

East Boston

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Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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Mayor Michelle Wu is administered the Oath of Office by Boston Municipal Court Associate Justice Judge Myong Joun with her husband, Conor Pewarski, and two boys Cass and Blaise at her side on Tuesday.

Michelle Wu sworn in, becoming the first female and first woman of color to serve as Mayor of Boston

By John Lynds

On Tuesday inside the Boston City Council Chambers, Michelle Wu made history and was sworn in as the first female and first woman of color to ever serve as Mayor of Boston in the city's history.

After Reverend Dr. Arlene Hall delivered the invocation and Acting Mayor Kim Janey provided brief remarks, Wu was administered the Oath of Office by Boston Municipal Court Associate Justice Judge Myong Joun with her husband, Conor Pew-



Mayor Michelle Wu addresses the crowd that gathered inside the City Council Chambers for her swearing in ceremony.

arski, and two boys Cass and Blaise at her side.

Keeping with her cam-

paign promise of rolling up her sleeves and getting to work as soon as possible the short inaugural exercises took less than a half hour.

Wu started off her inaugural speech with a metaphor of how City Hall was when she was first elected as an At-Large Councilor in 2013.

"Since we're here today, I must share that the Council floor wasn't always this way," she began. "When I joined the Council, this space wasn't fully accessible to everyone. The floor that some are sitting on right now,

was much lower, designed as a pit three steps down — a striking feature part of what many of I would call the beautiful architecture of City Hall. Three steps prevented Bostonians in wheelchairs and with mobility challenges from coming down directly to testify on this floor and advocate for change. Those three steps were a barrier between our government and the people we are here to serve. So we changed what this space could be, reshaped it to be accessible for everyone, and brought the floor level

See WU Page 3

Madaro applauds House's ARPA spending proposal

By John Lynds

A recent report has shown that opioid overdose deaths were down 5 percent in the first six months of 2021.

While this trend seems to be heading in the right direction, overdose deaths spiked 30 percent in 2020 during the height of the COVID pandemic, a worrisome figure considering the many are still feeling the after effects of being in isolation for so long.

Last Friday, the Massachusetts House of Representatives today unanimously passed its spending proposal utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) surplus funds. Funded at \$3.82 billion, the bill addresses disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to facilitate recovery through one-time investments in housing, environment and climate mitigation, economic de-

velopment, workforce, education and health and human services.

This week Rep. Adrian Madaro, who chairs the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, applauded the House's commitment to invest \$250 million for behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, including \$100 million for workforce initiatives with \$15 million specifically for community health centers.

"The investments made in the ARPA bill are a major step forward in addressing the mental health and substance use needs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic," said Madaro. "By investing in the physical infrastructure and workforce behind our healthcare delivery systems, we are ensuring that the Commonwealth is equipped to tackle the mental and behavioral health and substance use

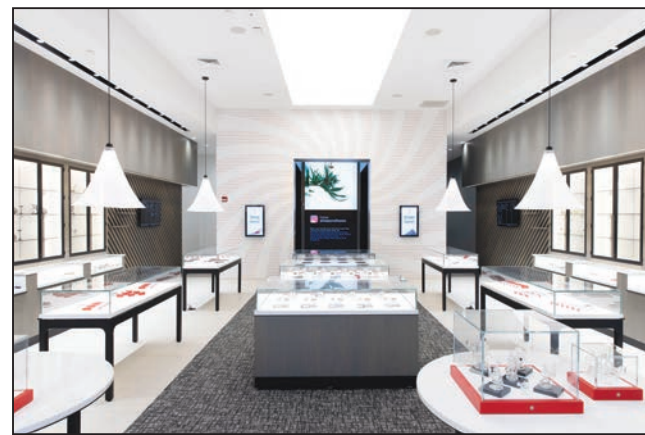
See MADARO Page 14

Happy Valley to host 'Green Wednesday' celebration

By John Lynds

It has become common knowledge that April 20, or 4/20, is the official cannabis consumption holiday but not many people outside the cannabis community have heard of 'Green Wednesday'.

The relatively new holiday started up as the cannabis dispensary industry's answer to the



A look inside the dispensary located at 220 McClellan Hwy in East Boston.

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East Boston Savings Bank, Rockland Trust merge

By John Lynds

Independent Bank Corp., parent of Rockland Trust Company, has closed its acquisition of Meridian Bancorp, Inc., parent of East Boston Savings Bank (EBSB) with thousands of EBSB customers officially becoming Rockland Trust customers Monday.

Over the weekend EBSB's two former branches in Maverick Square and Orient Heights finished converting the branches into Rockland Trust branches and by Monday morning the EBSB logo, which has been around the neighborhood since 1848, ceased to exist and was replaced with Rockland Trust's branding.

"We heartily welcome the customers of East Boston Savings Bank to Rockland Trust, and we look forward to demonstrating our shared commitment to the highest standards of customer service," said Chief Executive Officer of Independent Bank Corp. and Rockland Trust Company Christopher Oddle-

ifson. "We remain excited about the strategic benefits of this transaction and are eager to get started unlocking the opportunities resulting from the combination of two leading franchises and increased scale, including expansion of Rockland's broad financial product set to an expanded business and consumer customer base."

The conversion of East Boston Savings Bank customer accounts to Rockland Trust's systems occurred over the past few weeks prior to branches opening for business on November 15, 2021. Rockland Trust customers were not impacted by the conversion.

At the effective time of the merger each Meridian Bancorp share will be exchanged for .2750 of a share of Independent's common stock traded on NASDAQ under the INDB ticker. Meridian Bancorp shareholders will receive cash in lieu of fractional shares in accordance with the merger agreement. As a result of

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Wally Bowe to be named an Honorary Savio Alumnus

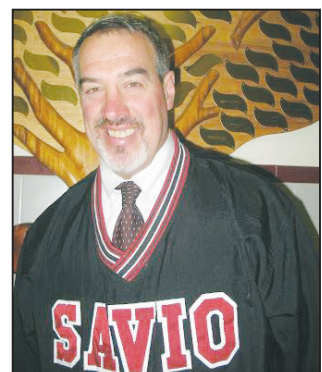
By John Lynds

A few years ago a group of friends and family of the late Wally Bowe gathered outside the Salesian Boys & Girls Club in East Boston to officially rename the corner of Byron and Bennington Streets 'Wally Bowe Corner'.

The street sign is a testament to the work Bowe did inside the Club prior to his untimely death—shaping the lives of Eastie's youth during a career that spanned several decades at the Boys & Girls Club and the former Savio High School.

It was recently announced that on November 24 the Salesians will make Bowe an honorary Alumnus of Savio.

"I am beyond excited to let everybody know that we will be making Wally Bowe an honorary Alum-



Longtime East Boston mentor, the late Wally Bowe, will be made an honorary Alumnus of Savio on November 24 by the Salesians.

nus of Savio," said Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Michael Triant. "Wally was such an amazing person and mentor to so many young people at both Savio and The Salesian Boys & Girls Club. I know countless young

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**Advertising and News
Deadlines for the week
of THANKSGIVING will
be Friday, Nov. 19 @ 4PM**

**The Independent Newspaper
Offices will be closed
Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25th
and Friday, Nov. 26th**

**TRASH
DELAY**
Due to the Thurs., Nov. 25th, Thanksgiving Day Holiday, Trash schedule is as follows:
Mon 11/22, Tues 11/23,
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Eastie’s weekly COVID infections increase

By John Lynds

East Boston’s weekly COVID positive test rate increased 32 percent two weeks ago and increased again slightly last week according to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week, 1,604 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 3 percent were positive--this was a 3.4 percent increase from the 2.9 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on November 8.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased last week. According to the BPHC 22,322 residents were tested and 3 percent were COVID positive--this was a 15.4 percent increase from the 2.6 percent reported by the BPHC on November 8.

Forty-eight additional residents contracted the virus between November 8 and November 15 and there are now 8,619 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 of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.66 percent since November 8 and went from 84,353 cases to 84,917 confirmed cases in a week. There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,459.

Martin’s Park ship lighting November 27

A special children’s celebration will be held on Saturday, November 27, at the Smith Family Waterfront in the Seaport District when the Friends of Martin’s Park and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department host the first annual holiday lighting of the signature wooden play ship in Martin’s Park beginning at 4 p.m.

Located at 64 Sleeper Street on the South Boston waterfront and visible from the Northern Avenue Bridge, Martin’s Park at the Smith Family Waterfront is a climate-resilient park built in memory of eight-year-old Martin W. Richard, a victim of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. The accessible park provides play op-

portunities for children, families, and visitors of all abilities. The wooden play ship is the centerpiece of the space that will be lit for the holidays.

Martin’s Park will be transformed into a beautiful holiday display when the ship, surrounding beach fencing, and pedestrian bridge are illuminated with over 1,500 feet of blue and white tube lights. Visitors are encouraged to head inside the park for the celebration sponsored by the Friends of Martin’s Park and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

Santa will arrive by boat at the Harborwalk and enter the Park to switch on the lights. Entertainment will be provided by acap-

pella group Ball In The House performing a selection of holiday classics, along with special guest, the Seaport’s own Betty the Yeti. Hot cocoa will be provided by Tuscan Kitchen and Flour Bakery, and attendees will have the opportunity to take home a special souvenir of this first annual event while supplies last.

Other 2021 holiday celebrations hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department include the lighting of the tree in Copley Square on November 29 and the Boston Common Tree Lighting, followed by the lighting of the trees on Commonwealth Avenue Mall, both on December 2.



Distinguished guests Tuesday included Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congresswoman Pressley, Governor Baker, and many other of Wu’s colleagues in state, county, and local government.

Wu// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

up three steps. When we make City Hall more accessible, we are all raised up. When we communicate in many languages, we all understand more. Most of all, when we connect the power of city government to the force of our neighborhoods and communities, we see how much is possible for our city.”

Wu said she always felt city government was special.

“City government is special. We are the level closest to the people, so we must do the big and the small,” said Wu. “Every streetlight, every pothole, every park and classroom, lays the foundation for greater change. Not only is it possible for Boston to deliver basic city services and generational change — it is absolutely necessary at this moment. We’ll tackle our biggest challenges by getting the small things right, and by getting City Hall out of City Hall and into our neighborhoods, block by block, street by street. After all, Boston was founded on a revolutionary promise:

that things don’t have to be as they always have been. That we can chart a new path for families now, and for generations to come, grounded in justice and opportunity. And we can take steps to raise us all up to that promise, together.”

Wu said her administration’s charge will be to reach every corner of Boston and listen to the questions and concerns of all.

