the murders of Carol DiMaiti Stuart and her son, Christopher, states the need

See REPORT Page 12



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# MassDOT releases Labor Day travel advisory

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is advising the public to plan ahead for Labor Day Weekend travel, drive in off peak hours if possible, utilize available technology tools for trips including www. mass511.com, consider public transportation if possible to reach destinations and bring a face-covering as some municipalities have a mask mandate for indoor venues.

"We expect traffic levels to be high this Labor Day Weekend especially during the afternoon hours on Thursday and Friday," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "Anyone driving should plan ahead, anticipate that trips will take longer than expected, and if possible use public transportation to reach destinations."

Due to the anticipated higher than normal daily traffic volumes for several days leading up to and including Monday, Labor Day, MassDOT is taking several steps to ease congestion:

• Shutting down scheduled non-emergency construction effective at 5 a.m., Friday, September 3. Scheduled road work will then resume at the start of normal business hours on Tuesday, September 7.

• Deploying the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane on I-93 between Boston and Quincy earlier than usual in the afternoon by opening at 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 2 and at 1:00

p.m., on Friday, September 3. The HOV lane will be closed on Monday, September 6. The HOV will have normal hours Thursday and Friday mornings, from 5 a.m. through 10 a.m. Normal deployment resumes on Tuesday, September 7.

• The additional "swing lane" on Route 1A southbound at the Sumner Tunnel will be closed on Monday, September 6. Normal deployment resumes on Tuesday, September 7, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00

At Boston Logan International Airport, Worcester Regional Airport, Hanscom Field and Flynn Cruiseport Boston, passenger and employee safety is Massport's top priority. A federal mask mandate remains in place at all transportation facilities, which requires all passengers and staff to wear face covering while at the airport and cruise terminals, as well as while riding public and private transportation systems.

Due to ongoing construction at Logan Airport, passengers are urged to plan their trip to and from the airport ahead of time. Construction updates are available at FlyLogan.

Massport encourages passengers to take the Logan Express bus service from Braintree, Framingham, or Woburn. Logan Express e-ticket information can be found at: LoganExpress.com. For other transportation options

to and from Logan Airport, visit FlyLogan.com.

The public is reminded that Monday, September 6, is a state holiday and among offices closed are those of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Customer service centers which have been open during the pandemic will reopen by appointment only on Tuesday, September 7. Meanwhile, AAA members may visit any AAA Northeast location by appointment for some Registry transactions and more than 40 Registry transactions can be done online: www.mass.gov/RMV.

MassDOT's Highway Assistance Program, sponsored by MAPFRE, will be increasing patrols on all major roadways to support roadside assistance needs. Requests for assistance can be initiated by calling 911.

Due to the holiday weekend, the MBTA has released the following information regarding travel on Monday, September 6:

• All subway and com-

- muter rail lines, buses, trackless trolleys, and commuter rails will operate on a Sunday schedule. • There will be no ferry
- service on the F1 (Hingham - Boston).
- All other ferry lines will operate on a weekend schedule.
- The RIDE will operate on a Sunday schedule.
- Please note that there is no Sunday service for the Stoughton and Needham lines.
  - For more information,

visit: www.mbta.com/holidays

MBTA customers are reminded that, due to COVID-19, masks are mandatory on MBTA vehicles, at MBTA stations and at bus stops.

For traffic and road conditions, drivers may use the following options to make decisions:

- Download Mass-DOT's GoTime mobile app and view real-time traffic conditions before setting out on the road.
- Visit www.mass511. com to view travel times, road construction, traffic alerts or crashes along a route. Incidents, road closures, lane closures, real-time live traffic cameras, and weather alerts/ forecasts, can all be viewed on the interactive live Traffic Map.
- Dial 511 from a landline or cell phone to hear information on current conditions on major road-
- Register for a Mass511 account to create and personalize routes and alerts to be notified of events on those routes ahead of time.
- Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to find out about impacts on traffic flow on major state highways.

Drivers are reminded to avoid littering on roadways. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$5,500 for the first offense.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation wishes all members of the public a safe and enjoyable holiday.



