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# East Boston TIMES-FREE PRESS

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Wednesday, September 29, 2021

JETS SOCCER ACTION



ON THE MARK: Eastie's Rogelio Gonzales winds up a kick that got past Excel goalkeeper Thanh Cong Vu to push East Boston to a 4-0 lead during Saturday's 8-0 win over Excel High South Boston. See page 7 for more photos.

# Janey calling on more bodegas and corner stores to join Double Up Food Buck program

By John Lynds

Acting Mayor Kim Janey is looking to expand a successful program already up and running at some bodegas and corner stores in East Boston.

The city's Double Up Food Bucks program has increased the buying power of SNAP recipients in Eastie for fresh fruits and

vegetables. program The was launched in 2018 at nine bodegas and corner stores in Eastie, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan and customers participating in the program have redeemed over

\$500,000 worth of fruit Mayor's Office of Food and vegetable incentives at participating local stores. The program has allowed families with SNAP benefits to buy more healthy foods, help grocers gain new customers, and keep more food dollars within the local economy.

Last week, Janey and the Mayor's Office of Food Access (OFA) announced that OFA has been awarded \$500,000 through the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (Gus-NIP) grant to continue and expand the Boston Double Up Food Bucks program throughout the City. The

Access will also contribute \$500,000 in funds and in kind, totalling \$1 million in support to expand equitable access to affordable fruits and vegetables.

As part of the expansion plan, the City of Boston is calling on all bodegas and corner stores in Eastie and across the city to apply to be a part of the Double Up Food Bucks program

"Everyone deserves affordable, access to nutritious meals," said Janey. "Especially during the pandemic, the health of our residents is paramount. This program helps Boston residents,

while also aiding our small businesses. I encourage any eligible store owner interested to apply and take advantage of this opportunity."

Janey said the goal of the program and its expansion is to incentivize and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables. SNAP beneficiaries who shop at participating stores and use their EBT to pay for fresh fruits and vegetables can get a 50 percent discount of up to \$10 on their produce pur-

chase per day. "As part of the Double Up Food Bucks expansion

See JANEY Page 2

## Eastie Farm's Kannan Thiruvengadam featured speaker at the Massachusetts Democratic Party 2021 Platform Convention

By John Lynds

When East Bostonians think of sustainability, environmental activism and those who are racing against time to starve off the devastating impacts climate change will have on our world many think of one person--Kannan Thiruvengadam.

Since arriving in Eastie, Thiruvengadam has rolled up his sleeves and got to work advocating for resiliency and sustainability across the neighborhood and city.

When a city-owned parcel came up for sale on Sumner Street, Thiru-



Eastie Farm's Kannan Thiruvengadam was a featured speaker at the Massachusetts Democratic Party 2021 Platform Convention

vengadam got a group of like-minded advocates together and lobbied for a community farm instead of another residential de-

The city handed over the land and Thiruvengadam and volunteers created Eastie Farm--a community garden that prides itself on sustainability. With Thiruvengadam as a mentor, volunteers learn about rainwater conservation, waste management, and other eco-friendly urban farming methods, all while getting to know their neighbors and having

So it came as no surprise Thiruvengadam was a featured speaker at the Massachusetts Democratic Party 2021 Platform Convention held virtually

Saturday.

Aside from being a speaker, Thiruvengadam helped contribute to the party's platform

"I was honored to be a featured speaker at the Massachusetts Democratic Party 2021 Convention. I am also honored to have contributed to the party platform," said Thiruvengadam. "In our pursuit of a livable future for all, we must prioritize those who are affected the most, the earliest, can do the least about crises like climate change, and who have contributed the least to

See SPEAKER Page 2

# Supporting **EBECC**

# UnidosUS and City of Boston Digital Equity Fund give grants

By John Lynds

As schools opened across Eastie earlier this month, the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) Executive Director Frank Ramirez is spreading the word of a new opportunity for families to increase their computer skills.

Through two grants, one from UnidosUS and the City of Boston Digital Equity Funds, EBECC will be offering Digital Technology classes.

The grant to EBECC will support two of the agency's signature programs, The Aspiring Youth Development Center and The Adult Education Department. Ramirez said the grants

will help EBECC's mission to advance Hispanic families across the digital divide in Eastie.

"We obtained grants--a \$40,000 grant from UnidosUS, and a \$35,000 grant from the

City of Boston Digital Equity Funds," said Ramirez. "The Fund's goals are providing Boston residents with technology equipment, access, and training. With UnidosUS, EBECC secures an alignment with the Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation focus areas in Digital Inclusion, Digital Exploration, and Digital Skills in the Workforce."

Ramirez said with these grants EBECC is offering a blended curriculum that integrates cutting-edge technology with traditional instruction.

"Integrating technology with classroom instruction helps Latino Students in two ways," he said. "One, it keeps them active in their learning, giving them the ability to hone their problem-solving skills firsthand. The other way technology improves the students 'experience is by giving them technological

See EBECC Page 2

# **Secretary of Labor Walsh** stops by Eastie last week

By John Lynds

At a luncheon last Thursday at Rino's Place in East Boston someone asked former Boston Mayor and current US Secretary of Labor Martin Walsh if he ever dreamed he'd have a Presidential Cabinet position.

"Are you kidding?" laughed Walsh. "I never thought I'd be mayor."

Walsh's meteoric rise as an obscure state legislature to the White House in eight years wasn't lost on those present at last week's lunch in Eastie, which included longtime

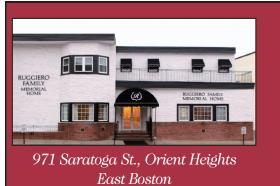
friends and supporters like former State Senator Anthony Petruccelli, who came up with Walsh in the House in the late 1990s, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center CEO, who Walsh appointed to Chair the Boston Public Health Commission and Joseph Ruggiiero III who, through their connection with the recovery community, was a very early supporter of Walsh when he ran for Mayor of Boston

The Dorchester native and son of immigrant par-

See WALSH Page 2



US Secretary of Labor Martin Walsh talks with Eastie residents on Saratoga Street during a stop in the neighborhood last week.



# Ruggiero Family Memorial Home

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# Suffolk Downs welcomes families to first Touch-a-Truck event at former racetrack

A Touch-a-Truck at The Track event will be held for an up-close view of tractors, trucks, diggers, police cars and fire engines. Sit in the seats, honk the horns or take your pictures on the front end! Guests of all ages will be able to explore vehicles like a BearCat SWAT Truck, East Boston and Revere fire trucks and police cars, a backhoe and other earthmovers. Enjoy

in the paddock, ride on the trackless train ride for kids, take a stroll to view the public art installation The Window Walk, visit the food trucks and jam out to music by DJ Sprino. The first 300 guests will receive a free ice cream at the ice cream truck.

This event is free to attend and open to the public. and will held on Saturday, October 2, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

At the Track at Suffolk

Downs, 525 William F McClellan Hwy, Boston, MA 02128

Free parking is available on site and the event is accessible via short walk from the Suffolk Downs MBTA station.

As part of HYM Investment Group's redevelopment of the former Suffolk Downs racetrack site, The Track at Suffolk Downs has been opened to the public for recreation and community events.

# EBECC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

skills that will help them to develop needed skills in a competitive market and locate better paid jobs."

family-friendly activities

At EBECC's Aspiring Youth, local students are exposed to Internet use such as information seeking, social network site use, media production, and participation in online "communities." Aspiring Youth also promotes civic engagement and using digital tools that play an important role in youth

empowerment efforts. "Aspiring places great priority on the coordination of opportunities for exploration, expression, and empowerment through digital media with risk prevention efforts; youth learn to manage or avoid risks inherent to life online," said Ramirez. "Youth learn to change the focus from time with just a screen to the quality of activities with which they engage in digital spaces to improve skills and judgement. This approach provides media literacy education that focuses on both critical analysis and opportunities for social advancement."

At the Adult Education program adults learn basic digital literacies and digital problem solving, basic digital literacy skills are the physical ability to use digital devices, create and use computer files, and choose appropriate digital applications for different purposes.

"Digital problem solving, on the other hand, includes navigating range of digital resources to locate, evaluate, create, and communicate information," said Ramirez. "At the program students will learn to apply social media, software and Webbased email services."

The grants will help se-

cure internet accessibility by providing Wi-Fi, and internet for low-income households; help residents develop the ability to access devices by providing a 1-to-1 student STEM and HiSET education and summer educational programming; expand tech literacy by offering after-school time and tech literacy workshops opportunities and learn digital platforms; learn the main features of email and how it works; help students configure and use Outlook Express, or Gmail to send, receive, and print email messages; as well as Computer Lab Supervisor support.

"EBECC wants to give students all the experiences available to them with an integrated technology curriculum," said Ramirez. "For Adults who dropped out of school we offer HiSET in Spanish. Those students often come to adult education with a history of frustrating and negative educational experiences, with expectations of failure and fears that structured adult learning will mean more complications in their lives. We help people to pass the HiSET Exam. By going through the program, learners can develop the literacy, numeracy, probogy skills that are actually used in everyday life. For many this kind of instruction is empowering rather than frustrating, engaging rather than boring, and more obviously useful, especially in terms of job outcomes."

Ramirez added that the, "Coronavirus has affected the education system in dramatic ways. Schools, colleges, and universities were closed to control the spread of the coronavirus that brought difficulties for students, teachers, and parents. At EBECC embracing distance learning was a solution to continue our educational program going under the pandemic. However, because the lack of network infrastructures, computers, and internet access is challenging distance learning in underserved communities."

Ramirez said EBECC designed strategies to recover lost learning by launching distance learning practices and reaching students who are most at risk and, and now providing support to students as schools reopen.

"Access to computers and access to the internet is basic to successful distance teaching but is not guaranteed for all students in underserved communities without a proper support system on a person to person basis," he said. "We are providing both. Staff and teachers needing to get trained with online teaching platforms, and hybrid methodologies."

For more information visit www.ebecc,org.

# Speaker // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

such crises. Let us also respect the nature that protects and nurtures us, and learn to work in harmony with nature. Let us know our place in the world and make room for all other beautiful forms of life. Let's bring our creativity, ingenuity, enterprise, and innovation to bear, in gently and firmly solving our problems, and restore a green, equitable, and joyful world."