“Our charge is to see every person and listen. To meet people where they are. To give hope and deliver on it. To find joy, in the words of the amazing Kim Janey, and spread it. Let history note not just who she was in this office, but all she got done, and all she will continue to do for our city,” she said.

Wu said the first time she set foot in Boston City Hall, she felt invisible but today she sees what’s pos-

sible in the building.

“I see all the public servants raising us up — frontline workers, first responders, teachers and bus drivers, building inspectors, city workers,” she said. “I am deeply honored to work alongside you and I ask everyone to join me in expressing our gratitude for your service. And I ask everyone to join us in service of our communities. Boston, our charge is clear. We need everyone to join us in the work of doing the big and the small, getting City Hall out of City Hall, and embracing the possibility of our city. The reason to make Boston for everyone is because we need everyone for Boston, right now.”

“We have so much work to do, and it will take all of us to get it done. So let’s get to work,” she concluded.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Edwards receives more endorsements

In the special election to State Senate, Lydia Edwards has been endorsed by Senators who hope to see her join them in the legislative body to represent the First Suffolk and Middlesex District, including: Senator Julian Cyr (Truro); Senator Jamie Eldridge (Acton); Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (Boston); Senator Becca Rausch (Needham); Senator Cindy Friedman (Arlington); and Senator Eric Lesser (Longmeadow).

Senator Cyr:

“As public servants, we are tasked with a great and sacred responsibility to help people. The work may be complex but the mission is simple, and Lydia never loses sight of that in everything she does: she is about helping people who need a voice. Lydia has been a relentless champion for equity and opportunity, and she will be a force for good in the State Senate. She has my enthusiastic endorsement.”

Senator Eldridge:

“I am proud to endorse Lydia Edwards for State Senate. I have worked closely with Lydia advocating for affordable housing, protecting immigrants, and fighting for economic justice. Lydia is a true champion for working people who can bring bold, progressive change to Beacon Hill.”

Senator Chang-Diaz:

“I know firsthand how much our State House needs strong and diverse voices to balance the scales of opportunity and justice. Lydia leads the way when it comes to our state’s biggest issues, including housing, environmental justice, and economic opportunity. I’m proud to endorse Lydia Edwards for Senate and I know she’ll continue to make a game-changing impact for the people of her district.”

Senator Rausch:

“Lydia Edwards is a no-nonsense, experienced

leader who I’ve seen deliver results time and time again as a City Councilor, attorney, and advocate. We need her strength, compassion, and conviction in the Legislature. I am proud to endorse Lydia Edwards for State Senate and look forward to continuing our work together, soon in the same chamber.”

Senator Friedman:

“As a former educator and as a parent and grandparent, I know firsthand the transformative power of a strong public education, and I see that shared value in Lydia’s work. She has been an advocate for opportunity at every turn of her career. The people of the First Suffolk & Middlesex will be served well by her passion and dedication and Lydia will make a great addition and colleague in the Senate. I endorse Lydia Edwards for State Senate and encourage voters to get to the polls on December 14 and cast your ballot for Lydia!”

Senator Lesser:

“Although we come from different ends of the state, I have long-admired Lydia’s work in Boston and I have particular appreciation for her understanding of regional cooperation. Statewide partnerships are the key to Massachusetts’ economic stability and development, and few people see the big picture with the same insight and intelligence as Lydia Edwards. She will be a great asset to the Senate and I endorse her candidacy for the First Suffolk & Middlesex District.”

Lydia Edwards is a candidate for State Senate representing the First Suffolk and Middlesex District, following the departure of Senator Joseph A. Boncore. For a full and up-to-date list of endorsements, visit: LydiaEdwards.org/endorsements.

Councilor Lydia Edwards is a career advocate, activist, and voice on be-

half 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. Learn more at LydiaEdwards.org/meet-lydia.

SHERIFF TOMPKINS ENDORSES EDWARDS IN SENATE RACE

Suffolk County Sheriff Steve Tompkins has endorsed Lydia Edwards in her bid to become the next senator of the First Suffolk and Middlesex Senate district.

“I am endorsing Lydia for Senate for a number of reasons,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “Working with her for several years now, I know what a powerful advocate she is for her constituents, fighting for housing that is truly affordable, insuring the rights and protections of the immigrant population in the City of Boston, and many other quality of life issues that contribute to the health and public safety of our communities. I look forward to continuing that work with Lydia on the state level as Senator of the First Suffolk and Middlesex District.”

Currently the City Councilor for Boston’s District 1, Lydia Edwards has shown her commitment to the people of Boston and beyond, serving as the deputy director within the Mayor’s Office of Housing Stability; as a public interest attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services where she focused on labor issues such as fighting for access to unemployment insurance, back wages, fair treatment for domestic workers and combating human trafficking; and as an activist fighting for working people across the state.



Lydia Edwards was joined by community members in East Boston for a coffee hour to discuss how she will continue to advocate for the needs of the community in the State House.

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Increasing Housing Affordability in Boston: Why it Matters to Us All

Panelists will include the following City of Boston civic and business leaders:

- Thomas N. O’Brien**, Former Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Former Chair of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, and CEO of HYM Investment Group, LLC
- Kenzie Bok**, Boston City Councilor, District 8
- Symone Crawford**, Incoming Executive Director (January 2022), Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA)
- Sheila Dillon**, City of Boston Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development

Tuesday, November 30, 2021


6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Register for the online event:

<https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/618a98bc3c3b882f002c9a7>

Please join us for a citywide Zoom forum produced by the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABBB) Homelessness Task Force. Boston’s civic and business leaders will outline Boston’s affordable housing needs, the high cost of not addressing the problem, and exciting new plans to increase housing access and affordability. We hope that you will join this meeting to learn how we can all play a role in making our city a vibrant world class leader in affordable housing.

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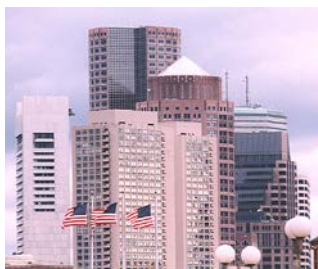
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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

PROGRESSIVES? NO -- THEY ARE REGRESSIVES

There are a lot of reasons why the Democrats and President Joe Biden have plummeted in the polls and then absorbed a huge defeat across the country in the recent election.

As often is the case in politics, the party in charge gets the blame even if they arise from circumstances beyond its control.

Almost all of the issues that have been troubling Americans in the past few months are no fault of Biden and the Democrats. The ongoing pandemic, supply-chain snafus, labor shortages, inflation worries, weather-related crises, and soaring energy prices all either were inherited by Biden or are the result of unforeseen circumstances.

The Biden administration could have done better with the withdrawal from Afghanistan, but that too, was a circumstance he inherited and that spiraled out of control.

However, there is one aspect of the Biden Presidency and the Democratic control of Congress that is within their control. And that is their ability to get things done.

On August 10, a bipartisan vote of the Senate approved the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. However, the bill sat for months in the House because of the efforts of a willful group of Democratic House members who held it hostage to their demands for the \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better legislation.

We would note that we fully have supported every aspect of the Build Back Better Plan, including the Green New Deal which we endorsed from the outset when it first was introduced by Senator Ed Markey and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez in January of 2019.

In fact, we would support an even-larger bill in order to bring America into the 21st century.

However, the reality is that there are Democratic members of Congress who do not agree with all of the proposals in the Build Back Better Plan and who have been saying so for months.

Yet the so-called Progressives in the House refused to accept this reality. Democrats promised the voters that if they were put in charge, they'd get things done -- but the intransigence of the so-called Progressives served not only to undermine the Biden administration and Democrats in general, but also sank their own cause as well.

For all of their posturing and demand-making, they have nothing -- nada -- zero -- to show for their efforts.

As we have said many times in this column, politics is the art of compromise. Or, as Kenny Rogers put it,

“You’ve got to know when to hold ‘em,

Know when to fold ‘em.”

The Progressives’ hubris served as a gift to the Republicans.

Instead of Progressing the country forward, their political gamesmanship has undermined Americans’ faith in the democratic process and Regressed us back to the era before 2020.

By Anthony D'Ambrosio

With the passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act last week, the future of U.S. infrastructure—both physical and digital—has become a lot brighter. Massachusetts alone is expected to receive over \$9 billion to make road and bridge repairs, improve the MBTA, and expand access to broadband Internet service. While we should celebrate this hard-won victory at the federal level, the difficult state level work is about to commence. The most critical decisions—to what programs the money will go, when infrastructure improvements begin, and who will most benefit—have not yet been made. State leaders in western Massachusetts and the Cape have already started lobbying for large portions of the funds to be allocated to their districts. Now more than ever, we, too, need a senator with a strong understanding of infrastructure, finance, and technology to ensure that our District is not overlooked during this crucial allocation process.

People often assume that the greatest infrastructure needs are in rural or inland settings where lack of population density means there are fewer train lines and digital services, but this is not always the case. Our District—as coastal and urban as any place in Massachusetts—places some of the largest infrastructure challenges in the Commonwealth.

Let's start with the T. As a daily user of the Blue Line, I understand the importance of regular and reliable T-service, including early-morning and late-night service. I support using part of the \$2.5 billion from the federal infrastructure bill to expand T accessibility and stop restrictions on T hours, as such restrictions disproportionately impact our District's workers. Additional funds should be used to finance innovative technological solutions to solve long-standing transportation problems. To start, we must upgrade and spread awareness of the MBTA's apps so that residents can access MBTA schedules, delays, and digital payment options on the fly from their phones. Additionally, MassDOT should work with municipalities to roll out “smart parking” tools that reduce traffic and allow drivers to receive real-time updates of parking availabilities near their location.

More than \$5.5 billion has been set aside for upgrades to our roads, bridges, and airports. Since 2011, commute times in the Commonwealth have increased by 10.9%, and each driver pays an average of \$620 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair (e.g., blown tires, damaged rims and windshields). We must fight to ensure that a significant chunk of the allocated funds goes toward improving the roads in our district to ease the congestion that disproportionate-

ly costs our residents time, money, and their health, due to vehicle emissions. Additionally, most of the \$244 million for airport infrastructure should be used to reduce the air and noise pollution emitted by Logan Airport. Our residents have suffered from broken windows and higher rates of respiratory illnesses for far too long.

