

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS



Wednesday, January 26, 2022



Above, Senator Lydia Edwards with Mayor Michelle Wu and former Senators Joseph Boncore, Robert Travaglini, Linda Dorcena Forry and Anthony Petrucci.



Left, Senator Lydia Edwards is administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker last Thursday in the Mass Senate Chambers.

AG Maura Healey announces bid for Governor in Eastie

By John Lynds

Standing in Maverick Square last Thursday flanked by Senator Lydia Edwards and Rep. Adrian Madaro, Attorney General Maura Healey officially announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts.

Healey said she chose Eastie for this momentous occasion because the neighborhood symbolizes the struggles being felt in every corner of the Commonwealth in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I love Eastie," exclaimed Healey outside Maverick MBTA station. "I remember visiting the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

throughout this pandemic and it (Eastie) is a place I've come to often. It's great to be here with our wonderful new State Senator Lydia Edwards and Rep. Adrian Madaro because (Eastie) is representative of the communities that we need to serve in the state. No community should be left behind in this Commonwealth. We can take care of everyone (in the state), just like we can take care of the folks in Eastie. It's a community of pride. It's a community that has been a melting pot, which I appreciate, and it's just a wonderful place. So I was happy to come by and look forward

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Attorney General Maura Healey announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts in Maverick Square last week.

Senator Lydia Edwards sworn in by Baker

By John Lynds

At a State House ceremony last Thursday Senator Lydia Edwards was administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker in front of a room of new colleagues, friends and family.

After taking the oath Edwards addressed the Massachusetts Senate for the first time and promised to be a hard worker and asked for her colleagues' prayers as she embarks on a new journey in public service.

"I can only promise to do one thing and that's to be myself and ask that you help me, pray for me, feed me because I'm a horrible cook, but also, educate me," said Edwards "I asked for your patience, your transparency, your honesty. To my colleagues on both sides of this incredible building, especially those in the Senate, you have in me a hard worker. You have someone who likes to laugh. You have someone who wants to get things done. I won't choose perfection

over progress. I will ask that you be totally transparent with me as I will be with you. We are going to get along and we're going to get a lot of things done. This pathway here was not easily paved and includes losses, it includes wins, it includes a lot of different things. I'm gonna keep fighting but more importantly I'm ready to go so let's get to work."

Edwards, who won the state special election democratic primary in December and then the general election earlier this month

hails from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she was raised by her military mom.

"To my public school teachers, my coaches, my after school program counselor, my babysitter—thank you," she said. "Thank you to all of those hands that helped train me in the art of social justice and service. I also want to thank the immigrant community of Massachusetts. So much of my pathway here is paved by you,

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Man seriously injured in Sunday shooting

By John Lynds

An adult male suffered life-threatening injuries Sunday after being shot in the leg on the corner of Saratoga and Wordsworth Streets.

The incident occurred just before 8:30 pm Sunday night when officers

from East Boston's District A-7 police station responded to a report of shots fired at 808 Saratoga St. When police arrived they found the adult male victim suffering from a gunshot wound to his lower extremity.

The victim was stabilized at the scene by EMTs

and transported to a local trauma center for further treatment. As of Tuesday his injuries were believed to be critically life threatening.

By 9 pm the taped off corner where the shooting occurred was a beehive of activity with Homicide Unit detectives, Crime Scene Response Unit officers and officers from District A-7.

Detectives could be seen marking shell casing and photographing a pool of blood that was left by the victim before he was transported to the hospital.

Witnesses said a red Nissan sedan was seen speeding away down Addison Street and heading

northbound on Route 1A immediately following the shooting.

At this time no further information is available. Anyone with information that could be helpful in this investigation is strongly encouraged to contact the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1-800-494-TIPS, or text the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463). Your tip is 100 percent anonymous.

The scene of violence shocked many in the relatively quiet Orient Heights Neighborhood with some pontificating that the streets are becoming more dangerous in the neighborhood.

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Madaro files two bills to relieve congestion in Eastie

By John Lynds

Last week Rep. Adrian Madaro filed two bills aimed at relieving traffic congestion in East Boston and then offered testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation in defense of his new legislation.

Madaro said the two bills, H3527 - an act relative to congestion relief in Eastie and H3528 - an act relative to congestion in East Boston, address the serious traffic issues that have persisted, and will continue to exist in Eastie.