Aside from serving as Director of Eastie Farm, Thiruvengadam has been an East Boston Main Streets volunteer and helping with such events as Taste of Eastie. Thiruvengadam is also a director of JP Green School, a sustainability education program at JP Green-House, a passive solar and energy-positive house in Jamaica Plain.

He also hosts "What's up Eastie?"a radio show about local issues in a larger context, at Zumix, a youth organization in Eastie.

Thiruvengadam is also a Climate Ready Boston Leader. He has a technology background, has studied climate science, permaculture, and community engagement, and is passionate about regenerative and sustainable practices in agriculture and urban design.

A few years ago Boston City Council confirmed Thiruvengadam to the Community Preservation Committee.

According to the Democratic Party's Platform released Saturday, the section on Climate and Environmental Justice, which Thiruvengadam helped craft, the party wrote, "A livable future is a human right. Given the increased speed and destruction witnessed in the last year, we must increase our sense of urgency and take action to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Safeguarding the health of our citizens, protecting natural ecosystems, and promoting green economic growth is imperative. To fully protect the environment, we support clean-energy technologies, conservation, and energy efficiency. We recognize the role we play in the climate crisis, which cannot be ignored and needs direct attention and action at all levels of government. We must prioritize those who are impacted and will be impacted the most by environmental and climate injustice."

According to the par-

ty's platform Democrats in the state agreed to fight

• The realization of bold and necessary emissions goals to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040 and net negative emissions by 2050.

 Necessary steps to protect our air, water, forests, farmland, and food and expanding our access to open space.

• The preservation of our biodiversity by protecting threatened and endangered plant and animal species, and conserving natural green spaces, bodies of water, and wetlands in the state, including making and preserving the room for the change such spaces may have to go through in response to climate change.

 Environmental justice for low-income residents and communities of color.

· Clean, reliable, and renewable energy, and investing in the development of these technolo-

• Increased support for recycling and composting in all communities and increased access to recycling and safe disposal facilities for hazardous materials.

• Local, sustainable, and regenerative agriculture to help grow rural communities and protect open spaces and the environment.

• Divesting public pensions, trusts, and other financial instruments from producers of non-renewable energy sources in favor of green and clean renewable energy produc-

• Preparing for the anticipated impacts of climate change and communicating with the public about the realities of those impacts. • Safe, reliable, acces-

sible, and equitable transportation solutions that reduce greenhouse gases and increase reliance on electric and non-emitting vehicles, enhanced biking infrastructure, and a safe, reliable, and sustainable public transit system.

 Reducing fossil fuel consumption, divesting taxpayer funds from programs and policies that subsidize fossil fuel production by eliminating all tax breaks, financial assistance, royalty relief, direct federal research and development and other loopholes that benefit the fossil fuel industry and opposing efforts to force ratepayers to fund the construction of new gas

"You have a bunch of

guys wedged into this lit-

tle train for the 45 minute

ride four miles into the

mine," said Walsh who

likened the experience to a

Disney ride. "These guys

work hard and I came

out of there with a differ-

ent appreciation for the

work they do. Growing

up in Dorchester I never

thought in a million years

Walsh said the coalm-

I'd be doing that."

Earlier

pipelines.

 A fair and effective economy-wide price on carbon pollution, including the strengthening of the existing cap and trade system in the electricity sector.

• An investment in wind, solar, and other clean renewable energy sources to replace fossil fuels and will oppose any attempt to consider Biomass a renewable energy source.

• The acceleration of

weatherization and other

programs to help individuals and businesses reduce the net amount of carbon entering the atmosphere. • "Energy Democracy" policies that support working families and mar-

build wealth by owning and controlling clean energy infrastructure. • Doubling our commitment to clean renewable energy by increasing the Massachusetts renewable

ginalized communities to

portfolio standard to 100 percent by 2030. · Access to clean air, water, and land, and safety from fire, flood, storm, and drought are human rights, and we must take prompt and aggressive action to curb the worst

effects of climate change. • Clean energy jobs that are good-paying, union jobs with recruitment and training efforts targeted at communities facing the worst effects of climate change, including low-income communities and communities of color.

Commercial buildings, residential housing stock, and government buildings that meet energy efficiency and emissions standards to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040.

 An investment in protecting and preserving natural spaces.

An end to commercial

logging on public lands. Affirming our commitment to climate justice by refusing contributions from the fossi fuel industry. For purposes of this platform, the fossil fuel industry includes oil, gas, coal, pipeline companies, plus any other energy provider that actively advocates for new fossil fuel infrastructure within Mas-

• The protection and expansion of urban tree canopies, especially in areas currently lacking adequate tree canopy.

Walsh had the pleasure of

recognizing the sacrifices

and ceaseless efforts of

frontline workers to pro-

tect the nation's health and

keep our country moving

forward amid the corona-

tial Workers of the Coro-

navirus Pandemic into the

Labor Department's Hall

photos with the staff at Ri-

no's and talked with Eastie

residents that recognized

the former Boston Mayor

as they passed on Saratoga

However, Walsh made

After lunch, Walsh took

Walsh inducted Essen-

virus pandemic.

of Honor.

Street.

sachusetts.

# Janey // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plan, the City of Boston is looking to partner with more small grocery stores, bodegas and corner stores to bring affordable, fresh produce to their commu-

nity," she said. "Through

\*All participants will receive \$25 after

blood and urine samples, if asked

completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account,

give consent, agree to share their electronic

health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give

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this partnership, participating stores will receive technical assistance, including one-on-one training, monthly visits and calls, program performance report, and pro-

lem solving, and technol-

gram coaching."

Those wishing to participate or get more information should call 617-635-

# Walsh // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ents from Ireland, Walsh overcame many obstacles in life from childhood lymphoma to battling alcoholism in his teens to become Boston Mayor and now the man who oversees one of the most important and influential cabinet positions in the Biden Administration as the US recovers from the economic downturn and job loss caused by the COVID pandemic. "It's been great," said

Walsh. "I've learned so much since going down to Washington D.C." Since heading down

to the Nation's Capitol Walsh has been zigzagging the US with stops in nearly every state to meet with union workers, blue collar employees, job creators and industry special-

community. Join the

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At the luncheon Walsh

told a story of an eye opening experience at a West Virginia coal mine. Walsh was invited

down by Sen. Joe Manchin (R-West Virginia) and although the two don;t see eye to eye on many political topics, Walsh felt it was important to go and hear from the workers. As Labor Secretary

Walsh oversees the Mine Safety and Health Administration as well as the administration of benefits for coal miners disabled by black lung disease. At the American Con-

Manchin deep into the

iners, some who said they are never thanked for the work they do, appreciated solidated Natural Rehis visit and he got a betsources' Golden Ridge ter understanding of the Portal Mine near Wheelindustry and how West ing, WV Walsh said he Virginia's coal industry donned a bunch of safety equipment and was loaded into a mine elevator for the ride down to the train create jobs in the economthat would take Walsh and ically depressed state.

can someday transition to cleaner and more renewable energy that would

this

month,

sure to leave Eastie with one important item--a togo order of Rino's famous lobster ravioli for his longtime girlfriend Lorrie Higgins.



#### ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL



#### **OUT AND ABOUT**

Anthony D'Ambrosio has been all over Eastie campaigning for State Senate. He can be seen with supporters holding signs or at community events around the area.

# **Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn endorses** Erin Murphy for At-Large Council seat

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn who also represents Chinatown, the South End, Bay Village, Fort Point, Downtown, and parts of Beacon Hill and Back Bay has endorsed Erin Murphy to be Boston's next At-Large City Councilor, the latest evidence that Erin continues to gain momentum ahead of the No-

vember 2 final election. A 24-year veteran of the U.S. Navy on both active duty and in the reserves, now retired from the service, Councilor Flynn has represented District 2 since winning election in 2017. He said Erin's commitment to public service and her message of inclusivity has resonated both with him and with voters in his district and across the city.

"Erin taught in the Boston Public Schools for 22 years and raised her family in the city," said Councilor Flynn. "Like me, she's a lifelong city kid who cares about her neighbors and she'll be ready on Day One to serve families across the city. She cares about every neighborhood and wants each of them to have safe streets, good schools, and affordable housing. She's also been a leader on the opioid and addiction crisis, something that touches all of us. She certainly has my vote."

Erin's campaign has

been gaining momentum

since her strong fourthplace finish among a field of 17 candidates in the September 14 preliminary election, gathering support across the city as her message of inclusivity continues to connect ahead of November.

"Ed Flynn is not only a good friend, he's an incredibly hard-working public servant whose heart is always in the right place," Erin said. "I'll bring the same work ethic and spirit to my At-Large seat that he brings to his district."

In the Navy, Councilor Flynn served in the 5th Fleet and at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and helped coordinate disaster relief efforts in Haiti.

Councilor Flynn served for five years in the U.S. Department of Labor in the Clinton Administration, working to expand access to affordable health care and boost the federal minimum wage.

He and his wife, Kristen, are raising their two children in South Boston.

Erin's campaign has been gathering steam all year, with a string of high-profile endorsements and a surge in grassroots support and volunteerism across the city. Erin has also been endorsed by, among others, activist and mentor and former At-Large candidate Said Abdikarim, Senator Nick

Collins, State Representatives Dan Hunt, Ed Coppinger, and Dan Ryan, City Councilor Frank Baker and former City Councilor Sal LaMattina, Register of Deeds Stephen J. Murphy, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Boston Firefighters Local 718, Laborers Local 223, the Massachusetts Wom-Political Caucus, Boston EMS, and AFSC-ME Council 93, which represents City of Boston employees.

A lifelong Dorchester resident, Erin has centered her campaign around being Boston's go-to call at City Hall.

Erin's vision for Boston and her campaign are built on her core beliefs:

- Thriving, best-in-class public schools for every student in every neighborhood
- A friendlier city for seniors, with a more compassionate policy focus
- Stronger outreach to veterans, out of respect for their service and supporting their needs
- Safer streets and policing across the City, prioritizing community policing
- All hands-on-deck to pull us out of the pandemic, particularly our most vulnerable
- Reducing income inequality by promoting good jobs for all Bostonians

# Lydia Edwards endorsed by Juan Jaramillo

Lydia Edwards has been endorsed by Juan Jaramillo, Democratic State Committee member and former candidate to the Massachusetts House of Representatives to represent the 19th Suffolk District (Revere & Winthrop).