Massachusetts can also expect to receive \$100 million for the purpose of expanding access to broadband Internet services. An estimated 11% of households in Massachusetts do not have an Internet subscription, but that percentage rises to 25% in some neighborhoods in our district. Now more than ever, Massachusetts residents need Internet service that not only connects them to a search engine, but also can support video communication. Reliable Internet service helps students connect to virtual classes, people find and apply for new jobs, healthcare professionals more easily treat their patients, and seniors maintain critical social ties amidst the country's loneliness epidemic. We must make sure that our District is not overlooked, as it is clear there is great need here. Like many others, I want to make Massachusetts the first state in the United States to provide universal, affordable, and reliable broadband Internet to all residents. In order to do that, state officials must estimate the total cost associated with

this policy and determine if the new federal funding will be enough to cover it. If not, additional state funds should be deployed.

Finally, our District is particularly vulnerable to infrastructure problems arising from climate change. While the Act grants Massachusetts funding for clean drinking water initiatives, cybersecurity, and even fighting wildfires, there is no mention of, or funding set aside for, coastal flooding, erosion, and storm surge issues. The latter issues present great risks to the safety and livelihoods of our residents. We must make clear to state officials that road and bridge improvements are less effective when they do not include companion improvements to climate resilience infrastructure. Without strong sea walls, even the best built coastal road will face significant damage.

The federal infrastructure bill is a real asset to Massachusetts as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and adapt to the 21st century world, but the cities in our District cannot be overlooked. My unique background in finance, technology and education assures that I will have a functional understanding of these issues and best protect our District.

Join us in this effort.

Anthony A. D'Ambrosio, BA Yale, MA University of Cambridge, and Candidate for State Senate

GUEST OP-ED

More to me than my work

— Erika and I, British accents and all, were thrilled to be back in the States. After 23 years in the Air Force, my mom retired from the military and we moved off base.

Thirty years later, I can still recall my mother trying to hide the stress in her eyes as we neared the end of each month. I can hear my 4th-grade teacher calling out the lunch-line lists as she lined us up each afternoon, hoping she'd call our names early. She'd first call the “A” tickets (full price), then the “B” tickets (reduced), and finally the “C” tickets (free). It was a win for my family when Erika and I could stand in the “A” line.

When we were old enough, Erika and I got part-time jobs to help pay the bills. We were honestly excited about helping our mom; she was less excited about it. She really didn't want us to have to work and is still critical of how much she worked back then. But I look back and see so many people that helped us -- and that's what taught me the meaning of community.

Because of her demanding work schedule, my mother often had to read about my accomplish-

ments in the local paper. Even in those days, I was moving a mile-a-minute: cheerleading, basketball, record-breaking shot put performances (no big deal). We had surrogate parents who cheered us on when Mom couldn't be there, and they did so much more for our family, keeping an eye on me and Erika and bringing home-cooked meals. One of my teachers in high school, Mrs. Deshambo, even took a day off from school to drive me nine hours for a scholarship interview. Our church, St. Anthony's, embraced us and when Erika and I graduated, we received local scholarships from the congregation.

As African-American twins in a very small, white neighborhood, people noticed us. In that scenario, one might feel as though you're always being watched -- but the truth of the matter was that people were actually watching out for us. But when people donated to my family with notes signed, “your guardian angel,” it highlighted the similarities we shared with our neighbors. I still don't know who those guardian angels were, but I hope I am making them proud.

As a young legal ser-

vices attorney, I met so many people that reminded me of my mom. My clients were hard-working individuals that often weren't paid, were trafficked, and couldn't navigate the system. I loved that job because it helped me be a guardian angel for others and I know, deep down, I was protecting other people's moms.

I answered the call to public service because of the community that always showed up for me. You know my work as a City Councilor, and you know that I always show up for the people who need me. In the State Senate, I can build upon the grassroots advocacy that has defined me and together we can address real systemic change that will lift up families like mine.

This election matters. The people of this district deserve a State Senator who is experienced, will do the work, and has the record of getting things done. Election Day is December 14 and I humbly ask for your vote to become the State Senator for Revere, Winthrop, Boston and Cambridge.

Lydia Edwards is a City Councilor and candidate for State Senate.

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Martin Richard Foundation announces annual MR8K

The Martin Richard Foundation, in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, New Balance and DMSE Sports, announced it will host the fourth annual MR8K. The race will again return to the home of our presenting sponsor, Boston Landing on Saturday, December 4. Registration is now open at <http://mr8k.org/>.

In 2019 the Martin Richard Foundation established the MR8K as its signature annual fundraising event, giving more people an opportunity to run for Team MR8. This year we will again join in person, allowing runners to come together, run a special course and join Boston’s team for Boston causes. MR8k will also have a virtual option for runners to join across the globe. All funds raised will benefit the Martin Richard Foundation’s work to support community organizations that advance its values of inclusion, kindness, justice and peace.

“The MR8K is an opportunity to bring the community together, allow Team MR8 to be

more accessible to a greater number of people to run for Boston’s team,” said Bill Richard, co-founder of the Martin Richard Foundation and MR8K. “Last year, we had a great virtual event but we can’t wait to welcome participants to Boston Landing for another memorable experience for runners, walkers and para-athletes of all ages and abilities.”

Produced by DMSE Sports, Inc., the 5-mile course will take place at Warrior Ice Arena at Boston Landing. More than 2,000 people participated in 2019 event at Boston landing and the inaugural event at TD Garden, which resulted in a \$100,000 donation to McLean Hospital’s LEADER program to support first responders. Registration is \$45. The event is open to runners, walkers and para-athletes of all abilities, as well as families with small children.

About the Martin Richard Foundation Since 2014, the Martin Richard Foundation has worked to advance the values of sportsmanship, inclusion,

justice and peace by investing in programs that encourage young people to engage as community leaders. Rooted in unity and gratitude, the Foundation puts these values into action by encouraging young people to learn, grow and lead through volunteerism and community service. By inspiring young people to work for inclusion, and embrace diversity in their local communities, the Foundation aims to influence future generations to build bridges of cultural understanding and deepen community and neighborhood connections.

About the Boston Bruins Foundation The Boston Bruins Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that assists charitable organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for children and their families throughout New England. We focus on organizations that are concentrated on academics, athletics, community outreach, and health and wellness. The Foundation believes that

these pillars will create a strong support system that will ultimately lead to the betterment of our community.

About New Balance Athletics New Balance, headquartered in Boston, MA has the following mission: Demonstrating responsible leadership, we build global brands that athletes are proud to wear, associates are proud to create and communities are proud to host. Manufactured in the U.S. for more than 75 years and representing a limited portion of our U.S. sales, New Balance Made U.S. is a premium collection that contains a domestic value of 70% or greater. New Balance owns five factories in New England and one in Flimby, U.K. New Balance employs more than 8,000 associates around the globe, and in 2019 reported worldwide sales of \$4 billion. To learn more about New Balance, please visit www.newbalance.com.

About Boston Landing Boston Landing is a mixed-use development encompassing approxi-

mately 15 acres of land along the Massachusetts Turnpike in Boston’s Brighton neighborhood. Located along Guest Street, the property is a former industrial area that once served as the region’s largest stockyard. The revitalization of this development has transformed this area into a vibrant 21st century destination for like-minded companies, with a focus on work/life balance. Boston Landing’s vision has been to create a state-of-the-art development that complements the existing neighborhood fabric through the creation of new office space, retail stores, restaurants, and sports-related uses. Boston Landing is currently home to the New Balance World Headquarters, the Boston Bruins Practice and Training Facility, The Celtics Practice and Training Facility located at the Auerbach Center and companies such as Bose, Roche Diagnostics, Proteostasis and SmartLabs. NB Development Group has begun construction on the TRACK at new balance featuring a 200-me-

ter hydraulically banked track, multi-sport courts, facilities for training and special events and ground floor retail. In addition to the athletic facilities, the TRACK at new balance will be anchored by a live music entertainment venue operated by The Bowery Presents.

About DMSE Sports DMSE Sports is a full-service event-management organization, providing a full range of event and race production, management, and consulting services to support events of all sizes. Dave McGillivray and his team at DMSE Sports are responsible for the technical and logistical aspects of more than 30 races and walks per year. From overseeing organizing committees to working with local officials and handling registration, credentialing, lead vehicles, and course set up, DMSE Sports does it all. The firm has produced more than 1,000 events since opening its doors in 1981, and serves clients throughout the United States.

Seven tips for readying your outdoor power equipment for winter storage

After your lawn gets its last cut before winter, it will be time to put away spring and summer outdoor power equipment, like lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and trimmers. What’s next? Snow throwers, generators and other small engine equipment need to be readied for winter use. How and when you prepare your equipment for seasonal changes can save you time and money later, says the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

With record-breaking sales of outdoor power equipment, homeowners are spending more time during the COVID-19 pandemic working or renovating their family yards. This means more people are using outdoor power equipment, and OPEI reminds everyone the importance of proper outdoor power equipment storage, maintenance and safe handling.

“During this very challenging pandemic, we’ve learned our outdoor spaces are more important than ever,” says Kris Kis-

er, President and CEO of OPEI and the TurfMutt Foundation, which encourages outdoor learning experiences, stewardship of our green spaces, and care for all living landscapes. “Our yards, parks and schoolyards are our safe space for connecting with friends and family, acting as outdoor classrooms and offices. Green space also contributes to the health and wellbeing of people, pets and wildlife, and having the right outdoor power equipment to take care of it is key. But preparation is everything -- understanding how to store equipment and get it serviced, how to operate it safely, and how to ready your space to use that equipment.”

He adds, “Always follow your manufacturer’s guidelines, and remember to keep kids and dogs away from operating equipment at all times.”

Here are a few tips from OPEI to ensure your lawn mower and other spring equipment will be available for use when warmer temperatures return, and

snow throwers and other winter equipment will be ready for use when the snow falls.

1. Review owner’s manuals. Re-familiarize yourself with how to handle equipment safely. Lost manuals can be found online. Save a copy on your computer if possible, so it can be consulted when needed. Be familiar with your equipment, and all its features, including how to turn it off quickly and safely.
2. Service all equipment. Before storing spring and summer equipment, clean and service it or take it to a small engine repair shop. Drain and change engine oil and safely dispose the old oil. Service the air filter, and do other maintenance as directed by the owner’s manual. Check winter equipment and see if any maintenance and repairs are required.
3. Handle fuel properly. Unused fuel left in gas tanks over the winter can go stale and even damage equipment. Before storing equipment, add fuel stabilizer to the gas tank, then run the equipment to distribute it. Turn the engine off, allow the machine to cool, then restart and run until the gas tank is empty. For winter equipment, buy the recommended type of fuel no more than 30 days before use. Use fuel with no more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment. Use a fuel stabilizer if recommended by the manufacturer. Get more information on safe fueling for outdoor power equipment at LookBeforeYouPump.com.
4. Charge the battery. Remove and fully charge batteries before storing. Don’t store batteries on metal shelves or allow them to touch metal objects. Store them on a plastic or wood shelf in a climate-controlled structure.
5. Shelter equipment from winter weather. Store spring and summer equipment in a clean and dry place such as a garage, barn or shed. Winter equipment should be kept away from the elements, but be easily available for

use.