"Drivers seeking to commute from the North Shore to downtown Boston, or from the South Shore and Boston to Logan Airport, face one significant geographic barrier: the Boston Harbor," said Madaro. "To traverse this body of water by car,

drivers only have a total of four lanes in each direction to utilize, spread between three tunnels: the Sumner and Callahan tunnels, and the Ted Williams Tunnel. To pass through either, drivers inevitably end up in my community of East Boston. Right up until the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, East Boston was at the epicenter of a steadily escalating traffic problem. Growing commuter traffic from the North Shore into Boston, coupled with increased vehicular travel to and from Logan Airport, including a significant rise in TNCs, led to a traffic crisis in East Boston, with congestion backing up onto residential streets. These bills seek to address these traffic issues through studying the problem and

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Eastie’s weekly COVID positive tests decrease for a second week

By John Lynds

Ten days after Mayor Michelle Wu and the city implemented the ‘B Together’ mandate that requires all employees and patrons at indoor venues to show proof of vaccination, Eastie’s weekly COVID 19 positive test rate has dipped for a second week in a row.

The COVID winter surge has wreaked havoc on the city and affected school attendance for both staff and students, closed local business due to staff shortages and put a strain on emergency rooms at area hospitals.

Two weeks ago nearly 4 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turned out to be positive but that number has dropped.

Last week, 2,268 Eastie residents were tested

for the virus last week and 29.2 percent were positive--this was a 23 percent decrease from the 37.8 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on January 17. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 23 percent in Eastie since January 10.

Six hundred sixty two additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between January 17 and January 24 there are now 13,452 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also decreased last week. According to the BPHC 30,644 residents were tested and 24 percent were COVID positive--this was a 24 percent decrease from the 31.6 percent that reportedly tested positive

for the week ending on January 17. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 25 percent in Boston since January 10.

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 7 percent last week and went from 141,491 cases to 151,584 confirmed cases in a week.

However, there were 34 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,588. Deaths, which decreased 24 percent two weeks ago, increased 79 percent last week.

Edwards submits council resignation effective April 30

Senator and Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards submitted her resignation to the Boston City Council, effective April 30.

Edwards is honoring the commitment she made during her successful Senate campaign to gracefully exit her council seat if she were to become a Senator while ensuring a smooth transition for residents of the council district.

“Serving on Boston City Council has been an incredible honor, and I am thrilled that the candidates who have expressed interest in the District One city council seat reflect the diversity of the district,” said Edwards.

With the filing of Edwards’ resignation letter, the City Clerk may file an order with the city council calling for a special election to replace Edwards. The City Council could vote to approve the or-

der as early as February 2, 2022. The order, if approved by the council, would outline the timing for the preliminary and final elections in accordance with the Boston City Charter.

State case-law specifies that an irrevocable resignation noticed for a future date is sufficient to trigger a legislative body’s special election procedures for filling a vacancy.

“As the residents of Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End continue to face extreme housing, development and recovery challenges during a pandemic, I believe the best thing I can do is represent them until they elect a new city councilor,” stated Edwards. “This process will minimize the amount of time the district is without representation on the council and will give voters more of an opportunity to hear from the

candidates about their vision for the seat.”

As a City Councilor, Edwards led efforts to protect and expand Boston’s affordable housing stock, combat discrimination and further fair housing, expand paid leave for workers, modernize the city charter and budgetary process through ballot initiative, and remove state restrictions on Boston’s inclusionary development and linkage policies.

Edwards joins several legislators that have held local and state office simultaneously, including at least two Boston city councilors and multiple city councilors across the Commonwealth, but will do so only for this interim period until April 30th. During such time, her office will continue to respond to constituent matters from parking tickets to policy reforms.

Madaro // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

attempting to divert traffic from peak hours.”

Madaro said H3528 would instruct MassDOT to conduct a traffic study of the Eastie area, including Logan Airport, the Sumner, Callahan, and Williams Tunnels, and wider Route 1A corridor in consultation with local municipalities, agencies, and other stakeholders. MassDOT would be tasked with determining the root causes of congestion, including increased traffic from Logan Airport, increased TNC rides, increased commuter traffic, and increased vehicles from new local residential and commercial developments. This study would be directed toward the development of recommendations to alleviate traffic conditions, including improved and expanded subway, regional commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and other mobility modes.

who commute during off-peak hours a discount of at least 25 percent.”