In his endorsement, Jaramillo stated: "Councilwoman Ed-

wards is the best choice to be the next state senator for Revere. I stand by her because she has delivered for working families in our city as a lawmaker, advocate, and attorney. As a proud product of our city who represents it at the state level on the Democratic State Committee, I have witnessed firsthand how Lydia can deliver for us. Revere deserves the most qualified and Lydia is that person, join me in voting for Lydia on December 14th.'

Lydia Edwards is a candidate for State Senate representing the First Suffolk and Middlesex District, following the departure of Senator Joseph A. Boncore. To date, Edwards has been endorsed by: OPEIU Local 4, Teamsters Local 25. For a full and up-todate list of endorsements. visit: LydiaEdwards.org/ endorsements.

Councilor Lydia Edwards is a career advocate. activist, and voice on behalf of society's most vulnerable. She is currently the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations and the Committee on Housing and Community Development in the Boston City Council, and a candidate for State Senate to represent the First Suffolk & Middlesex District. Learn more at www. LydiaEdwards.org.

## Essaibi George announces "Listen & Learn" tour

Councilor Annissa Essaibi George announced the start of her Listen & Learn Tour, a series of events and conversations that will inform her official Equity, Inclusion and Justice Agenda.

Since announcing her candidacy for Mayor of Boston in January, Essaibi George has traveled to every corner of the city to hear directly from residents their stories, successes and struggles to inform the work of city government and drive the agenda of the Mayor's Of-The announcement to-

day underscores Essaibi George's commitment to be intentional in her words and actions to call out and root out racism and discrimination in city business, policies, and initiatives, and be deliberate in ensuring that Black and brown, immigrant and refugee, women, working class, LGBTQIA+ and marginalized communities, as well as the voices of those aging and with disabilities, are heard and elevated.

"Central to doing this critical work, and doing it right, is ensuring I continue to have these important conversations about equity in our neighborhoods and hear from a diverse group of residents and community leaders with lived experience to help educate, inform, and guide decisions," said Essaibi George. "We must listen to and learn from each other across the city in order to prioritize equity

and fight for the structural changes needed to combat discrimination and foster inclusivity in Boston." With community driv-

ing the agenda and conversation, Essaibi George plans to listen and learn from residents across the city to formulate an Equity, Inclusion & Justice Agenda.

The below are guiding principles of the tour discussions:

- 1 Prioritize access to and representation in city government, institutions, and bodies.
- 2 Ensure every Boston resident is able to lend their voice, knowledge and experiences to influence and inform policy decisions, specifically representatives from, communities of color, the disability community, immigrant communities, women, the LGBTQIA+ community, and working class residents across Bos-
- 3 To ensure that Boston is intentional in rooting out inequity and dismantling racism in our city and systems-from education and housing, to transportation, climate and health care, and even how and when potholes are filled and sidewalks are fixed.
- 4 Form partnerships on the ground in all of our neighborhoods with community and faith-based leaders, organizations, businesses, academic institutions, diverse communities, and residents to exchange ideas, receive feedback, inform City Hall's agenda, and collab-

orate to find solutions to the City's most pressing problems through a lense of equity and justice.

The tour will be ongoing as will this work. The campaign encourages residents, community leaders and organizations to join in on these discussions and/or suggest events and stops by emailing equity@ annissaforboston.com.

Listen & Learn Tour First Announced Stops: Wednesday, September

7:00 am, Coffee & Con-

versation: Equity

Eagle Hill Cafe, 65 Meridian Street, East Boston 5:30 pm, Discussion with Latinx Community East Boston

Thursday, September

8:30 am, Coffee & Conversation: Equity

Le Foyer, 132 Babson Street, Mattapan 10:00 am, Visits Haitian

Day Center

6 Frontenac St, Matta-

Friday, October 1 7:00 am, Coffee & Conversation: Equity

Chinatown 11:30 am, Visits Work

Dorchester 1:00 pm, Building a

Beach

Street,

More Diverse and Equitable Workforce: A Discussion with Labor Unions

**TBD** 

2:30 pm, Roundtable Discussion with Somali Women

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, 253 Roxbury Street, Roxbury

# One of two Mexican nationals arrested during Eastie drug sting pleads guilty

By John Lynds

In September 2019 two Mexican nationals were arrested in East Boston and charged in federal court with trafficking cocaine from their apartment on Sumner Street.

One of those defendants pleaded guilty last week in federal court.

Ana Guadalupe Acosta Grajeda, 58, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine. U.S. District

Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin scheduled sentencing for Jan. 14, 2022. Grajeda and her son, Carlos Acosta Estrella were indicted in October

2019 after they were ar-

rested on September 12, 2019 and charged in a criminal complaint with one count of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of co-

According to court documents Grajeda and Estrella were arrested by law enforcement agents in Eastie after they were videotaped selling two kilograms of cocaine to a cooperating witness. Federal agents executed a search warrant of their apartment on Sumner Street where the defendants were located and seized one kilogram of heroin, numerous cell phones, a high-powered tactical shotgun with a laser sight, and a box of ammunition for the shot-

The charge of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and up to 40 years in prison, at least four years of supervised release and a fine of \$5 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Grajeda's son, who is the remaining defendant in the case, is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



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# East Boston

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#### LET'S BUILD A DRUG TREATMENT AND HOMELESS **FACILITY IN DOVER**

Back in the 1970s and '80s, when there was talk of expanding Logan Airport to the detriment of residents in the communities of Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea, and South Boston, among others, then-State Senator William Bulger of So. Boston suggested constructing a second major airport for the Boston metro area in the town of Dover, the upper-class suburb west of Boston. Bulger knew that his idea would never fly (pun in-

tended), but the point he was making was this: Residents of low-income communities should not have to be the only ones to bear the burden of the noise and air pollution from Logan Airport.

Similarly, we view the ongoing controversy regarding the growing problem of homeless and drug-addicted persons at the Mass. and Cass intersection in the same light. The extraordinary statement released last week by Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo in response to the suggestion that a hotel in Revere be converted into a homeless shelter and treatment facility highlights the unequal burden being placed upon the communities of the immediate Metro Boston area of dealing with the scourge of drug addiction, which goes hand-in-hand with home-

As Mayor Arrigo's statement points out, this is not NIMBY-ism. Revere and Boston already shoulder a huge share of the burden. But he states quite frankly -and truthfully -- that the problem is a regional one and requires a regional solution. Indeed, it has been reported that 70 percent of those who live on Boston's streets are not Boston residents.

However, we think that truly solving the problems of drug addiction and homelessness has to be even more systemic in order to address their root cause.

First and foremost, we must end the war on drugs. The best evidence that our Forever War on Drugs (now more than 50 years old) has been a total failure is this: In 2020, there were more than 93,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States, a number that shattered the previous record. The U.S. now has one of the highest rates of drug-related deaths in the world. Indeed, it is fair to say that it is the War on Drugs itself that is directly responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of

Massachusetts spends about \$60,000 per inmate per year in our prisons. For those whose sole "crime" was simple possession of a drug or a failed urine test with a Probation Officer, incarceration is merely a revolving door that accomplishes nothing, either for the individual or society, at a great financial cost to all of us.

We call upon our state's political leaders to show a little bit -- just a bit -- of courage in order to enact legislation similar to what the voters in Oregon approved in 2020 when they decriminalized the possession of all

Second, the state should establish clean injection sites with appropriate mental and physical health capabilities. Portugal has been doing this for 20 years and has by far the lowest rate of drug-overdose deaths in Europe at six per million of its population. By contrast, Scotland has a rate of 335 drug-related deaths per million for persons ages 15-64 -- which is about the same rate as we have here in the U.S. -- and which is 15 times greater than the rate for the rest of the nations in Europe (and exponentially more than Portugal's).

Clean injection sites in Portugal (and Switzerland) provide addicts with drugs that are not dangerously-laced with fentanyl or other substances, while also offering services for their physical and mental health. In addition, safe injection sites avoid the problem of dirty needles, which still ranks as one of the chief causes for the transmission of AIDS and other serious diseases

which, by the way, seep into our population as a whole. There presently are bills pending before the legislature to establish clean injection sites and we call upon our legislature to pass this legislation expeditiously.

Third, we need to get creative in order to build affordable housing for those who presently live on the streets. Our present policy of doing next to nothing for the homeless is a tragedy that is played out every day at Mass. and Cass.

There will be a large cost at the outset for any housing program for the homeless. But in the long run, there will be huge savings of tax dollars when we abandon our present failed model of arrest-prosecution-incarceration, as well as finally making progress in addressing the problem of substance abuse that afflicts so many.

Oh, and we also suggest that our state officials look into placing drug-treatment and homeless shelters in hotels and other potential sites in the areas of our wealthy suburbs, such as Dover, Wellesley, Weston, etc., so that those communities can do their part to solve the twin

crises of drug addiction and homelessness in our state.



# Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

# Resilience in the midst of such suffering

By Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley

On September 6, I was able to visit Haiti to meet with Cardinal Langlois of Les Cayes, to survey the challenges now confronting the Haitian people and to express the solidarity of the Archdiocese, home to one of the largest Haitian communities in the United States, with the Church and the nation of Haiti. I was delighted to spend time with a fine young priest in Haiti, Fr. Louis Merosné, who was raised in St. Angela Parish in Mattapan and then returned to Haiti to pursue a vocation to the priesthood.

Even a brief visit two weeks ago vividly illustrated the threefold crisis now in Haiti. First, the political crisis catalyzed by the assassination of the President with far-reachconsequences for governance. Second, the social-legal crisis, created by the control that gangs exercise in parts of the country. Third, all this is complemented by the devastating poverty and dislocation caused by the second massive earthquake along with a hurricane suffered by Haiti and the COVID health crisis,

ten years.

Remarkably, the Haitian people and the Church in Haiti manifest great faith and resilience in the midst of such suffering and chaotic conditions. I am grateful for their witness.