6. Prepare, prepare, prepare. Make space in the garage or basement before the weather changes, so there is room to store larger yard items. Clean up the yard of sticks, debris, dog and kid’s toys and other items that can damage or destroy equipment. Clear the paths used regularly in your yard, especially during the winter when snow can “hide” things.
7. Have the right weather appropriate ex-

tension cord for your generator. Keep heavy duty weather proof extension cords on hand to use with it. Ensure the length of the cord is necessary to operate the generator a safe distance from the house or building. Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage, breezeway or under an open window.

The following article was submitted by Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI)

Happy Valley // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

post-Thanksgiving holiday shopping extravaganzas of Black Friday and Cyber Monday and has become the second busiest day for cannabis sales for local dispensaries behind 4/20.

This year, East Boston’s Happy Valley will host the neighborhood’s first ‘Green Wednesday celebration at the dispensary’s McClellan Highway location on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

“Here at Happy Valley on Nov. 24, we’re going to be having a ‘Green Wednesday’ celebration,” said Happy Valley General Manager Gilly Motta. “In the cannabis world Green

Wednesday is kind of like the Cannabis Black Friday or Cyber Monday. We’ll be having the Roxy’s Food Truck on site to serve up some free grilled cheese and tots from 5 pm to 8 pm and local DJ Joe playing some music from 4 pm to 7 pm.”

Happy Valley will also be offering special pricing on cannabis products in the spirit of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

“We will have unique offerings for all our customers both recreational and medicinal,” said Motta. “It’s just kind of a nice event to have for Green Wednesday and kind of the first special event

we’ve done here since our grand opening so it should be a great event.”


Since opening its doors in Eastie five months ago Happy Valley has become a local favorite.

“We’re still new on the block but it has been about five months and we keep growing so we’re excited for our first holiday season in East Boston,” said Motta “Our patient count has been growing and we’ve been getting a lot more patients to sign up for the medical marijuana program. That and just overall just foot traffic has been growing month after month with our transactions growing steadily ev-

ery single month. I think people like the product. Obviously, our pricing is great, the experience is great so that’s really where we are starting to stand out. When people come here, they’re saying, “I’m not going anywhere else”.

Two Happy Valley strains, Super Lemon Haze and White Wedding recently won the High Times sponsored Massachusetts Cannabis Cup for Best Flower.

“The quality of our product is really, really growing since we’ve opened and that is really showing in some of the numbers that we’re putting out there,” said Motta.





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SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com



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Commonwealth Care Alliance® is dedicated to helping people with chronic illnesses and disabilities live safely and independently in their own homes and communities. Over 70% of the members in our CCA Senior Care Options plan are nursing home certifiable, but continue living well at home with our care and support. That's what we call *uncommon care*.® And that's one reason why the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services awarded CCA Senior Care Options five stars – their top quality rating – for 2022.*

*Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system.



East Boston youth basketball is back

EBYBL in conjunction with Boston Centers for Youth and Families at the Martin Pino Center and Paris St. Gym will have a 2022 season. Children 7 years old to 16 (can't turn 17 before March 1) are eligible. Due to COVID safety restrictions mandated by the City of Boston the following changes to our regular format will take place:

All registration must take place online. Players must register at the following website, BCYF. Perfectmind.com. Once on the Site fill out the BCYF Member registration. Then go to a) Register, b) Sports Courses and for:

Pino Ctr. (age 7/12) c) (EBYBL 7-12)
Paris St. Gym (age 16/13) c) (EBYBL 13/16)

The registration period will run from 11/17 till 12/2. If you are experiencing problems accessing the website, please call Lauren at the Pino Ctr. At 6176355120 M-F after 1PM for children ages 7/12 and Christian Lopez at 6176355125 after 1PM for Teens 13/16

Per City of Boston Covid regulations, NO SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE GYM. All players must be dropped off and picked up.

Registered players will need to check in at the front desk upon arrival. Players can't enter the building till their scheduled time as we must clear the previous group out of the gym.

Masks must be worn while in the buildings.

Tryouts should be 12/4 and 12/11. Tentative 1st game will be 12/18. Play will end in mid-March.

Fees will be as follows: Participants at Pino Ctr. \$35/Child, Paris St \$20 to be collected at the gym

We are very excited to get back in the gym. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we learn to operate in this environment.

Thanks to the staffs at both community Centers for their continued help. Also, thanks to our many sponsors for their support. Joe Mario, Mario Century 21, The Ruggiero family at Ruggerio Family Funeral Home, and John Zirpolo at Cora Electric have been long time contributors. We also have received a nice donation this year from The East Boston Corn Hole Tournament sponsored by Phil Frattaroli, Anthony Pino and the team at Cunard Tavern.

See you in a couple of weeks!



The East Boston Jets seniors with Coach John Paziale.

Jets and the Knights will clash at Fenway Park

The 102nd game in the East Boston High School-South Boston High School football rivalry, originally planned for White Stadium on Thanksgiving morning at 9:30 a.m. will take place at Fenway Park on Tuesday evening, November 23 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20. And can be purchased on the website www.redsox.com and at the entrance to the park on game day.

As we go to press, the East Boston High Jets, led by John Parziale are 7-2. A loss to Amesbury on November 5 by a score of 50-14 ended their chance to advance in reaching the Division 7 superbowl. The Jets ended the regular season on Thursday, November 11 with a 32-6 win over Saugus. The South Boston Knights, led by

Germaine Sattiawhite are 4-4. The Knights ended the season last Saturday, November 13 with a 48-0 win over Minuteman.

The rivalry began in 1903. Over the years, there have been missed or

cancelled games including last November due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Overall, East Boston leads the rivalry at 45-42. All are welcomed and encouraged to cheer on both teams at venerable Fen-

way Park as the field will have been transformed into a gridiron for the occasion. Following the 5 p.m. game, Andover and North Andover will play at 7:30 p.m.



Register to play by December 2.

EAST BOSTON YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION
11/17 till 12/2/21

Boys and Girls ages 7 to 16 (can't turn 17 before 3/1/22)
Program is run on Saturdays beginning 12/4/21 till 3/19/22

Children age 7 through 12 play at the Marty Pino Community Center, ages 13 to 16 play at Paris St. Gym

Players must register on the following website, BCYF.Perfectmind.com. Go to a) Register, b) Sports Courses and for:

- Pino Ctr. (age 7/12) c) (EBYBL 7-12) issues contact Lauren Logan 617-635-5120
- Paris St. Gym (age 16/13) c) (EBYBL 13/16) issues contact Christian Lopez 617-635-5125

Registration fee: \$35 per participant due at the gym

City of Boston Covid Protocol: Masks must be always worn and no spectators

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Hood Sour Cream 16 oz **4/¢5.00**
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# Opioid-related overdose death rate up 1 percent in the first nine months of 2021

Opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts rose slightly in the first nine months of 2021 compared to the same time last year, according to preliminary data released today by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). In the first nine months of the year, there were 1,613 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths, approximately 21 more deaths than in the first nine months of 2020, or a 1 percent increase. Data released earlier this year noted that Black non-Hispanic men made up the largest increase in opioid overdose death rates, a finding reinforced by today’s report, and which underscores the importance of the Commonwealth’s continued investments to address this issue with a focus on equity.

Throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and related public health challenges, the Commonwealth has continued to focus on the opioid epidemic, most recently investing over \$45 million in federal dollars to support prevention, treatment, and recovery programs for vulnerable populations. This includes a combined \$19 million for early childhood and youth substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs; \$9 million for low-threshold access to treatment for people struggling with opioid use disorder; \$2.8 million for treatment for people experiencing homelessness; and a combined \$11.3 million to support transitional and permanent housing programs for adults, families, and young adults in

treatment and recovery from substance abuse disorder. “The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated substance misuse not only in Massachusetts, but across the country. Our Administration has continued to tackle both the opioid epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on equity,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Since 2015, we have more than doubled spending on substance misuse programs across state government, boosted the number of treatment beds, and signed two landmark laws to respond to this public health crisis. We continue to invest in treatment, support, intervention, and education programs, primarily for residents experiencing the highest burden of this epidemic.”

“We remain committed to increasing resources to battle the opioid crisis amid the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 20 months, particularly for those struggling with substance use and mental health disorders,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “We will continue to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure residents struggling with addiction have access to necessary supports.”

The Baker-Polito Administration has continued to build on its work and funding to address this crisis, more than doubling investments in this area since 2015. The Fiscal Year 2022 budget includes a total investment of \$408 million across various state agencies to address substance misuse, a 22

percent increase over last fiscal year, and an increase of \$288.8 million (242%) since FY15. Since the early days of the pandemic, the Administration has continued to expand overdose-targeted initiatives to ensure uninterrupted substance use treatment and support. DPH has distributed more than 124,000 naloxone kits to opioid treatment programs, community health centers, hospital emergency departments, and houses of correction since March 2020. With a blanket exception from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 35 percent of Massachusetts opioid treatment program patients have been receiving take-home doses of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) as of September 2021, compared to the pre-pandemic average of 16 percent in December 2019. Massachusetts is among the states with the smallest increases nationwide in all drug overdose deaths between March 2020 and March 2021, according to the latest preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The data show that while drug overdose deaths surged by 31 percent nationally in that time period, Massachusetts’ increase was in the single digits. “We have seen the impacts of the intersecting COVID-19 pandemic and opioid epidemic on some of our most vulnerable communities,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “As the Commonwealth

emerges from the pandemic, we must engage with trusted community-based health care providers to provide culturally responsive support and treatment.” “Prior to the pandemic, opioid-related overdose death rates in Massachusetts had been stable. Unfortunately, the pandemic exacerbated the opioid crisis, particularly in communities of color which have also been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19,” said Acting Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. “Our goal is to reverse this troubling trend by continuing to build on our aggressive, data- and equity-based public health approach to prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery.” Overall, there were 2,106 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2020, a 5 percent increase over the previous year and just shy of the 2016 peak of 2,110 deaths, according to the latest preliminary data. The 2020 opioid-related overdose death rate of 30.2 per 100,000 people was approximately 1.6 percent lower than in 2016 (30.7 per 100,000), the latest data show. In 2021, the powerful lethal synthetic opioid fentanyl continues to be the main driver of opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts. In the first half of 2021, fentanyl was present in 92 percent of opioid-related deaths where a toxicology report was available, preliminary data show. Cocaine is the next most prevalent drug among opioid-related overdose deaths after fentanyl, pres-

ent in 52 percent of toxicology reports in the first six months of 2021 – a 13 percent increase over 2020. In 2017, cocaine was present in 39 percent of opioid-related overdose deaths. The rate of heroin or likely heroin present in opioid-related overdose deaths was 9 percent and has been declining since 2014. The presence of benzodiazepines, amphetamines, and prescription opioids in opioid-related overdose deaths remained stable in the first half of the year, toxicology screens show. The percentage of benzodiazepine has been declining since 2018. In the first half of 2021, males ages 25-34 continued to represent the greatest number of suspected opioid-related incidents treated by Emergency Medical Services (EMS), accounting for 22 percent of opioid-related incidents with a known age and sex. Among the other findings of the latest opioid report:

- Between 2019 and 2020, the confirmed opioid-related overdose death rate for white non-Hispanic residents decreased slightly: 33.4 per 100,000 in 2019 to 33.1 per 100,000 in 2020. Meanwhile, the rate for all Black non-Hispanic residents increased 63 percent from 22 to 36 per 100,000.
- The confirmed opioid-related overdose death rate for Asian Pacific Islander non-Hispanic residents increased about 27 percent from 2.6 to 3.3 per 100,000 between 2019 and 2020. For Hispanic residents the rate increased over 12 percent from 32 to 36 per 100,000.

- In the same time period, the confirmed opioid-related overdose death rate per 100,000 for Black non-Hispanic, Asian Pacific Islander non-Hispanic, and Hispanic men increased, while it decreased for white non-Hispanic men.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the opioid-related overdose death rate among all females increased by 15 percent, from 14 to 16 per 100,000.
- In the same time period, the confirmed opioid-related overdose death rate increased for Black non-Hispanic, Hispanic, and white non-Hispanic women:
- Black non-Hispanic up 32 percent from 12 to 16 per 100,000
- Hispanic up 68 percent from 8 to 14 per 100,000
- White non-Hispanic up 8 percent from 17 to 19 per 100,000
- Males comprise 73 percent of all opioid-related overdose deaths occurring in 2020.
- In 2020, 50 percent of opioid-related deaths occurred in people who were between 25 and 44 years old; 40 percent were between 45 and 64 years old.
- Naloxone was administered in 96 percent of acute opioid overdoses during the first six months of 2021. Of all opioid-related EMS incidents in the first half of 2021, 53.1 percent were categorized as acute opioid overdoses.
- Approximately 469,000 individuals in Massachusetts received prescriptions for Schedule II opioids in the third quarter of 2021, a 44 percent decrease from 841,990 in the first quarter of 2015.

## Become a foster or adoptive parent

The Home for Little Wanderers announced today that it has opened registration for a required education program for people interested in becoming adoptive or foster parents in recognition of Adoption Month. People interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents can apply to attend the free, 30-hour Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) education program from 5:30-8:30 PM every Monday and Friday starting on January 10, 2022 and ending on February 10, 2022. In Massachusetts, there are over 2,800 children in foster care with a goal of adoption and over 1,200 of these children have no identified adoption resource such as a relative or foster parent.

“The child welfare system is not designed to raise children. We are here for support and healing when they need us, but children deserve to grow up in a warm, loving home,” said Lesli Suggs, LICSW, President and CEO of The Home for Little Wanderers. “Children need to know that they have a permanent adult in their life to take care of them and to help them grow into well-rounded adults. Children who grow up without a permanent family and “age out” of the child welfare system are more likely to experience homelessness, substance abuse, and be involved in the criminal justice system. The love and support of a family can make all the difference.” The Home’s adop-







tion and foster programs provide all the necessary training, licensing, matching, and supportive services for families to adopt or foster. The Home encourages adoptive and foster parents from all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, socio-economic backgrounds and religions. Adoptive or foster parents can be couples or single individuals. Children come from a variety of backgrounds and many have experienced multiple types of maltreatment such as neglect or abuse. To learn more about becoming an adoptive or foster parent, visit [www.thehome.org/adoption](http://www.thehome.org/adoption) or contact The Home at (617)-288-7450, [adoptioninfo@thehome.org](mailto:adoptioninfo@thehome.org), or [fostercareinfo@thehome.org](mailto:fostercareinfo@thehome.org).

## Gaming Commission releases October GGR

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission reported today that the month of October 2021 at Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor generated approximately \$96 million in Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR). PPC, a category 2

slots facility, is taxed on 49% of GGR. Of that total taxed amount, 82% is paid to Local Aid and 18% is allotted to the Race Horse Development Fund. MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor, category 1 resort-casinos, are taxed on 25% of GGR; those monies are allocat-

ed to several specific state funds as determined by the gaming statute. To date, the Commonwealth has collected approximately \$921 million in total taxes and assessments from PPC, MGM and Encore since the respective openings of each gaming facility.

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                           |                      |  |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------|
|  REVENUE REPORT |                                                                                           |                      |  |                 |
| OCTOBER 2021                                                                                     |                                                                                           | GROSS GAMING REVENUE |  | TAXES           |
| MGM SPRINGFIELD<br>SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES                                                          |  TABLE | \$4,562,730.75       |  | \$5,360,141.23  |
|                                                                                                  |  SLOTS | \$16,877,834.17      |  |                 |
|                                                                                                  | TOTAL                                                                                     | \$21,440,564.92      |  |                 |
|                                                                                                  |                                                                                           |                      |  |                 |
| ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR<br>SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES                                                     |  TABLE | \$30,580,470.32      |  | \$15,699,930.27 |
|                                                                                                  |  SLOTS | \$32,219,250.76      |  |                 |
|                                                                                                  | TOTAL                                                                                     | \$62,799,721.08      |  |                 |
|                                                                                                  |                                                                                           |                      |  |                 |
| PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO<br>SUBJECT TO 49% TAXES                                                   |  SLOTS | \$11,741,676.26      |  | \$5,753,421.37  |
|                                                                                                  | TOTAL                                                                                     | \$11,741,676.26      |  |                 |
| TOTAL TAXES                                                                                      |                                                                                           | \$26,813,492.87      |  |                 |

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

JOHNSON PARTICIPATES IN EMERSON STAGE PRODUCTION

Students participated in Emerson Stage’s production of This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing in conjunction with their 2021-2022 season. The show is written by Finegan Kruckemeyer and directed by Pascale Florestal. Three young sisters are left in a forest by their woodcutter father and forced to find their own way in the world. From this fairytale beginning, three resolutions are made—one sister walks one way to find purpose, one the other to find adventure, and the third stays right where she is to create a home. The production took place October 7-9 and 16 at the Robert J. Orchard Stage in the Paramount Center in Boston, MA.

Emerson Stage is the producing organization within the Emerson College Department of Performing Arts. The next generation of actors, designers, stage managers, technicians, administrators, and educators work alongside distinguished faculty, professional staff, and guest artists to bring skills learned in the classroom to vibrant life on stage.

Caitlin Johnson of East Boston Theatre Education, Class of 2022.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, the District of Columbia, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals. The College has an active network of 51,000+ alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit [emerson.edu](http://emerson.edu).

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## OBITUARIES

## Baker-Polito administration refiles legislation to improve roadway safety

The Baker-Polito Administration refiled legislation to improve safety on the Commonwealth's roadways and combat drug-impaired driving. This proposal would update road safety laws by implementing uniform standards and promoting proven strategies to reduce motor vehicle crashes, and will implement recommendations made by the Special Commission on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving.

The bill, refiled by the Administration as the "Trooper Thomas Clardy Law," honors Massachusetts State Trooper Thomas L. Clardy. On March 16, 2016, Trooper Clardy was conducting a traffic stop on the Massachusetts Turnpike in Charlton when his parked cruiser was hit by a speeding motorist who swerved across three lanes of traffic. THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, was detected in the motorist's blood. This preventable crime resulted in the tragic and untimely death of 44-year-old Trooper Clardy, an 11-year member of the state police and a United States Marine Corps veteran. He is survived by his wife and six children. The bill's re-filing this week coincides with the two-year mark since the conviction of the driver in the case.

"This legislation aims to make the Commonwealth's roads safer and save lives, and we are grateful to the Clardy family for offering their family's name and support for this legislation, which will help us avoid impaired driving incidents in the future," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This bill will provide law enforcement officers with more rigorous drug detection training and will strengthen the legal process by authorizing the courts to acknowledge that the active ingredient in marijuana can and

does impair motorists. The bill draws on thoughtful recommendations from a broad cross-section of stakeholders, and we look forward to working with our legislative colleagues to pass this bill and make our roads safer."

"Our administration is refiling this legislation as part of our steadfast commitment to safeguarding our roadways and protecting the people of the Commonwealth from preventable crimes," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "With the continued implementation of adult-use marijuana in the Commonwealth, it is vital that we continue to focus on efforts to both combat drugged driving and raise awareness about the dangers of operating while under the influence."

First filed in 2019, this legislation is based on recommendations issued by a Special Commission on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving, which was created as part of the 2017 law legalizing adult-use marijuana, to develop a series of recommendations to mitigate the negative impacts of increased marijuana use in Massachusetts, including the anticipated increase of impaired driving. The Special Commission included a diverse cadre of experts in policing, prosecution, the criminal defense bar, medicine and toxicology, and civil liberties. The Special Commission's report outlined recommendations that require legislative changes and promote consistency with state law on alcohol use and driving.

"Our family has been profoundly impacted by the tragic loss of my loving husband. Our children lost their hero, a man who had love for his family and an unquenchable love for life," said Reisa Clardy, widow of Trooper Clardy. "We wholeheartedly support the implementation of these critical measures to improve public safety in the hope of sparing other families from our sorrow and preventing the heart-break caused by a driver's decision to get behind the wheel when under the influence of drugs."

"It's simple: you can't drive safely when you are impaired. This legislation will improve community safety and advance good criminal justice policy by ensuring our ability to offer the public the same protections whether a driver is under the influence of alcohol or drugs," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy.

"The provisions of this legislation will be important tools to law enforcement officers to enhance interdiction of drugged drivers and reflect a necessary evolution in our criminal laws to recognize and address the significant dangers of drivers who are under the influence of narcotics," said Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent, Massachusetts State Police.