Madaro said in forming this pilot, he opted to pursue discounts for drivers traveling during off-peak hours, instead of price increases during peak hours, to avoid penalizing workers who do not have work flexibility in their schedule.

“We recognize that many such commuters are working-class individuals and that the nature of many jobs in fields such as the service industry, custodial work, construction, and others, have set hours that do not allow for changes in commuting time,” he said. “With the rise of remote and flexible in-person work during the pandemic, our hope is that this will be an attractive option to more and more workers.”

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, Madaro said the rapidly growing congestion issues Eastie was experiencing suddenly came to a halt. The pandemic and the ensuing lockdown, shift to remote work for downtown office workers, and decline in air travel meant a decline in the amount of congestion Eastie was seeing on its streets and major highways.

However, Madaro said while this temporary relief has been welcome, in spite of the circumstances, he knows that it won’t last forever.

“Over the past year, when a rise in vaccinations and drop in COVID cases led to commuters gradually returning to the city and travelers to the airport, we noted rising traffic levels trending back toward congestion as usual,” he said. “As unlikely as it may seem now, we know that this pandemic will one day end, and that much of this congestion will, without any changes, gradually return to the same levels as it did pre-March 2020. This is why it is important that we act now, to both understand the root causes of the congestion we experienced, and also to study and implement the best ways to relieve it, through public transit and behavioral shifts towards off-peak travel.”

In the end Madaro said his two bills filed will help ensure that as Boston continues to re-open, commuters are returning in a way that leaves Eastie’s streets safer and less congested than before.

“I ask that the committee report these bills out favorably,” he said.

News in Brief

MYSTIC VALLEY ELDER SERVICES SEEKS DONATIONS OF NEW BLANKETS

With winter upon us and plenty of cold weather still ahead, Mystic Valley Elder Services is seeking donations of new blankets, all sizes, for its Emergency Closet. The Emergency Closet provides its care managers who work with low-income older adults and people with disabilities a place to access not only new blankets but new towels, new sheets, toiletries, and large print puzzle books for their consumers who need them. Having these items in the agency immediately available can make a huge difference in someone’s life and they depend solely on donations.

If you are interested in donating blankets to the Emergency Closet, please contact the Mystic Valley Elder Services Development office at 781-324-7705 or development@mves.org.

the local contacts listed below to be considered.

Don’t just watch the convention on the news. Experience it yourself!

Text Vera at 617-909-5384

E-mail the East Boston Republican Committee at ebrwc@yahoo.com

Paul Ronukaitus at ronukaitus@comcast.net / 617-846-9331

Joyce M. Kelly at joycemariekelly@gmail.com / 617-697-4002

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT FURTHER PAUSES JURY TRIALS

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) issued an order extending the current pause on all jury trials in Massachusetts state courthouses for an additional two weeks, until February 14, 2022. All courts otherwise remain open for in-person business, with a continued emphasis on conducting matters remotely whenever possible.

“While we are encouraged by the trend in COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, the additional two week pause on jury trials is necessary to protect the health and safety of all who enter and work in our courthouses,” said Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd. “Assuming the number of COVID-19 cases continues to decline as expected, we do not anticipate any further pause beyond February 14. As throughout the pandemic, however, all plans and expectations regarding the resumption of jury trials may be adjusted at any time in the ongoing effort to balance the safety of court users and personnel with the fundamental constitutional right to a trial by jury.”

Today’s order partially amends the existing order regarding court operations during the pandemic, which was issued by the SJC on July 1, 2021, and supersedes a prior amendment issued on December 31, 2021.

MASSACHUSETTS REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

The 2022 Massachusetts Republican Party Convention will be held in Springfield Saturday, May 21. The Boston Ward 1 Republican Committee encourages interested East Boston registered (as of December 31, 2021) Republicans to advise the Committee of their desire to be a delegate at the Convention.

The Committee will select the East Boston delegates in January and February from among those who express interest. Please use one or more of

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After careful consideration and out of an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at **617-531-7123 Ext 713** to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Wednesday, February 16, 2022**


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SAFE INJECTION SITES ARE NEEDED NOW

Among the side-effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been the increase in drug-overdose deaths in this country.

The death rate from opioids finally had begun to decline in 2019, but then came COVID-19 and the number of deaths from drug overdoses began to skyrocket once again.