The United States has exercised pervasive influence in Haiti for over a century, often a history marked by mistaken policies and ill-conceived ideas. Once again, the United States is inextricably involved with Haiti and its crisis. Once again, U.S. policy seems to be a mix of very helpful and also some very concerning measures. The present Administration has committed significant funding for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief after the hurricane. These steps respond positively and directly to the request made by Cardinal Langlois to the international community. In addition, our government has extended the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Haitians in the United States, a crucially important measure.

At the same time, however, the United States is

all occurring in the span of now carrying out an airlift of Haitian men, women, and children back to Haiti. The decision affecting some 14,000 Haitians now at the Texas border is a surprisingly and shockingly inhumane policy. The Administration has the legal authority for its policy, but the policy is blind to the moral and human consequences of this action. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, is incapable of absorbing this influx of young and older Haitians, all traumatized by the journey to the U.S. border. To be sure, many made this journey under mistaken assumptions about U.S. policy. But this fact does not absolve our country's policy choices. Some cases of human suffering are sufficiently overwhelming to change the logic of existing policy. In this case, there is the need for a review and recasting of U.S. policy. The airlift should be halted while this review is conducted. Only then will it be possible to shape a short-term policy worthy of the U.S. role in the world and appropriate for the crisis Haitians now

In the encyclical "Fratelli Tutti", Pope Francis appealed to humanity to set aside conflicts, resentment and quests for power, in favor of solidarity, collaboration and mutual support. The Holy Father shared his hope that, "by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity between all men and women." These sentiments are evident in his call for the international community to provide relief for the tragic situation the Haitians are facing. In addition to the collection for Haiti taken up in our parishes, the Church in Boston will continue to call for a more compassionate policy from the U.S. government for Haitians at the border. I ask all to pray for the nation of Haiti and the Haitian community there and in our country, and to be generous in supporting efforts to raise funds to help those suffering in this

humanitarian crisis. Sean P. O'Malley is an American cardinal of the Catholic Church serving as the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Boston.

# Fire Prevention Week set for Oct. 3-9

National Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9, 2021. This year's theme, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety," will draw public attention to the different sounds that modern smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms make – and what actions we should take when we hear them.

"Every home is required to have working smoke alarms and most are also required to have CO alarms," said State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey. "When these alarms beep or chirp, it's time to take action. Make sure everyone in your home recognizes these sounds, understands what they mean, and knows how to respond."

Hear a beep? Get on your feet!

A continuous series of three or four loud beeps means smoke, fire, or carbon monoxide. Get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1.

Hear a chirp? Make a

A chirping alarm every 30 or 60 seconds means the alarm's batteries – or the entire alarm - must be replaced. If an alarm using replaceable alkaline batteries doesn't respond or continues chirping with fresh batteries, replace it right away.

"If your smoke or CO alarms take replaceable batteries, we recommend changing the batteries twice a year, usually at the beginning and end of Daylight Saving Time," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "Sealed alarms with non-replaceable, long-life batteries should be re-

placed after 10 years." For more than a decade, all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms have had the manufacturing date printed on the back. If the date

on your smoke alarm is more than 10 years old, if the date on your CO alarm is more than five to seven years old, or if there's no date at all, it's time to replace the alarm.

Options for People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

People who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to hear typical alarms to let them know there is danger – but specialized alarms and devices are available to ensure everyone's safety in case of fire or high CO levels. These devices may have strobe lights to alert them when they're awake, or a pillow or bed shaker activated by the sound of a standard alarm for when they're asleep. As with any alarm, they can also signal when

the battery is low. Maintenance

Follow your alarm manufacturer's cleaning instructions to keep them working properly: these instructions are included with the packaging and can be found online. Test alarms once a month and replace them if they fail to respond.

Working Smoke and CO Alarms Save Lives

"Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a fire in half, and working CO alarms can alert you to a deadly gas you can't see, taste, or smell," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "The noises these alarms make can be the difference between life and death – so make sure you and your loved ones learn

the sounds of safety." For more information on smoke and CO alarms, visit the DFS webpage.

About Fire Prevention

FPW.org.

For more Fire Prevention Week tips, visit www.

Judy Russi

**Learn** the of Fire Safety firepreventionweek.org 02021 NFPA\*. Sparky\* is a trademark of NFPA\*.

Week

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public

health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

# Times-Free Press

DIRECTORY

617-567-9600 • 781-485-0588 Fax: 781-485-1403

**President** 

Stephen Quigley stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

**Advertising and Marketing** 

Debra DiGregorio deb@reverejournal.com

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella mdibella@winthroptranscript.com

**Senior Sales Associates** Kathleen Bright

kbright@reverejournal.com Sioux Gerow charlestownads@hotmail.com

**Legal Advertising** Ellen Bertino

ebertino@eastietimes.com

**Editorial** 

Reporters, Regular Contributors Cary Shuman

cary@lynnjournal.com John Lynds john@eastietimes.com

**Copy Editing, Layout** Scott Yates scott@chelsearecord.com

Kane DiMasso-Scott kdscott@thebostonsun.com

> Business Accounts Executive

Gannet Publishing

irussi@eastietimes.com **Printer** 

#### EAST BOSTON DEFEATS TECH BOSTON, 24-6

The East Boston High School football team improved its record to 3-0 with an impressive 24-6 win over Tech Boston Friday at East Boston Stadium.

Thompson Taelor rushed for two touchdowns, while Randy Bermudez also had a TD for the Jets.

The Jets' defense was very efficient in containing the Tech Boston offensive attack.



Head Coach of the East Boston Jets, John Parziale, was name 'NE Patriots Coach of the Week".



Alex Valencia readies to make a tackle.



Randy Burmudez heads for a Jet first down.



Alvaro Pineda and Daniel Pedronio team-up to tacke a **Boston Tech runner.** 



Alvaro Pineda kicks off after the Jets touchdown.



Jaye Kincade with the Jet's two-point conversion.



Jet Captains head to the sidelines after the coin toss, Mike Potillo, Jashua DeLacruz, Sean Curtis.



Taelor Thompson hands off to Jaye Kincade.



Head Coach Renee Rich with the Varsity EB Jets Cheerleaders.



Head Coach Renee Rich with the Captains, Leslye Guardado, Karina Martinez, Emily Mayorgy, and Nuria Arevalo.

## Mayor's Pumpkin Carving Contest begins Oct. 12

The Boston Parks and October 31. Recreation Department has announced that it will be celebrating the spooky season with Mayor Janey's Pumpkin Carving Contest featuring a grand prize provided by the Farm Families who own Cabot Creamery Co-operative. Mayor Kim Janey rec-

ognizes the effort that Boston residents of all ages put into carving their Halloween pumpkins and wants to give everyone the chance to display their artistry. The Mayor and the Parks Department are hosting an online pumpkin carving contest with photo submissions welcomed from Tuesday,

October 12, until Sunday,

Enter your jack-o'-lantern into the contest and find contest rules at Boston.gov/ Pumpkins. Winners of each category will receive a \$75 gift basket courtesy of the Farm Families who own

Cabot Creamery Co-operative. Winners will be selected from three categories: Most Creative; Scariest; and Inspired by Boston Parks. Need inspiration? The Department has printable downloadable, stencils available for use as a guide to help you carve your pumpkin at boston. gov/pumpkins. Stencils in-

clude the Parks Department

logo, a Park Ranger horse, a

spooky death's head from a

historic gravestone, George Washington, Mrs. Mallard, Bagheera (from the Jungle Book and the Public Garden fountain), and a Boston Park Ranger. Share your work with us and we will publish our favorites on social media. Be sure to tag @cabotcheese and @bostonparksdept on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

After Halloween, please be sure to compost your pumpkin! To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, sign up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and follow our social channels

@bostonparksdept on Twit-

ter, Facebook, and Insta-

gram.



#### EAST BOSTON JETS IN SOCCER ACTION AGAINST BOSTON LATIN

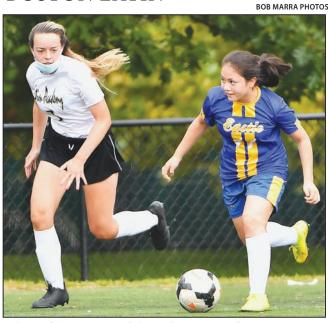
The Jets had a busy Saturday morning as the girls soccer team dropped a 4-0 decision to Boston Latin Academy and fell to 1-4 on the season.



FACE TO FACE: Eastie's Brandi Argueta battles closely with a BLA forward.



CLEARING SHOT: Brandi Argueta kicks a clearing pass for the Jets.



UP THE SIDELINE: Eastie's Jessica Munoz tries to outrun a BLA defender.



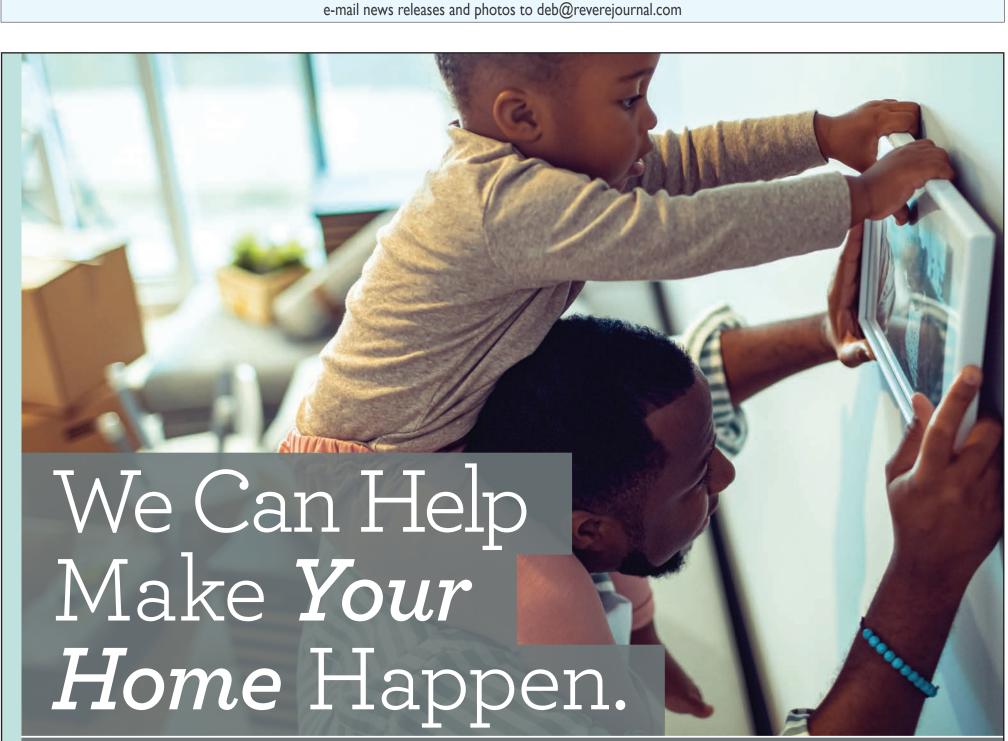
NO TROUBLE: A Boston Latin Academy shot gets past Eastie goalkeeper Vanessa Marroquin but Vanessa caught up to the rolling ball to keep it out of the net.



CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: East Boston's Isabella Munoz works her way from the middle of a pair of Boston Latin Academy defenders during the Jets 4-0 loss to BLA at Memorial Field on Saturday, September 25.

#### 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 two 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to



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**BOB MARRA PHOTOS** 

# **Sports**

#### EAST BOSTON JETS IN SOCCER ACTION AGAINST EXCEL HIGH

The Jets had a busy Saturday morning as the boys soccer team beat visiting Excel High South Boston 8-0 at Sartori Stadium, improving their record to 3-2.



Eastie's Ariel Aguilar is defended by Excel's Paul Nyere Bygrave.



TOE CONTROL: Eastie's Joao Martins gets his foot on the ball in front of Excel's Taz Chai Tsang.



BALL CONTROL: East Boston's Ariel Aguilar (17) fights for control in front of Excel's Francisco Calva Villalta.



GETTING THE ANGLE: Eastie's Angel Melgar gets an angle on the ball in front of Excel's Van The Dao.



TAKE A TRIP: East Boston's Julio Perez is sent stumbling by Excel's Paul Nyerere Bygrave



GOAL CREASE BATTLE: East Boston's Angel Melgar (21) collides with Excel goalkeeper Thank Cong Vu.

#### Grocery Great grocery specials Knorr Rice or Pasta Sides.....10/\$10.00 Idahoan Mashed Potato Pouches......10/\$10.00 B&M Baked Beans 16 oz......10/\$10.00 Chobani Greek Yogurt & Flips......10/\$10.00 Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce 14 oz........2/\$3.00 Gold Medal Flour 5 lb bag (ex organic)......2/\$4.00 Jif Peanut Butter......2/\$4.00 Nestles Chocolate Morsels.....2/\$6.00 Kellogg's Special K Cereal......2/\$7.00 Best Yet Macaroni & Cheese single box.....2/\$1.00 McCain's French Fries......2/\$5.00 Lenders New York Style Bagels......2/\$4.00 Philadelphia Soft Cream Cheese 8 oz tub..2/\$4.00 Bakezy

 Produce

 Hot House Tomatoes
 \$1.99 lb

 Fresh & Sweet Driscoll Raspberries
 \$2.99

 Hydro Seedless Cucumbers
 2/\$3.00

 Fresh & Crisp Broccoli Crowns
 \$1.49 lb

 Fresh Plump Blueberries
 \$3.69

# WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

Your Independent Grocer, Where Old Friends Meet And New Ones Are Made SALE DAYS THURSDAY SEPT. 30, 2021 THROUGH WEDNESDAY OCT. 6, 2021

"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day" <b>Family Pack Specials</b>
Center Cut Steaks \$4.59 lb
Grade A Chicken Leg Quarters
Grade A Bone In Chicken Thighs
Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops
Perdue Chicken Nuggets & Cutlets2/\$6.00
Barber Frozen Chicken Entrees
Boneless Pork Roast Blade or Center Cut <b>2.99</b> lb

## 

GROCERY

Prince Pasta (ex lasagna-jumbo shells-gluten

35 REVERE ST., WINTHROP ● (617) 846-6880 WWW.WINTHROPMKTPLACE.COM
New Store Hours starting June 22: Mon-Sat 7:30 am-8pm;
Sun: 7:30am-7pm

Not responsible for typographical errors. We have the right to limit quantities. 21ST ANNUAL KIWANIS TRACK AND FIELD DAY

Chelsea Kiwanis Club members hosted their 21st Annual Kiwanis Track and Field Day. From left, are From left, are Alex-

andria Christmas, Yaritza Morales, Carolyn Vega incoming President Rich Cuthie, Sharlene McLain, Cassandra Thompson

Kiwanis President Sylvia Ramirez, Joe Carreiro, Patty Costas (New England & Bermuda District 12 Lt. Governor), Veronica

#### **NEWS FROM AROUND** THE REGION

#### **COUNCIL** APPROVES **CONTRACTS**

CHELSEA - The City's firefighters and E-911 dispatchers have new threeyear contracts.

Monday night, the City Council unanimously approved the funding sources to help pay for the proposed raises in the new contracts. Both contracts cover the three-year periods from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

For the first time, the agreement with Chelsea Firefighters Local 937 includes a residency requirement.

"The most significant concession from the City's perspective is the agreement by the fire union to accept, for the first time, a residency requirement, which was a specific demand of the City Council," said City Manager Thomas Ambrosino. "The new residency requirement is identical to the residency provisions negotiated previously with the two police unions."

The annual raises negotiated in the contract are also identical to the agreements for the two police unions, according to Ambrosino.

The contract includes a 2.75 percent raise for FY22, 2.75 percent for FY23, and in FY24, there is a 3 percent raise on July 1, 2023, and a 0.5 percent raise on Jan. 1, 2024. The total cost of all the wage increases over the next three years is approximately \$1.8 million.

The contract also adds Juneteenth to the list of holidays, increasing the number of holidays from 12 to 13, and changes the annual clothing allowance from \$1,100 to \$1,200.

On Monday night, the City Council authorized the transfer of \$289,000 from the city's salary reserve account to FY22 fire department salaries account to help cover the cost of the negotiated rais-

The new contract for the E-911 dispatchers includes a 3 percent raise for FY22, 3.5 percent for FY23, and 3.5 percent for FY24. In addition, each member of the union will receive a signing bonus totalling \$3,500; \$2,500 allocated for FY20 and \$1,000 for FY21.

Ambrosino said the salary increases are slightly higher than those that have been negotiated with other unions.

"The reason is that the E-911 dispatchers did not

receive any percentage increase for either FY20 or FY21," he said. "Thus, this financial package is actually covering five fiscal years. The total cost of all wage increases over these five years is approximately \$308,000."

As with the firefighters contract, there is a residency provision in the dispatcher contract that applies for 10 years.

The City Council authorized a transfer of \$90,000 from the city's reserve salary account to the FY22 emergency management salaries account to help cover the cost of the salary increases in the contract.

"I want to thank our City Manager, Tom Ambrosino," said District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown. "Any time this summer I have been in his office, he's been dealing with the contracts, and I know it is a lot of work he has spent on it that has gone unnoticed."

#### **DEMARIA TOPS** PRIMARY BALLOT

EVERETT - Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Ward 1 Councilor Fred Capone advanced to the Nov. 2 final election after finishing 1-2 in the preliminary election Tuesday.

DeMaria topped the ticket in the three-way race with 2,883 votes, securing 45.2 percent of the total votes cast. Capone received 1,953 votes (30.6 percent) to take second place. Councilor-at-Large Gerly Adrien received 1,499 votes (23.5 percent) and was eliminated from further contention in the

DeMaria, who has been Everett's mayor since 2008, showed strength across the city, receiving the highest number of votes in five of the six

"I am humbled and honored to have the support of Everett's voters," said Mayor DeMaria. "It is a tremendous honor to serve, but it is an honor I will live up to. Thank you for your continued trust

Capone, who served on the Common Council from 1990-1999 and the new City Council under the charter from 2014 to the present, while also serving for one year (2015) as Council President, prevailed in Ward 1 voting by a 22-vote mar-

Capone addressed his campaign supporters at a post-election gathering.

"You guys have done a

Dyer Medina and Gerry McCue.

tremendous job, you have been wonderful, it has been an incredible high energy campaign," said Capone. "You have earned this, your hard work, the reward: more hard work.

We've got about 6 weeks, we've got to get out there and pound that pavement again, tell people we want better for our city. We'll get out there, grab those other votes, and we're going to top the ticket in November."

"I can't tell you how proud I am of how you guys ran this campaign how you put our message out there, there was no negativity, nobody was thrown under the bus. We were positive, we said what we wanted for our community and we went about doing it and you know what? I don;t think that's been heard of in a Mayor's Race for a long

"From the bottom of my heart I cannot tell you how much your support and your effort has meant to all of us," Capone add-

### **CHAMBER TO DEBATE**

Lynn Chamber of Commerce will hold a mayoral debate breakfast forum on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 8 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

City Council President Darren Cyr and School Committee member Jared Nicholson, the two candidates in the Nov. 2 mayoral final election, will appear at the forum whose main topics will focus on the needs and issues of the business community.

There is limited seating capacity for the breakfast, so GLCC officials are advising guests to register in advance.

Tickets are \$40 per person, which includes a plated breakfast by Rolly's Tavern In The Square.

#### **MAYOR ARRIGO PUSHED BACK**

REVERE - Mayor Brian Arrigo has reacted "with immense frustration" to continuing rumors that the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is considering a regional plan to convert the Quality Inn Hotel at 100 Morris St., Revere, into a homeless transitional center.

Arrigo has written a sternly worded letter to Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, executive director of the Boston Public Health, expressing

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

COMMONWEALTH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT

PROBATE AND

FAMILY COURT

his displeasure about the potential impacts on the city by this initiative. Arrigo has also sent copies of the letter to Gov. Charlie Baker, State Sec. Marylou Sudders, and Boston Mayor Kim Janey.