"It is imperative that police have the training and tools necessary to effectively combat drugged driving," said Brian Kyes, Chelsea Police Chief and President of the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs Association. "This

### John Cheffro, Sr.

Lifelong East Boston resident

John W. Cheffro Sr., a life-long resident of East Boston, passed away unexpectedly on November 14 surrounded by his loving family.

The beloved husband of Dorothy (DeVico) Cheffro, he was the devoted father of Brenda Marie Membrino and her husband, Roberto of New Hampshire, John W. Cheffro Jr, and his husband, Maurice of Lynn and Thomas Anthony Cheffro and his life-long partner, Jane MacNiel of Peabody; dear brother of Camille "Dolly" Iacuzio and her late husband, Jerry of East Boston, Joseph Cheffro and his wife, Marie of Winthrop and the late Robert, Sylvester "Jake," and Edward "Crystal" Cheffro and loving grandfather of Brandi, Anthony and Victoria. He is also survived by many loving



nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor John's life by gathering on Monday, November 22 at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in funeral procession to Sacred Heart Church Brooks St., East Boston for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass in celebration of John's life. Services will conclude with John being laid to rest at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody.

### Louis "Butchie" Chianca

Member of Carpenters Union Local 33

Louis A. "Butchie" Chianca, a lifelong resident of Jeffries Point, passed away surrounded by his loving family on November 11 at the age of 79.

Butchie was a member of the Carpenters Local Union #33 and a past member of the Chuckawalla Club.

The beloved husband of the late Joanne (Magliano) Chianca, he was the devoted father of Louis Chianca and his wife, Evelyn (Buri) of Revere; dear brother of Angela DiPerri and the late Charles of East Boston and loving grandfather of Gianna and Antonia. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Butchie's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home,



971 Saratoga Street (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Monday, November 15 before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, East Boston for a Funeral Mass celebrating Butchie's life. Services concluded with Butchie being laid to rest with his beloved wife, Joanne, at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

To leave an online condolence please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## OBITUARIES

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*Birthday Remembrance*  
November 18th


**JOHN FAY**



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

**17th Anniversary**  
November 20, 2004 - November 20, 2021

**JOHN FAY**




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

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

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

**Happy Holidays**  
43rd Anniversary  
In Loving Memory of

**Rose  
Casaletto**




November 21, 1978 - November 21, 2021  
We love and miss you so much,  
Daughter Rose Marie, Son Rico & Grandchildren  
Dad, Junie, Bobby & Frankie are with you now.

*In Loving Memory*

10th Year Remembrance

**FRANCIS  
JOSEPH  
HURLEY**

7/17/1935 — 11/20/2011



*Time has taken your body,  
but a part of you remains  
Deep inside I feel it, whispering your name  
Days turn into months and months turn into years  
But time cannot take you away from me,  
as I always sense you're near.  
You will never be forgotten  
As your love lives on in me.  
And I will carry it with me  
until we meet again in eternity*

**Loved & Missed Always**  
Susie, Sharon, Chris, Gianna,  
Mia, Lori & Stephen

XOXOXO

**In Loving Memory**

*Debra A. Paolini* *Toni Marie Paolini*



September 9, 2016  
5 Year Anniversary

November 20, 2011  
10 Year Anniversary

*They left us quietly, their thoughts unknown,  
but left us a memory we are proud to own. So treasure them lord, in your garden of  
rest, for when on earth, they were the best.*

*Always in our Hearts*  *We love You*

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860-541-3400

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Augusta, ME 04333  
207-624-6050

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617-994-6000

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**Bowe //** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

men and women that would not be where they are in life today without his influence. This is a great way for us to continue honoring the man Wally was.”

Bowe’s influence was felt all throughout Eastie from Jeffries Point to Eagle Hill to Orient Heights. It was at the Boys & Girls Club, first on Paris Street and later on Byron Street, and at Savio High

Bowe made his biggest impact where hundreds and hundreds of young people were influenced by him.

Bowe was 14 years old when he started working at the Boys & Girls Club. He loved helping kids. For Bowe, it wasn’t about money and it wasn’t about prestige but about giving back to the kids in the community, many of whom he was like a father-figure.

In his early years at the club the Paris Street location was open six days a week, Monday through Saturday. On the seventh day Bowe, on his day off, would take a bunch of kids to a park or to Salisbury Beach in the summer.

Bowe died suddenly in 2010 at the age of 53 years old but his memory lives on through the Wally Bowe fund that continues to help support Boys & Girls Club programs. The Wally Bowe Fund not only keeps his memory alive but also continues the good work he did every day as a coach, teacher and role model for local youth.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

MIT campus dog walk

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Recently we met up with friends for a dog walk on the MIT campus. It proved to be a convenient and delightful way to spend time together with our dogs. This campus is very dog friendly, and many MIT employees take their dogs to work with them.

There are many iconic MIT places to meet up. We picked a spot between the chapel and the Stratton Student Center as our starting point and enjoyed a late breakfast on a nearby picnic table.

While we walked with friends, we would recommend this as a dog walk, even if it is just you and your dog looking for a change of scenery. As on most college campuses, students often miss their dogs and are very happy to spend a few minutes engaging with you and your pup. In exchange, they can answer your questions about the area, recommend a great food spot, or tell you about their favorite MIT walk.

Resources

Even during the pandemic, the Stratton Student Center (Building W20 on campus maps) welcomed visitors and offered food and restrooms 24 hours a day and seven days a week. As always, we recommend you check for possible changes before you visit.

Numerous food options are available in Central Square and along Massachusetts Avenue. We opted for takeout from Flour Bakery, less than a quarter



Duchess Poppy and Lady Cha Cha paid rapt attention as an MIT Neuroscientist explained how the sculpture behind them, Alchemist by Jaume Plensa, impacts their brains.

of a mile from our meeting spot. As for where to dine, there are picnic tables and seats scattered throughout the campus. We think this is going to be one of our favorite new picnic spots!

**Getting There**

The MIT campus sprawls over 168 acres. It reaches from Kendall Square to a spot near the Longfellow bridge. Moving west, it extends to the BU Bridge. Massachusetts Avenue intersects the campus where the Harvard Bridge crosses the Charles River. From there, the campus continues north for about a mile into Central Square.

On a Sunday, our friends were able to find on-street parking. There are also numerous parking lots nearby. You can also arrive at MIT via the MBTA from the Central

or Kendall Square stations or on the Number 1 bus down Massachusetts Avenue. Well-behaved dogs are allowed on the MBTA outside of rush hours and at the discretion of the driver.

**Art Walk for the Humans!**

A bonus for us was exploring the public art scattered all over the campus. Even more admirable is that MIT offers visitors valuable resources for learning more about the artwork you find. If you search for “MIT Public Art” online, you’ll find maps, information about each piece of art, a link to a series of self-guided walking tours, student-led tours, and even a GPS-enabled self-guided tour designed to work on your cell phone.

**Quiet and Welcoming**

We had an excellent walk with our anxious and noise adverse little Westie Poppy. We don’t know if it was the mention of our friends’ names, the new route, or the quiet, welcoming feel of the campus and the people around us, but she trotted along calmly, happily, and even wagged her tail a bit.

Poppy has always adored our friends and was happy to share all of us with their dog Cha Cha. It was one of her best outings, and we plan to go back often and explore more of the artwork, architecture, peaceful spaces, comfortable seating, and river views on an MIT campus walk.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*

## Post Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

There will be no regular mail delivery or retail services available on Thursday, Nov. 25, as postal employees across the commonwealth celebrate Thanksgiving. But our carriers will still be delivering Priority Express and other guaranteed next day services.

This holiday, the Postal Service is reminding customers to shop and ship early. Our online store is open 24/7 at usps.com and boasts plenty of gift-giving ideas from T-shirts to framed prints, toys and tote bags.

The 2020 holiday season was a record-setting year for the Postal Service. Specifically, 13 billion letters, cards and packages were processed and delivered under some of the most difficult circumstances we’ve faced in the past century.

For the 2021 peak season — the period between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day — the Postal Service will deliver more mail and packages to homes than any other shipper. It’s anticipated that between 850 million and 950 million packages will be delivered for the holidays. The total number of letters, cards and packages processed and delivered is estimated to be more than 12 billion.

The Postal Service will expand Sunday delivery,

beginning Nov. 28, to locations with high package volumes. USPS already delivers packages on Sundays in most major cities and expects to deliver more than 9.7 million packages each Sunday throughout the holiday season. Mail carriers will also deliver packages for an additional fee on Christmas Day in select locations.

The Postal Service plans all year for the peak holiday season. This year’s preparations include leasing 7.5 million square feet of additional space across more than 40 annexes to handle the increase in the number of packages being mailed. The Postal Service is also currently hiring for more than 40,000 seasonal positions to help process and deliver the mail.

Since April, the Postal Service has installed 97 of 112 new package sorting machines, reflecting the Postmaster General’s “Delivering for America” plan’s \$40 billion of planned investment over 10 years. Additionally, more than 50 machines that can sort large packages are expected to be up and running prior to December. The new machinery gives the Postal Service the capacity to process an additional 4.5 million packages each day.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

PROBATE COURT  
SUFFOLK, SS.  
CASE NO.  
SU21E0009PP

To: Jolene Tranfaglia  
489 Sumner Street  
East Boston, MA 02128  
And to all other persons interested

A petition has been presented to said Court by Cherylanne Flores of Revere, MA in the County of Suffolk representing that she hold as Tenant in common an undivided 50% part or share of certain land lying in Boston, MA in said County, and briefly described as follows:  
A certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in that part of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, called East Boston, and being shown as Lot No. 1 on a plan owned by John McCormick, C.E. dated August 13, 1889, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Lib. 1896, Page 426, and said premises are subject to all reservations and restrictions and with all rights and privileges named or referred to in deed to McCormick to Anderson, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Book 1928, Page 314, insofar as now in force and applicable, and bounded and described as follows:  
Beginning at a corner former by the junction of Sumner and Webster Streets  
NORTHEASTERLY by Sumner Street, sixty-eight (68) feet;  
NORTHWESTERLY by land now or late Hulda J. Joy, twenty-seven (27) feet;  
SOUTHWESTERLY by Lot No. 2 on the plan hereinafter mentioned, sixty-eight (68) feet; and  
SOUTHEASTERLY by said junction of Webster and Sumner Streets, twenty-seven (27) feet;  
Containing 1836 square feet.  
The street address is 489 Sumner Street, East Bos-

ton, Massachusetts.  
The common title to the land is derived under: a deed dated July 8, 2019, recorded with the Suffolk Registry of Deeds in book 61718, page 143.  
The land is all of the real estate held under that common title setting forth that she desire that - all the following described part - of said land may be sold at private sale for. Not less than \$950,000.00 dollars and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.  
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Boston before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 6th day of January 2022 the return day of this citation.  
Witness, Brian J. Dunn Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 27th day of September 2021.  
11/17/21  
EB

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN  
Docket No. SU16P1703GD

In the interests of: Peter Garcia of: East Boston, MA  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has

been filed by Advocate Healthcare of East Boston of East Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian.  
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.  
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/09/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you.  
In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 10, 2021  
Felix Arroyo, Register of Probate  
11/17/21  
EB

## Safety // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

legislation will equip law enforcement with drug recognition experts to address the dangers of impaired driving and to improve road safety across Massachusetts.”