The nation was reporting fewer than 50,000 fatal overdoses as recently as 2014, but in 2020, drug overdose deaths breached the 100,000 mark.

The chief cause of the surge in deaths is the increase in availability of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which is being laced into all sorts of drugs -- from marijuana to cocaine to heroin -- by the drug cartels. According to some news reports, nearly half of drugs tested by the DEA contain a potentially fatal dose of fentanyl.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin, but is far cheaper to manufacture for drug dealers, who use it as a substitute for heroin powder or press it into black-market oxycodone pills. Fentanyl is now also finding its way into cocaine and party drugs like ecstasy and is even sprayed on marijuana.

It has been reported that fentanyl now has killed far more Americans than all U.S. conflicts since World War II combined. In the past decade, it has claimed more than a half million lives, a toll that is growing daily.

In view of the combination of the lethality and availability of fentanyl, now more than ever our nation needs to address the tragedy of drug overdose deaths with a realistic solution.

Those who think that we can stop the supply of fentanyl are living in a fantasy-world of the 1970s-era movie The French Connection. Fentanyl is so powerful that just a few automobile trunk-loads are enough to kill every American citizen.

If old-school heroin were to be compared to conventional weaponry, then fentanyl is a nuclear bomb.

The Massachusetts legislature has before it a number of bills that would allow for clean injection sites, similar to what New York City and the nation of Portugal (where drug overdose rates have been a fraction of the rest of the world for 20 years) are doing.

We urge our state legislators to enact this important legislation forthwith. Every day of delay means more lives lost needlessly to the scourge of drugs.

OMICRON CAN LEAD TO LONG COVID

Public health officials have defined so-called long COVID as the physical, neurological, and cognitive symptoms that can persist indefinitely after infection.

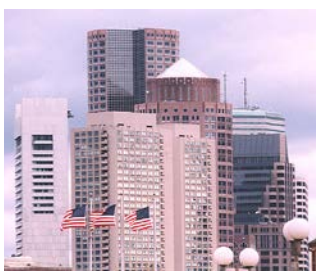
Over the past two years, we've all seen the countless news stories about the devastating effects of long COVID upon those who are unfortunate enough to suffer from it.

Although the Omicron variant is causing less severe disease in those who are fully-vaccinated, the number of those infected who suffer from the loss of taste and smell, physical fatigue, and brain fog still is quite significant.

During this period of a surge in COVID because of Omicron's high transmissibility, it only makes sense for all of us to continue to take the usual precautions -- wearing a protective face mask (such as an N-95), maintaining social distancing, and avoiding large crowds -- until the Omicron surge begins to wane.

Sure, we can play Russian roulette with our health.

But with the number of Omicron cases already declining (though still high) in Massachusetts, we figure that if we've made this far through the worst of the pandemic, sticking it out for another two months or so by making careful choices only makes sense.



Forum

GUEST OP-ED

The 3Gpocalypse is coming — Is your car ready?

By Kane DiMasso-Scott

Just this week I heard about something that I'm surprised has not received more media coverage on the national level, as it's extremely important to us as consumers. Beginning in February and continuing through the end of the year, 3G networks are being shut down by the major players in the cellular network industry, AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile. This poses no problem to our use of cell phones, however, our automobiles are about to get a whole lot "dumber."

Nearly every major brand in the auto industry has, from 2010 to as late as 2021, used these 3G networks in certain models for many of their included and on-board features in their cars. With the shutdown of 3G networks, features like GPS navigation, automatic crash detection, SOS emergency features, remote locking and unlocking, and the ability to connect with your phones (wirelessly), among others, will no longer be functional. Some companies

have already announced their plans to address the issue, while others still have not said much.

Certain brands will be offering free over-the-air updates for your vehicle to ensure that the features continue to work such as Subaru, Honda, and GM, while others look to require a hardware upgrade at a dealership to re-enable your features or disable warning messages that may arise from the lack of connectivity.

The shutdown of 3G networks is not something that comes as a surprise, as it was always an inevitability following 4G and now 5G rollouts. However, what's embarrassing and downright frustrating is the fact that some automakers continued to produce vehicles using this same outdated network, fully aware of the ramifications down the line. I commend the aforementioned companies that are pushing out updates for their consumers, but others who have yet to announce what their plans are is maddening.