Following is the text of Mayor's Arrigo letter to the Boston Public Health Commission:

"It is with immense frustration that I write to you regarding continued rumors of plans your agency has for the City of Revere. Specifically, I am disappointed in the Boston Public Health Commission's operations, communications, and accountability measuresor lack thereof-as they concern its "regional" plan to address the disaster on Melnea Cass Boulevard by converting the Quality Inn Hotel at 100 Morris Street, Revere, to a homeless transitional center. I am deeply concerned about the chaotic nature of dis-information and have lost all confidence in the Boston Public Health Commission to thoughtfully execute on an issue of such regional public importance. People experiencing homelessness deserve the resources

and intervention efforts necessary for them to lead stable, fulfilling lives. Unfortunately, the actions taken by the BPHC thus far place the City of Revere's commitment to these neighbors in jeopardy while at the same time frustrating efforts for the regional collaboration necessary to combat this

regional crisis. Given the immense challenges of supporting a population marginalized by high rates of substance use disorder, mental health challenges, and trauma, every public health measure concerning the unhoused ought to establish clear lines of communication and readiness protocols with all involved stakeholders. The BPHC has failed to establish these relationships at the onset of their initiative. The City of Revere was first made aware of the BPHC's plans for the Quality Inn through a voicemail left to our Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness Initiatives SUDI Office on August 30 by a recovery coach with Eliot Community

See REGION Page 9

Human Services. With no

### **HOST MAYORAL** LYNN - The Greater

# Real Estate Transfers

**BUYER 1 Bbd Griffin Ave LLC** Pomponi, Kayla Vimadalal, Farah Curtiss, Eric Hjerpe, Linnea E Mulvey, Thomas Mallinson, Benjamin Primeau, Andrew W Reboucas, Breno Yoon, Sung P Laplante, Kristin L Sprague, Kaitlyn C Buser, Kimberly D Trine, Tyler E Patel, Aniruddh

#### **SELLER 1**

Kettmann, Jason Sharpe Airport Bremen Sharpe Airport Bremen 10 Everett Dev LLC 10 Everett St Dev LLC 216 Havre Street LLC 216 Havre Street LLC Savatsky, Marc DLB East LLC 209 Lexington Street LLC 287 Maverick LLC Primeau, Andrew W Baxter, Cynthia G Walley 19 LLC Walley 19 LLC

**ADDRESS PRICE** 106 Barnes Ave \$1,220,000 256 Bremen St #1 \$515,000 \$519,000 258 Bremen St #1 \$700,000 10 Everett St #301 \$530,000 10-16 Everett St #306 216 Havre St #1 \$629,000 \$720,000 216 Havre St #4 \$995,000 9 Jeffries St #3 65 Lewis St #414 \$1,075,000 \$1,325,000 209-211 Lexington St \$649,000 287 Maverick St #202 306 Maverick St #3 \$605,000 539 Sumner St #A \$788,000 11 Walley St #107 \$625,000 11 Walley St #304 \$499,000

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL** ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P2021EA Estate of: Anthony J. Mainieri Date of Death: 06/19/2021 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nicholas A. Mainieri of East Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Nicholas A. Mainieri of East Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsu-

pervised administration.

You have the right to obtain

a copy of the Petition from

You have a right to object

the Petitioner or at the Court.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### to this proceeding. To do so, **LEGAL NOTICE** COMMONWEALTH

LEGAL NOTICE

you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/08/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.

Dunn, First Justice of this

Date: September 26, 2021

9/29/21

Court.

Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate

The Petitioner requests that: Ralph Digiovanni of East

Petition.

Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from

the Petitioner or at the Court.

You have a right to object

# OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT

PROBATE AND

FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate

**And Family Court** 

24 New Chardon St.

Boston, MA 02114

(617)788-8300

CITATION ON

PETITION FOR

**ADJUDICATION** 

SU21P1791EA

**FORMAL** 

Docket No.

Estate of:

John Cuono

Date of Death:

To all interested persons:

of Will with Appointment

has been filed by Ralph

Digiovanni of East Boston,

MA requesting that the court

enter a formal Decree and

Order and for such other

relief as requested in the

of Personal Representative

A Petition for Formal Probate

02/01/2017

to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/27/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.

Dunn, First Justice of this

Date: September 15, 2021

Court.

Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate

tony 's







37 MAVERICK SQUARE ■ EAST BOSTON ■ 617/561-4495

# Harbor View Neighborhood Association meeting set for October 4

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6pm. Please note the meeting will be a hybrid, In Person and on Zoom. The In Person meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across

from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street which is the handicap entry to avoid the stairs. Since we will be indoors masks will be worn and the cafeteria is large enough for social

distancing.

We ask for your patience and understanding once again as we try to conduct this meeting safely, for those who enjoy the In Person format, as well as on line via Zoom for those who prefer that for-

Our interpreter, Ricar-

do, will be present for our Spanish members.

Agenda is as follows: Welcome /Introduction

Announcements (5min) Station 7 Update Sgt. Cintolo (10min)

Ernani DeAraujo, School Committee Person who will speak about

the Boston Public Schools and seek input from members. We are fortunate to have a member of the School Committee in our Harbor View Neighborhood. (15min)

MEWG discussion and future plans. Skip Marcella (10min)

Neighborhood Issues

and Development dis-Skip Marcella cussion.

(15min) The next meeting of the HVNA will be on Novem-

ber 1, 2021.

Visit us at http://www. facebook.com/groups/harborviewna or check our website at harborvieweastboston.com.

## Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

prior notice whatsoever, we were taken aback by the message's announcement that the Quality Inn allegedly would begin operating imminently as a homeless transitional center with over 150 beds. At this point, I do not even know how many beds BPHC is contemplating. Over the last three weeks we have been told different numbers by different members of this collaboration. I have heard 156, 30, 60 and 160 but I still have not received anything in writing. Simply put, the level of disorganization from BPHC regarding this

effort is appalling. With concern over the preparedness of our first responders and our Health and Human Services Division as well as the regulatory procedures completely ignored by BPHC, we made repeated attempts to connect with BPHC, the City of Boston's Office of Recovery Services, and Eliot. At this point it is clear that our hopes of an organized plan of action would reveal itself have been dashed by the BPHC's inability to produce contingency and operational documentation that ought to come standard with such a sensitive initiative. It is also clear that little to no planning was undertaken in advance of the relocation of unhoused individuals from Melnea Cass Boule-

The BPHC has continued to insist that the Quality Inn initiative is just one instance of a larger regional approach to the crisis on Melnea Cass Boulevard, yet they have not been able to provide my administration with other municipalities joining this effort. This information gap is particularly frustrating as I would find extremely valuable an initiative that bound several municipalities together in solidarity to root out homelessness in the Commonwealth. I only hope that this effort is not just focused on our Gateway Cities but rather a true collaborative approach across our region and the failure to provide this information is not due to surreptitious operations ongoing in other cities and

Beyond the logistical and communication challenges, the BPHC has set the stage for fierce reaction against the interventions our homeless

neighbors need, ultimately undermining the public health improvements we all agree are necessary. Political opportunists with no desire to ameliorate the overlapping crises that create homelessness will seize any challenge that arises from the poor, unprofessional management of this initiative. Consider the impact of an emergency at this site without the full preparedness of Revere's first responders. Not only would the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors be at stake, but also the viability of the much larger reform movement. The victims of BPHC's mismanagement and collateral consequences would number not in the hundreds, but in the tens of thousands.

The stakes are too high for BPHC to squander the opportunity for a truly regional solution to the housing and homelessness crises. My profound disappointment come from genuine concern over our unhoused neighbors, and we will continue to support them through both established partnerships and innovative practices. Unfortunately, the BPHC has yet to demonstrate the capacity to meet the moment and have instead endangered the progress we all hope to see for our community.

#### **BOH ISSUES GUIDANCE ON** SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

WINTHROP - At the Sept. 7 council meeting, the Winthrop Board of Health (BOH) submitted a twelve-page draft of regulations that would govern how residents dispose of their solid waste.

The board drafted the regulations to coincide with the new annual trash fee of \$160. They would only apply to households with three or fewer units.

The BOH called its draft "comprehensive but straightforward," information regarding recycling, composting and reducing solid waste tonnage. It is largely modeled on the legislation currently in place in Revere.

"Our draft gives citizens a better understanding of what we're doing and why," said BOH representative Bill Schmidt.

The current draft prohibits the public from

scavenging or taking items from other households' Council bins. members were concerned that the restriction could impact "scrappers", who gather cans and bottles to be redeemed for money. Oftentimes, they are elderly residents seeking to supplement their income. Scrappers help the town to reduce its solid waste by removing recyclable items from the trash.

The regulations do not make specific provisions on dumpster diving, as there is already a town ordinance on such behavior.

The section on enforcement was left intentionally vague, stating that a system of warnings and fines would be issued for noncompliance. The Town will run its language by KP Law, and will also take its cues from other towns.

It is unclear who will be charged with enforcing the new regulations. Town Manager Terrence Delehanty suggested that the responsibility would likely be divided between multiple departments.

"It doesn't hurt to have multiple people enforcing," he said. "The town departments are already strapped, and we don't want to put this on one person's plate." A public outreach cam-

paign will educate residents on how to dispose of its trash. This could include mailings, notices in the Transcript and special programming on WCAT. "People will be in-

formed about what they have to do to comply with the new process," said Schmidt. As with the plastic bag

ban, residents will be given time to adapt to the new system, likely between one and three months. The BOH would like to

implement the new regulations as soon as possible. It proposed a potential start date of Jan. 1. "The longer we wait,

the more trash we're collecting," said another BOH representative. "My dream would be to start tomorrow, but I know the government doesn't work that quickly."

Once council approves a final draft, an education program would be launched and the new regulations would go into effect within a few months.

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# Mark Gaeta

Of East Boston

Mark Gaeta of East Boston passed away on Saturday, September 25 at 59 years of age.

The beloved son of the late Louis and Mary Lou (Mastrangelo) Gaeta, he was the dear brother of Louis Gaeta and his wife, Maryanne of Revere, Michael Gaeta and his wife, Helen of East Boston, Lisa (Gaeta) and her husband, Tim McCone of Winthrop, Joseph Gaeta and his wife, Michele of Saugus, John Gaeta and his wife, Karen, of Cambridge and Steven Gaeta of Winter Haven, Florida. He is also survived by 11 loving nieces and nephews and six treasured grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Family and friends will honor Mark's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston on Thursday, September 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, October 1 at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston. Please



meet directly at the church Friday. Committal services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Mark's name to the Greater Boston Food Bank, 70 South Bay Avenue, Boston, MA 02118; Pine Street Inn, 444 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118; or Rosie's Place, 889 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118.