“Life can change in the blink of an eye and, because of impaired drivers, it often tragically does. To prevent these tragedies, we must do everything we can to keep impaired drivers off the roads,” said Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. “This legislation is a great step to making our roads safer for all our loved ones who use them. It will better address the issue of impairment in the courtroom and, ideally, avert a tragedy before it happens.”

“AAA Northeast applauds the Baker-Polito Administration for filing this legislation, which would make the roadways of the Commonwealth much safer. Impaired driving accounts for roughly a third of roadway deaths across the county, and the numbers are climbing. We also welcome the opportunity to honor Trooper Thomas Clardy and his family in the naming of this bill,” said Mary Maguire, Director of Public and Government Affairs for AAA Northeast.

“The work of the Special Commission on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving started with the basic premise that you don’t, under any circumstances,

drive better when you are impaired,” said Shawn Collins, Executive Director of the Cannabis Control Commission and Chair of the Special Commission. “The Baker-Polito Administration’s legislation seeks safer roadways throughout the Commonwealth by implementing the Special Commission’s findings and empowering the public with expanded resources to prevent the risks of driving under the influence of any intoxicating substance.”

The Special Commission’s 2019 report contained a series of recommendations, many of them unanimous among the experts and stakeholders, to improve how Massachusetts combats operating under the influence. The proposed adjustments encompass the entire process leading up to, during and following a motor vehicle stop for suspected driving under the influence. Many of the Special Commission’s 19 recommendations require legislative changes, which are reflected in “An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Special Commission on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving” otherwise known as the “Trooper Thomas Clardy Law.”

The proposed legislative changes in this refiled bill include:

- Adopting implied consent laws to suspend the driver’s licenses of arrest-


- ed motorists who refuse to cooperate in chemical testing for drugs, as existing law has long required for arrested motorists who refuse breath testing for alcohol;
- Adopting a statute authorizing courts to take judicial notice that ingesting THC, the active chemical in marijuana, can and does impair motorists;
- Directing the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) to expand the training of drug recognition experts, and allowing them to testify as expert witnesses in civil and criminal cases;
- Prohibiting drivers from having loose or unsealed packages of marijuana in the driver’s compartment of a vehicle, under the same provision of the motor vehicle code that has long prohibited driving with open containers of alcohol;
- Recognizing the effectiveness of the horizontal gaze nystagmus test, shown through scientific research to be the single most reliable field sobriety test;
- Empowering police officers to seek electronic search warrants for evidence of chemical intoxication, as is the practice in over thirty other states. Any blood draw would have to be authorized by a neutral magistrate after a showing of probable cause, and would be performed by a doctor, nurse or other appropriate medical staff at a health care

facility;

- Developing educational materials and programming on drug impairment to share with trial court judges.

Recent data released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) showed that traffic fatalities have reached a 15-year high in the first six months of 2021. More than 20,000 people have died in motor vehicle crashes so far this year. The NHTSA attributes this alarming trend to an increase in risky behavior, including driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Indeed, NHTSA’s recent review of five trauma centers, including one in Worcester, Massachusetts, found a significant increase in the prevalence of drugs detected in seriously and fatally injured drivers with 56% testing positive for at least one impairing substance, up from 50.8% before the public health emergency.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, THC, marijuana’s principal active ingredient, impairs coordination, judgment, and balance – the skills every operator needs to drive safely. A February 2020 survey conducted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving found that 1 in 8 (12%) of adults admitted to driving within two hours of consuming marijuana.




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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CONSCOM TAKES TAKES ACTIONS AGAINST HOMEOWNERS

REVERE - The Revere Conservation Commission took up a number of matters at its monthly meeting last Wednesday in the Joseph Del Grosso City Council Chambers.

Chairman John Shue and fellow commissioners Zachary Bisconti, Heather Legere, Nathalie Pardo, and Joseph Lavalle were on hand for the meeting.

Although the meeting was relatively-uneventful, the commission voted to take enforcement actions against three homeowners who had undertaken projects in their backyards, which abut wetland areas, without first receiving permission from the commission to perform the work.

The agenda items, followed by the commission members’ discussion and vote on each item, were as follows:

1) PMA DEP File #061-0774 - Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – area off Muzzy Street – Hayes Engineering, Inc.

Discussion and vote:

Anthony Capachietti from Hayes Engineering appeared for the petitioner, which owns the property off Muzzy St. Capachietti’s purpose in coming before the commission was to seek the commissioners’ approval of the wetland line that his firm had mapped out on the property.

Capachietti explained that the owner of the property presently has no plans to develop the land, which Shue described as a “hilly and rocky area,” primarily because the land is accessible only through a residential neighborhood in the Town of Saugus, which has not given its approval to any development as of this time.

“We’re seeking to have the wetland line be set ahead of moving forward with a project,” said Capachietti. “There is no project in the pipeline because we need to get access through Saugus. There is nothing imminent because there are problems with access through the residential neighborhood.”

However, Capachietti explained that if the property owner should get permission to move forward with a project in the future, having the wetland line already established will speed up the process.

The commission voted 5-0 to accept the wetland line as presented by Hayes Engineering.

2) MA DEP File #061-0688 Request for Certificate of Compliance; Existing Conditions – As-Built Plan, 245 Revere Beach Parkway; Site As-Built Plan, 205 Revere Beach Parkway; and 2021 Mitigation Monitoring Report, 205 Revere Beach Parkway.

Discussion and vote:

Rick Lentini, a civil engineer, appeared on behalf of the applicant. Three members of the commission had performed a site visit to the property at 205 Revere Beach Parkway, which is a residential apartment building, prior to the hearing.

The main issues before the board pertained to parking and the proper removal of snow from the parking lot.

“What kind of plan do you have in case of a 100 year flood for parking?” asked Lavalle,

“Do the tenants know their parking is in a flood plain?” Bisconti queried.

“Where will they pile snow?,” Shue asked. “The issue is piling it up against a back fence (which abuts wetlands) and letting it melt without a treatment system.”

The commissioners also wanted to see maintenance logs for the property. A representative from the property owner noted however, that there was a change of the property manager in June and therefore there were only a few months of property logs available.

“I think we should make it a condition of compliance that they provide quarterly maintenance plans and must make arrangements for snow to be trucked away from the site,” said Shue, who noted that, “Everything else has been done in substantial completion of the conditions.”

The commission then cited 5-0 to approve the Certificate of Completion with the added conditions.

3) Donation of land from Joseph Festa Construction Co., Inc. for conservation purposes. Lot C Emanuel Street – Blk-Pcl-Unit 018-324G-001B

Discussion and vote:

“We always are interested in land to protect for conservation purposes,” said Shue. “The city would like to do it in case it needs to trade land with the state DCR for another purpose in the future. The City Council needs a letter from us accepting this property and donation.”

The commission voted 5-0 to accept the property and send the appropriate letter to the City Council.

4) Potential Enforcement Action – 630 Revere Beach Boulevard.

Discussion and vote:

This matter pertained to work performed by the owners of 630 Revere Beach Blvd., who appeared on behalf of themselves. The issue for the owners is that they had attempted some self-help to alleviate a flooding problem on their property without obtaining permission from the Conservation Commission.

The homeowners told the commission that they have owned the property for about a year, but have had flooding in their garage and basement during heavy rains because of the pitch of the property.

They dug out their backyard to alleviate the problem, but did so without the necessary permits.

“I issued a notice of warning of potential violation and that we needed them to come here to explain to us what they’re doing,” Shue explained to his fellow commissioners. “They have done a bunch of work. A lot of soil has been removed without a permit from the commission.”

When asked by the commissioners whether they have a plan, the owners replied that they wish to remove the soil and replace it with crushed stone.

“Our concern is that the back of the lot is near the turning circle to get to Riverview with a wetlands and drainage,” said Shue. “We want to control sediment before it runs off the property. If you had come to us ahead of time, it is likely that you would have been approved.

“But the sides need to be stabilized and the final elevation needs to be adhered to,” Shue continued.

“We need a plan of what that’s going to look like. You must file a notice of intent with proper notice to abutters.”

After the owners explained that they had no intention of doing further work in the near-future, Shue explained, “We’re trying to work with you, but we need a timeline that is sooner rather than later. We want to address this at our January meeting, which means you must have a drawing and a Notice of Intent (NOI), with advertising in the newspaper, by mid-December.

“The issue is proximity to wetlands and we need to bring this back into compliance,” Shue concluded.

Shue then brought before the commission another potential enforcement action for the properties at 8 and 10 Marsh View Terrace, a cul de sac located in No. Revere behind Rumney Marsh.

Shue explained that the owner of 10 Marsh View Terrace had obtained a permit from the city to fill in his backyard, in order to extend it, after seeing that his neighbor had done so and had installed a patio on the premises, with possible plans for a swimming pool.

“I was asked whether this falls within the commission’s jurisdiction and after doing some research, I determined that this is in an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC),” said Shue, who said he had consulted with the State Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) to determine the appropriate enforcement mechanism by the commission.

“Rumney Marsh is nearby,” Shue continued. “Construction debris and rubble cannot be used as fill, which is what they’ve done. This requires an enforcement order in order to tell them what they need to do to correct the problem.

“Since their property drains into Rumney Marsh, an erosion sediment barrier needs to be out up and the owners must hire a wetlands scientist to restore the wetlands with native species to replace the invasive species that are there now,” Shue added.

The commission voted 5-0 to accept the DEP’s recommendation to proceed in this manner. The commissioners signed an enforcement letter ordering the homeowners to appear at the commission’s next meeting on December 1 with a plan and that all work must be completed no later than March.