#### Report // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

to acknowledge failures, correct past mistakes and prevent ones from reoc-

curring in the future. Highlights include: creating our country's first Discharge Integrity Team to review allegations of excessive police force was vitally important "because partners who work closely together in the criminal legal system – like the DA's office and police departments - to prepare cases and secure convictions are inherently biased in favor of each other". The DIT consists of a community member, a retired judge, a criminal defense attorney and an active member of law enforcement, all of whom assist DA Rollins with her investigation; establishing the Integrity Review Bureau, which has, in some 16 months, vacated or overturned decisions in 10 cases including those involving Robert Foxworth, Pedro Valentin, Arnold King, and Sean Ellis. Collectively these 10 individuals had served some 321 years in prison for convictions that were unjust, unconstitutional

Respecting Everyone, the report states, "is a commitment to valuing the humanity and dignity of each and every person our office serves" and that after "centuries of structural and individual racism, equal treatment alone will never deliver equity to the most impacted people and communities. Accordingly, we must bring a racial equity lense to everything we do."

or infected with corrup-

tion. And there are more

to come.

The section highlights how the office is more transparent and diverse than ever before and has made significant strides in broad outreach, including: thirty percent of the new hires speak more than one language; the language cavictim witness advocate

program has doubled; the enhanced Community Engagement Bureau has held quarterly town halls and virtual forums; sponsored, created, or attended more than 600 engagements; speaking and held more than 70 staff visits to prisons and jails; on-boarding for new ADAs includes a mandatory visit to the Nashua Street Jail and meeting with criminal defense attorneys, members of law enforcement, the judiciary, returning citizens, victims and survivors of violent crimes, and community partners.

A new oath of office administered to every single employee, intern or fellow at SCDAO that affirms our core values.

Working Smart is what public service requires and it is a necessity, as the report states, because "of the 18 primary agencies comprising the Suffolk County criminal legal system, SCDAO has the lowest budget per case and the lowest average salary per employee of all agencies with publicly available data."

The Rollins Memo charted a path to safely shift the priorities in the office to focus on the most violent and serious crimes. Some highlights in the Work Smart section include: increasing the number of completed homicide trials in 2019 by 21 percent;

launching the Project for Unsolved Suffolk Homicides (PUSH) in 2019 to focus specific attention and resources on the over 1300 unsolved homicides in Suffolk County dating back to the 1960s. We have indicted several decades old cases as a result of this initiative. And

there are more to come; applying for and receiving more than \$1 million pacity in the all-important in grants to better serve the

people of Suffolk County; during COVID providing more than 7000 hours of training for SCDAO staff and community partners to better serve the people of Suffolk County;

utilized work from home during COVID to upgrade the office IT systems and to better streamline our grand jury pro-

"Though there is a lot of good news to report here, much work remains," DA Rollins said. "In 2018, Massachusetts had the equivalent of the 9th highest incarceration rate in the world. Some police areas, such as B-3 in Boston's Mattapan neighborhood, saw an 11% increase in overall crime in 2019, despite overall crime declines and a record low number of homicides that

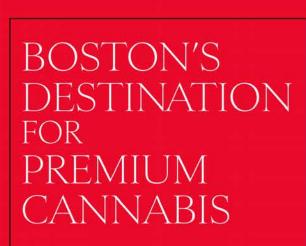
"Wealth based and racial disparities exist, and poor and BIPOC communities continue to shoulder the brunt of the county's violence and trauma. Though homicides declined 31% in Boston in 2019 -- representing the lowest number in decades -- they increased 77% countywide in 2020

(compared to that record low number). This year in Boston, due to excellent police and community work, we continue to see a decline in violent serious crimes, including homicides. But Chelsea has had two murders in 2021 and Winthrop remains shaken from the double homicide fueled by hate and the brave Winthrop police officer that confronted and neutralized a murderer, bringing the death toll to three. Research in trauma-related disciplines shows that shootings, whether fatal non-fatal, stabbings and violence harm entire families, social networks, and neighborhoods. We cannot falter or rest on our achievements. One homicide is too many. So, we continue to proactively try to disrupt violence and

"I am proud to say that in our first two and a half years in office we have taken major strides toward a public health-focused approach to public safety. We are committed and excited to continue this urgent work in 2021 and beyond."



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PLEASE CONSUME RESPONSIBLY. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults 21 years of age or older. Keep out of the reach of children. This product has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is limited information on the side effects of using this product, and there may be associated health risks. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding may pose potential harms. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. The impairment effects of Edibles may be delayed by two hours or more. In case of accidental ingestion, contact poison control hotline 1-800-222-1222 or 9-1-1. This product may be illegal outside of MA.