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 please visit www. ruggieromh.com.

#### Norma Brown

Past member of the Revere Women's Club, Eastern Star out of Melrose and Daughter of the Nile in Wakefield.

Norma (Hawley) Brown of East Wakefield, NH, formerly of Revere, passed away at home surrounded by her loving family at the age of 85.

Norma was a past member of the Revere Women's Club, Eastern Star out of Melrose and Daughter of the Nile in Wakefield.

Born in Chelsea on April 5, 1936 to the late Norman and Hazel (Moody) Hawley, she was the beloved wife of the late David Brown, devoted mother of Pamela Majewski and her husband, John of East Hampton, CT, the late Linda Freeman of East Wakefield, NH and the late David N. Brown and his wife, Joana of Escondido, CA; dear sister of George Hawley and his late wife, Theresa of Billerica; cherished grandmother of Amy Roman and her husband, Jason, Stephanie Faris and her husband, Jeffrey, Adam Brown and his wife, Monica, Thomas Brown and his wife, Leigh and Sean Freeman and adored great grandmother of Brooklyn

cas Brown.

held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home 128 Revere St, Revere on Thursday, September 30 from 5 to 8: p.m. friends are kindly invited. A Prayer service will be held on Friday at 11 a.m. at the Funeral Home. Entombment will be in Holy Cross Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Norma's name to the MSPCA-Angell, Att. Donations, 350 South Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130 or at mspca.org. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.



A visitation will be Relatives and





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#### Louis "Charlie" Dell'Aria

**OBITUARIES** 

Proprietor of Charlie's Shoe Repair in East Boston

J. "Charlie" Dell'Aria, 92, of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away on September 25.

The beloved band of the late Lillian L. (Micciche) Dell'Aria, he was born in Boston, the cherished son of the late Charles and Sadie Dell'Aria.

Louis began working at his father's cobbler and repair shop, Charlie's Shoe Repair in East Boston, as a young man and eventually became the proprietor of the business after his father's passing. Louis was known as a hardworking and dedicated family man, always providing for his family.

He was the devoted father of Robert L. Dell'Aria and Janis M. (Dell'Aria) Richards, both of Winthrop; the cherished brother of the late Salvatore Dell'Aria and his late wife, Anne Marie "Dolly" Dell'Aria. He is also survived by many loving



family members, cousins and friends.

Visiting hours will be held in the Maurice W. Kirby Funeral Home, 210 Winthrop St., Winthrop on Thursday, September 30 from 9 to 11 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church, Winthrop at 11:30

Relatives and friends are invited. Interment will be in Winthrop Cemetery (Belle Isle Section).

For guestbook and directions, please visit: www.mauricekirbyfh. com.

## Domenica Amico

Longtime member of the East Boston Golden Age Club

Domenica (Messina) Amico of East Boston, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, on Wednesday, September 22 at 93 years of age.

Domenica was born in Sicily, Italy on January 11, 1928 to her late parents, Salvatore and Giuseppina (Furmentino) Messina. She came to the United States in 1966 and settled in East Boston, where she lived throughout her life. Domenica was a member of the East Boston Golden Age for many years.

The beloved wife of the late Michele Amico, she was the devoted mother of Michael Amico of East Boston, Nina Tomassi and her husband, Franco of East Boston and Josephine Costantini and her husband, Antonio of Revere; dear sister of Salvatore Messina of Revere and the late Lilla Inglisa, Giuseppe Messina and Graziella Ruggiero; cherished grandmother of Maria, Giovanni, Alberto and Michael. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements

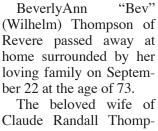


were the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston and a Funeral Mass celebrating Domenica's life was celebrated on Monday, September 27 at Sacred Heart Church, East Boston. Services concluded with Domenica being laid to rest with her beloved husband, Michele, at Woodlawn Mausoleum, Everett. May they rest in

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Domenica's name to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham, MA 02452.

To leave an online condolence please visit www. ruggieromh.com

#### BeverlyAnn Thompson Of Revere



son, she was the devoted mother of David Bosell of Clinton, Allan Bosell of Revere, Serena Harrison of Oklahoma and the late Randy Thompson, Roy Bosell, and Kristen Thompson; dear sister of Richard Williams of Lynn and the late Roger Williams and Suzanne Alder-

and grandmother of 14,

adored great grandmother

of six and is also survived

Her journey on this Earth touched so many: Bev was a cherished Nina



Funeral arrangements

were entrusted to the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, Revere. Private Interment. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to your local animal shelter in her honor to continue her legacy of saving animals. For guest book please visit www. buonfiglio.com

### John Anthony Leone

He was known for always having a big smile that could light up a room

John Anthony Leone, life-long resident of Jeffries Point, East Boston, passed away at his home peacefully surrounded by his loving family on September 25 at the age of 92. John was



flict. He loved his family and spending time with them. He enjoyed going to Suf-

folk Downs Race Track and watching the horses. He was known for always having a big smile that could light up any room. He will be missed by all. He was born in East

Boston on November 18,1928 to Rafael and Antoinetta (Spano) Leone. He was the beloved husband of Anna (Navarra) Leone, devoted father of Joseph Leone and his wife, Jamuna of Medford, Rocco Leone and his wife, Camelia of Newton, Annette Leone of East Boston, Clementina Leone of Revere and Angela Hannigan and her husband, Robert of Westborough; dear brother of Frank Leone and his late wife, Rose and the late Pasquale Leone and his surviving wife, Joan and the late



Mildred Pirone and her late husband, Frank and the late Clementina Cornetta and her surviving husband, Frederick.

He was the cherished grandfather of Elizabeth, Ana-Maria and Joseph Leone and John and Ava Hannigan and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and Friends will honor John's life by gathering on Thursday, September 30 at Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St., East Boston at 10 a.m. for a Funeral Mass in celebration of John's life. Services will conclude with John being laid to rest with full military honors at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

To leave an online condolence please visit www. ruggieromh.com.

#### **Brendalee Arciero-Scolaro**

Of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston

Brendalee Arciero-Scolaro, 62, of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away on Friday, September 24.

The cherished daughter of the late John Arciero and Elena (Cataruzolo) Carengelo, she was the beloved wife of Peter Scolaro, loving mother of John and Taylor Scolaro, caring sister of Pamela Corrado and her husband, Joseph and sister-in-law of Bill Scolaro; adored aunt of Ashley Corrado and her wife, Kirsten, Joseph Corrado, Sarah Scolaro and Emily Conn and her husband, Ryan. She is also survived by her four dogs: Rogue, Bandit, Ranger and Dart. Family and friends will honor Brendalee's life by gathering in Vazza's "Beechwood" Funeral Home,



262 Beach St., Revere on Friday, October 1 from 4 to 8 p.m. and again at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning before leaving in procession to St. John the Evangelist Church in Winthrop for a Funeral Mass to be celebrated in her honor at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Winthrop Cemetery in Winthrop. For guestbook and directions please visit www.vazzafunerals.

## **Claude Randall Thompson**

Of Revere

com.

Claude Randall "Randy" Thompson of Revere passed away unexpectedly on September 26 at the age of 74. Randy, who



proudly served country in the United

States Army during the Vietnam War, was born in Bay Minette, AL on February 4, 1947 to the late Mark and Mattimaye (Howell), he was the beloved husband of the late BeverlyAnn "Bev" (Wilhelm) Thompson; devoted father of David Bosell of Clinton, Allan Bosell of Revere, Serena Harrison of Oklahoma and the late Randy Thompson, Roy Bosell, and Kristen Thompson. cherished Papa and grandfather of 14, adored great grandfather of six and is also survived by many loving

nieces and nephews. He

was the dear brother of

the late James, George,



Wayne, and Larry. A visitation will be held

at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Sunday, October 3 from 2 to 5 p.m. followed by a 5 p.m. Prayer Service in the Funeral Home. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Private Interment. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Randy's name to a non-profit of your choosing that aides Veterans. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

# Julie Frongillo Kupski

She will always be remembered for her big open heart

Julie Frongillo Kupski Winthrop, formerly of Revere, passed away peacefully at home on September 23 surrounded by her cherished family and friends.

Julie was the beloved daughter of the late Lt. John Frongillo, BFD and Adeline Frongillo of East Boston and Revere. She leaves behind her daughter, Gina and her husband, Paul Battles of Cataumet, her sister, Josephine Coppola and her late husband, John Coppola of Topsfield, her brother, John Frongillo Jr. and sister-in-law, Ellen Frongillo of Saugus and she was the sister of the late Carmella Crosbie and her late husband, Francis Crosbie of Salem. She also leaves behind many adoring nieces and nephews, as well as her lifelong close and dear friends who were instrumental in taking care of her in the final days of a long illness. Julie was the former wife of Robert Torres (Kupski) and mother of Robert Torres and granddaughters, Zoe and

Julie was a heart centered person who loved talking to all kinds of people. She showed her love by cooking and feeding all those who entered into her orbit. She was known for the largest meatballs in town and home-made eggplant! Julie loved her precious dog babies and enjoyed decorating in bright, bold colors to match her colorful personality.

Annalise.

Aside from being a devoted mother, Julie really enjoyed serving her regulars at the China Roma Restaurant in Revere and



loved the family that she created there. She even fixed up her niece Lisa with her husband Pat and they've gone on to have a family of their own.

Julie loved bringing people together and entertaining in her colorful apartment. Julie will always be remembered for her big open heart and always lending a comforting ear to anybody who needed to talk.