In their final matters on the agenda, the commissioners acknowledged the resignations from the commission of Bisconti, effective at the end of the meeting, and Pardo, effective November 30. Shue noted that they are pursuing career opportunities in Washington, D.C. and South Africa.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SLATED FOR RETAIL SPACE

CHELSEA - The former Salvation Army building at 440 Broadway could soon be the site of 29 affordable housing units if the City Council approves the sale of the property.

City Manager Thomas Ambrosino is asking the council to approve the sale of the building to Traggorth Companies for \$1,150,000. In addition to the residential units,

the Traggorth proposal also includes 4,100 square feet of retail space on the ground floor.

“The City is seeking to redevelop the former Salvation Army building to catalyze affordable housing and economic development in the Downtown,” stated Ambrosino in a letter to the City Council. “Following the City’s acquisition of this site, the Department of Housing & Community Development undertook site-planning activities and engaged stakeholders to advance an affordable housing project with community benefits.”

The resulting request for proposals resulted in the one submission from Traggorth. After reviewing the proposal, Ambrosino said an evaluation committee unanimously voted to recommend the City Council approve the sale of the property to allow the project proceed.

At Monday night’s meeting, the council voted to move the proposal to a future subcommittee meeting for further discussion before taking a final vote.

In addition to the 29 units, there will be 20 parking spaces that will be accessed through Cherry Street. Of the 29 residential units, 10 will be offered for affordable home ownership opportunities for households making 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), while the other 19 units will be rental units for households making either 30 or 60 percent of the AMI.

“At the ground level, the proposal envisions flexible space intentionally designed to accommodate local culinary entrepreneurs and small businesses,” said Ambrosino. “The retail space will feature an outdoor dining patio overlooking Luther Place, a communal kitchen and a collection of small food shops, similar to a public market.”

As part of the deal with the city, Traggorth would also rehabilitate and extend the affordability of 17 units of affordable housing it owns at 466 Broadway.

“The City expects that the project will create vibrant, healthy housing that is affordable for Chelsea residents, while bolstering homeownership opportunities for first time homebuyers,” said Ambrosino. “The City is also optimistic that the unique retail space will enliven the downtown, generate foot traffic and support the local economy.”

Ambrosino said the project is consistent with Chelsea’s affordable housing and economic development objectives, specifically to spur affordable home ownership, enhance the vitality of the Broadway corridor, and provide a range of housing types for residents.

DEMPSEY STILL IN PREMIER HOCKEY FEDERATION

WINTHROP - Jillian Dempsey showed no signs of relinquishing her crown as the most electrifying player in the Premier Hockey Federation or her reigning champion Boston Pride team’s hold on the Isobel Cup.

It was a fantastic opening weekend of the 2021-22 season for Dempsey, the former Harvard University star from Winthrop. The Boston Pride captain scored her milestone 50th career goal, assisted on line-

mate McKenna Brand’s short-handed winning goal in Sunday’s 1-0 victory over the Whitecaps, and joined her teammates in unveiling the 2021 National Women’s Hockey League championship banner. (The NWHL has changed its name to the Premier Hockey Federation).

But of all her glorious individual achievements as the Connor McDavid of women’s hockey, the humble Harvardian seemed to enjoy the presence of her fifth-grade students in the crowd at the Warrior Rink the most. The Cummings School teacher extended a fist-bump through the glass to acknowledge her students before the game, and there was the hero’s reception that she experienced from them after the games as they waited patiently for her to emerge from the Pride locker room.

“I’m here to see Miss Dempsey,” said Cummings School fifth grader Molly Titemore, who attended Sunday’s game with her family. “She’s a really cool teacher. I like her because she’s a hockey player and she can manage two things at once. This is my first time seeing her play hockey, and she’s awesome. I know she went to Harvard, too. I’m going to tell my classmates how much fun we had today.”

Boston Pride Coach Paul Mara, who played 12 seasons in the National Hockey League and who like Winthrop’s Mike Eruzione, has an Olympic gold medal (as an assistant coach of the 2018 U.S. women’s hockey team), appreciates Dempsey’s impactful presence and exceptional leadership.

“Jillian is a special person and a special player,” said Mara. “The way she dedicates herself to this game is second to none.

And her work ethic, her intensity, her leadership – it’s awesome to be around.”

Boston Pride goaltender Katie Burt, who played three seasons for Anthony Martucci’s Winthrop High varsity team beginning in the sixth grade,

said of her teammate, “I love Demps. She’s awesome. Jillian’s the hardest worker on the ice and the ultimate professional. She shows up every day ready to work hard and she’s the ultimate leader who brings us all together.”

As her students rushed to take photos with her after the game, Dempsey, who is playing on an All-Beanpot line with McKenna Brand (Northeastern) and Sammy Davis (Boston University), talked about the opening weekend of the new season.

“It’s a great start to the season,” said Dempsey. “I’m proud of today’s effort and obviously it’s great to start the year 2-0.”

As for her career goal-scoring milestone, Dempsey said, “It’s exciting. I’m more focused on the wins and getting us to where we need to be. It’s a great testament to all the linemates and teammates I’ve had.”

Dempsey, whose parents and sister were at the games, said it was nice to see the large crowd back in the rink [after COVID-19 affected attendance last season]. “To have the lively crowd in Boston, to be able to have my students in the crowd, and my family and friends – that’s what makes its worth it. Having my students here really makes me smile. They pound on the glass, and I try to go over and give them a little fist-bump, give them a wave and let them know that I see that they’re here and appreciate all their support.”



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The tree lighting at Copley Square last year.

## Copley Square tree lighting set for Nov. 29

The City of Boston, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Friends of Copley Square welcome the holidays with the annual Copley Square Tree Lighting on Monday, November 29, starting at 5 p.m.

This free event will feature appearances by Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer along with musical performances by vocalist Ackeem Hill, the Boston Children’s Chorus, the Boston Pops Esplanade Brass Ensemble, and Berklee Col-

lege of Music’s own Esperanza Delgado.

Additional support provided by AT&T Mobility and H.P. Hood, LLC. Light refreshments provided by H.P. Hood, LLC. Event production partners include Boston Properties, Encore Global, and Fairmont Copley Plaza.

Other 2021 holiday celebrations hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department include the lighting of the trellis at Christopher Columbus Park on the Boston Harbor waterfront November 22, the lighting of the ship in

Martin’s Park at the Children’s Wharf Harborwalk on November 27, and the Boston Common Tree Lighting followed by the lighting of the trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall on December 2. The arrival of Boston’s official 2021 Christmas tree, a 48-foot white spruce tree donated by L’Arche Cape Breton of Orangedale, Nova Scotia, will be celebrated on Boston Common at approximately 11 a.m. on November 17.

Visit [bit.ly/LightsOn-Bos](https://bit.ly/LightsOn-Bos) or call 617-635-4505 for more information.

## Madaro // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

crises that have been exacerbated in the past few years. These issues are top priorities for the House as we build back from the pandemic.”

According to the state Public Health Council while the number of overdoses are trending downward, opioid overdose death rates increased for Black non-Hispanic males and Asian/Pacific Islander males between 2019 and 2020, while decreasing for white non-Hispanic males. The overdose death rate for all women rose in 2020, and the increase was higher for Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic women than for white non-Hispanic women.

“Overdose deaths increased 30% during the first year of the pandemic, a devastating step back from the progress made in reducing overdose mortality since the 2016 peak,” said Madaro. “Though the first six months of 2021 saw a 5% decrease in overdose deaths, the opioid overdose crisis is still very much raging in Massachusetts, with a disproportionate impact on Black individuals and other individuals of color. This is why I am grateful for the significant in-

vestment in recovery and treatment services.

Since being appointed chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery Madaro said his committee is making a push to invest in evidence-based initiatives that address not only substance use disorder, but also structural factors that exacerbate overdose mortality, such as stress, trauma, housing insecurity, the criminalization of mental and behavioral health conditions, and poverty.

Madaro was instrumental in the past to secure state funding for the development and administration of a program to prevent and treat addiction to opioid and related substances through the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. The program closed services gaps and ensured treatment counselors were able to cover the critical hours of night and weekend shifts with the hopes that this coverage could be the difference needed in preventing overdoses and encouraging treatment for addicts. He also secured state funding to focus efforts on mental health through the Health Center

and how it pertains to substance abuse disorders.

Earlier this year, the Massachusetts Legislature voted to transfer the state’s \$5.3 billion allocation from ARPA, which must be allocated by 2024, into a separate fund to ensure stakeholder and resident engagement in a public process. Following six public hearings and more than a thousand pieces of testimony received, the House Ways & Means Committee released its proposal which the House approved 159-0 today.

“This spending package makes significant, targeted investments into areas such as affordable housing, workforce development, and boosting our healthcare system that will give a much-needed boost to our residents who were hit the hardest by this pandemic,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). “Throughout this legislation, the needs of communities that were disproportionately affected by the pandemic are prioritized. By doing so, the House has passed a truly equitable spending plan.”

## “Sounds of Christmas” concert returns to Revere

Music Director Robert Lehmann and The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra will return to St. Anthony’s Church on Sunday, December 5 at 4 p.m. for the Robert A. Marra Memorial “Sounds of Christmas” concert, resuming a tradition that began in 1976 but was cancelled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid precautions will be enforced at the concert: all patrons must present a vaccination card or proof of a negative Covid test taken no more than 72 hours prior to the concert. “We want everyone to feel safe, for themselves and for others. “Everyone, including the musicians, will wear masks during the concert.

The concert is principally sponsored by Global Partners LP, Bocchino Insurance Agency, RCN, Comcast, and Action Emergency Services. Admission to the “Sounds of Christmas” Concert is free in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food to benefit the Revere Food Pantry.

“The concert has a long and proud relationship with our sponsors and the Revere Food Pantry,” said Marra. “The Food Drive is a way that everyone can enlarge the sponsors’ generosity. The need is great. Although the world is slowly getting back on track amid the pandemic, many people are still staggered by the economic hardship that has resulted

from last year’s drastic restrictions.”

The Concert is named in honor of life long Revere resident, violinist Robert A. Marra Sr., a 40-year Revere High teacher, concertmaster of the NSPO, and one of the concert originators 45 years ago who died in 2002. The concert program will feature a variety of popular holiday favorites and feature soprano Jean Danton, who has performed many times with the NSPO.

“We’re obviously happy to be back,” said NSPO president Robert Marra Jr. “The Orchestra played its first live concert since March of 2020 this past Sunday and it was both a relief and a thrill for everyone.”



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