On behalf of Julie, her family would like to thank the Care Dimensions staff and Global Health Aides for the quality of care they administered to Juli, in her final hours. The family also wants to thank the Beth Israel Hospital for their many years of care.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, 250 Revere St., Revere on Tuesday, October 5 at 11 a.m. (Everyone to meet directly at church). Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Private Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Home for Little Wanderers, 10 Guest St, Boston, MA 02135 or at thehome. org. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

# News in Brief

\$1 MILLION TO SUPPORT **FAMILIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR** DIRECT FEDERAL **COVID-19 RELIEF** 

Mayor Kim Janey, the City of Boston Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, and the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement are awarding \$1 million dollars to the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative (MIC) to support Boston residents who were not eligible for federal COVID-19 relief benefits. MIC will distribute the funds as cash assistance to families in need, regardless of immigration status.

MIC will evaluate applications based on Boston residency, household income, access to direct federal COVID-19 relief benefits, and financial need. Cash aid will be given in proportion to the applicant's economic situation. To request an application, call 617-804-0887 or email Mia Smith msmith@riancenter. org.

#### HAP NOW AT BPL

The Boston Public Liannounced that the Homework Assistance Program (HAP) has launched for the 2021-2022 school year. HAP is a free after-school program led by teen mentors that offers homework help, mentorship, and activities for students in grades K-8.

"As we enter a new

school year, the BPL is dedicated to helping students across the city succeed, both academically and personally," said BPL President David Leonard. "HAP is designed to aid students as they face the unique set of opportunities and challenges that the 2021-2022 school year brings. We aim to create a safe space for young Bostonians to learn, and find mentors to help them. Our youth engagement services are critical as we continue to navigate and recover from the social impacts of COVID-19." Sessions will take place

Mondays – Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 pm and are open on a drop-in basis, registration is not required. Mentorship is available in Arabic, Haitian Creole, Spanish, and Vietnamese. See the full language schedule below. Students can join in-person at the following branches: Adams Street, Brighton, Codman Square, Connolly, East Boston, Egleston Square, Fields Corner, Grove Hall, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Lower Mills, Mattapan, Parker Hill, Roslindale, Roxbury, South End, and Uphams Corner, or online via Zoom from any location.

There will be 55 homework assistance mentors in grades 10-12 spread across the branches, all trained by Harvard University's Public School Partnerships team, the developers of SmartTALK. The goal of the program is to create both in-person and virtual spaces for students to work on homework with peers or to get extra guidance on assignments in any subject, from sciences to humanities.

HAP is generously funded by Bain Capital Children's Charity, Ernst & Young, M&T Charitable Foundation, The Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Nasella, Eric & Jane Nord Family Fund, Red Sox Foundation, The TJX Foundation, Inc., and an anonymous donor.

To learn more about the Homework Assistance Program, and other online homework help resources, visit bpl.org/homework.

Language Schedule: Arabic

- East Boston: Monday, Wednesday
- · Roxbury: Monday, Thursday • South End: Monday,
- Wednesday • Online on Zoom:
- Monday, Tuesday Haitian Creole
- Egleston Sq: Tuesday,
- Thursday • Hyde Park: Monday,
- Wednesday • Mattapan: Tuesday,
- Thursday Spanish · Connolly: Monday,

Tuesday

- East Boston: Monday - Thursday
- Egleston Sq: Monday - Thursday
- Grove Hall: Monday, Tuesday
- Roxbury: Tuesday, Thursday
- Online on Zoom: Tuesday, Thursday Vietnamese
- Adams St: Monday -Thursday

- Codman Sq: Monday, Wednesday
- Fields Corner: Monday, Tuesday
- Hyde Park: Tuesday, Thursday
- Online on Zoom: Monday - Wednesday

#### **BOSTON TO** PARTICIPATE IN **'HOUSE AMERICA'** INITIATIVE TO END HOMELESSNESS Mayor Kim Janey

joined other cities and municipalities to announce Boston's commitment to participate in President Biden's House America program to prevent homelessness. House America is the federal government's direct response to the crisis of housing insecurity. In March, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part 1 to Congress, which found that more than 580,000 people across the country experienced homelessness in the United States on a single night in January 2020, prior to the pandemic. COVID-19 has created greater urgency to address homelessness, given economic disparities and the heightened health risks faced by people experiencing homelessness. However, COVID-19 has slowed re-housing activities due to capacity issues

and impacts on rental mar-

ket vacancies.

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# East Boston ferry service kicks off on October 4

By John Lynds

The first of many seven minute trips on a ferry from Lewis Mall Dock in East Boston to South Boston's Fan Pier by the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) began Monday.

Over the summer MCCA Director of Transportation Shannon Mc-Dermott said the MCAA, who currently runs ferry service from the North End to Southie, expanded upon ferry service studies and gaps that have been published by organiza-

tions like Boston Harbor Now and wanted to provide a different mode of transportation for Eastie and North Shore commut-

McDermott said Boston Harbor Now came out with a study and proposed a circulator route in the harbor with stops in Eastie so the MCAA jumped in after seeing a need in Eastie. With the MCAA already running a ferry service from the North End to the Seaport, expanding to Eastie was a no brainer.

However, McDermott

said the Eastie to Southie service is a separate route but as the MCAA continues to activate the waterway they hope to be able to continue adding dock locations around the har-

The Eastie/Southie Ferry runs Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 10 am and then from 3 pm to 7 pm every half hour. The trip takes roughly seven minutes and costs \$5 one

"This additional mode of transportation is the result of a collaboration between state and city gov-

ernment," said Councilor Lydia Edwards. "Thank you State Rep. Adrian Madaro for your partnership and thank you as well to my predecessor, the Honorable Diane Modica (former City Councilor), who has been advocating for ferry service for many years."

Madaro has been instrumental in bringing the new ferry to Eastie and has advocated for more affordable modes of transportation for low-income workers that use public transportation daily.



The new ferry from Eastie to the South Boston waterfront kicked off Monday.

# Baker-Polito administration files legislation to further support military families transferring to Mass.

The Baker-Polito Administration filed legislation to improve the occupational licensing process for certain professions for military families transferring to Massachusetts. The legislation would help facilitate license portability for military families transferring to military installations in Massachusetts by entering the Commonwealth into a series of interstate licensure compacts and other agree-

ments. "This legislation will help the Commonwealth improve further streamline the process for military families who are looking to transfer their professional licenses to Massachusetts," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Our administration is committed to helping these military families successfully resettle in the Commonwealth, and these steps will ensure that military families who are making Massachusetts their new

home will have an easier time in keeping their professional licenses and maintaining that source of income."

"Massachusetts has a long history of supporting the many military veterans and their families here who have made difficult sacrifices during their service," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "That support includes prioritizing professional licenses for incoming families, and this bill removes additional barriers to household stability and civilian careers for those transferring to military installations in

the Commonwealth." The legislation would implement recommendations made by the Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL), formerly the Division of Professional Licensure, in accordance with Executive Order 593, signed by Governor Baker in February 2021. The Executive Order directed the DOL to study inter-

state compacts and similar agreements relative to licensure for professions licensed by five boards under DOL's purview. The professions covered by this order were identified by the Air Force and Department of Defense and include physical therapists (and physical therapy assistants); accountants; engineers; psychologists; and barbers and cosmetologists.

Upon implementation of this bill, Massachusetts will be able to participate in the Nurse Licensure Compact, the Physical Therapy Compact, and the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). The participation in these compacts allows qualified practitioners from member states to obtain the ability to practice in Massachusetts via a streamlined process, which reduces regulatory burdens for these professionals while also enhancing access to care

for the consumer. In turn, Massachusetts licensees would also benefit from the ability to practice in other states that are part of the compacts.

"Behind each of the Commonwealth's six military installations are dedicated men and women serving their nation and providing for their families," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "These military installations drive significant economic activity, and by simplifying the process of transferring professional licenses, we can increase our support for military families relocating to Massachusetts by making it easier for those family members holding professional licenses to continue their careers."

"The DOL continues to prioritize professional licenses for military personnel and their spouses and is committed to improving the licensee experience,"

said Division of Occupational Licensure Commissioner Layla D'Emilia. "The addition of interstate compacts, streamlined DOL web resources for military-connected applicants, and appointment of dedicated staff to support these applicants helps to further ease the process for military family relocating to Massachusetts."

"This effort reflects the mission and effectiveness of the Commonwealth's Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force (MASS-TF) in protecting and strengthening our military installations," said John Beatty, Executive Director of the MASS-TF. "Led by the Governor's team, we have worked across the Baker-Polito Administration and with our state legislators, installation leaders, our Mass National Guard, and directly with the Department of Defense, the Air Force, and Army to ensure we arrived at the right initiative that will ensure Massachusetts remains a welcoming place for service members and their families."

This bill seeks to build on previously enacted laws, including Valor Act I (2012) and Valor Act II (2014), that assist and support military families returning from active duty, or relocating to Massachusetts.

Commonwealth The remains a leader in professional licensure, ensuring that licensees receive proper training to practice in their field safely and competently. This legislation to join interstate compacts will not only assist the military community and licensees, but the citizens of the Commonwealth will have increased access to the best healthcare available.

# Eastie's weekly COVID infections decreases

By John Lynds

Two weeks ago, East Boston went over the 5 percent COVID positive test rate threshold the CDC and city used during the height of the pandemic last year to begin reconsidering the phased reopening of certain businesses, public spaces and events but that number dropped significantly last week.

Last week, 1,690 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 3.1 percent were positive--this was a 42.5 percent increase from the 5.4 percent reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on

September 20.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate also decreased and dropped 27 percent last week. According to the BPHC 24,203 residents were tested and 3 percent were COVID positive--this was a 27 percent decrease from the 4.1 percent reported by the BPHC on Sept. 20.

Eastie's COVID infection rate increased 0.67 percent and the rate went from 1,755.9 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,767.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

additional Fifty-five residents contracted the virus between Sept. 20 and Sept. 27 and there are now 8,295 confirmed

cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1 percent since Sept. 20 and went from 79,268 cases to 80,106 confirmed cases in a week. There were two additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,420.





Get an up-close view of tractors, trucks, diggers, police cars and fire engines at Touch-a-Truck this Saturday from 10am - 2pm at The Track at Suffolk Downs!

Enjoy arts and crafts activities in the paddock, giveaways, take a spin on the children's train ride, and jam out to music by DJ Sprino.

The first 300 guests will receive a free ice cream at the ice cream truck!

This event is free to attend and open to the public. Scan the code to RSVP today.





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