More often the not

we, as the consumer, will spend tens of thousands of dollars on a vehicle, expecting the features included when we purchased the vehicle to always be available. Now, with the shutdown of 3G networks, it seems like a fair number of vehicles will lose those features permanently, or will require additional purchases to re-enable or modernize these vehicles for 4G.

So not only will some consumers lose access to features they thought they'd have throughout their vehicle's lifetime, but others may also have to pay additional fees to get those features back. This shouldn't be our responsibility. It's on the automakers and dealers to make it right. They continued to produce vehicles on an outdated network knowing it would be obsolete, but now, the piper needs to be paid and some of them believe that responsibility falls on you.

You can visit [https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-cars.html)

[cars.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-cars.html) or scan the QR code below with your smartphone to see the current list of publicly known affected models. AT&T will shut down their 3G network next month, which certain Honda, Nissan and Volvo models rely on for their features. If this is your first-time hearing about it as well, I suggest you call your dealer, figure out what, if anything, could be done if you have an affected model, and hope for the best.

Good luck.



Kane DiMasso-Scott is an art director for the Independent Newspaper Group. The views expressed in this Op-Ed do not necessarily represent the views of the Independent Newspaper Group.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

RESIDENT NAMED TO FALL 2021 SEMESTER DEAN'S LIST AT DEAN COLLEGE

Dean College is pleased to announce that Patrick Aiken Jr of East Boston has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

HARKNESS NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S LIST

Emma Harkness was named to the Siena College President's List for

the Fall 2021 Semester. Emma is from Lynn.

The President's List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

Founded in 1937, Siena College is a private, Catholic Franciscan, residential, liberal arts college with a student body of about 3,000. Siena College offers 39 degree programs, 80+ minors and certificate programs, and professional curricula in teacher preparation/education, pre-medical, pre-law and social work. A student-to-faculty ratio of 11-to-1, average class size of 21, rigorous academics, Division I athletics, intramural sports and widespread service and advocacy experiences nurture each student's personal growth while providing the education of a lifetime.

MIRANDA EARNS DEGREE

Fred Miranda of East Boston earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Networks and Cybersecurity from University of Maryland Global Campus. More than 8,000 students from all 50 states, four

U.S. territories, and 26 countries earned UMGC degrees worldwide in fall 2021.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary, University of Maryland Global Campus is a world leader in innovative educational models, with award-winning online programs in disciplines including biotechnology, cybersecurity, data analytics, and information technology that are in high demand in today's increasingly technical, global workplace.

With an enrollment of some 90,000 students, UMGC offers open access with a global footprint and a specific mission to meet the learning needs of students whose responsibilities may include jobs, family, and military service. The university offers both undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs, as well as doctoral programs.

FALL 2021 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List.

Kayla Elliott of East

Boston was named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Curry College.

Christopher Manta of East Boston was named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Curry College.

About Curry College
Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 19 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu.

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Legal Advertising

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ebertino@eastietimes.com

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors

Cary Shuman
cary@lynnjournal.com

John Lynds
john@eastietimes.com

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates
scott@chelsearecord.com

Kane DiMasso-Scott
kdscott@thebostonsun.com

Business

Accounts Executive

Judy Russi
jrussi@eastietimes.com

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Edwards // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

paved by your struggle, paved by your resilience, paved by your fight that I was honored to be a part of. But I have to say I’ve been told consistently no matter how far I go in my life to not forget where I come from.”

Edwards continued and

addressed her mother, Bridgett, “Today I look at my mother. You know, the reason why I won was because of your story. My mom, retired Master Sergeant Bridget Edwards of the United States Air Force, raised me and my sister Erica all over the

world. When we landed in Michigan, she worked two jobs during the week and a weekend job. Erica and I had jobs and so much of that story is replicated in the men and women I see in my district. So much of who you are and your struggle is what I saw

in the nannies and house cleaners that I represented. Because I saw you in them I fight harder because you’re in my life. You’re an excellent mother. I love you so much. Thank you so much.”



Winthrop School Committee member Suzanne Leonard and her husband, Erik.



Trevor Finlayson and Emma Crowley.



Sen. Lydia Edwards and Jessie Purvis.



Sen. Lydia Edwards greets supporters at her swearing in watch party at Democracy Tavern in Boston.



Sen. Lydia Edwards and her mom, Bridgett.



Sen. Lydia Edwards with Tara Healey, Marian Callhan and Elaine Donovan.



Sen. Lydia Edwards with Matt Barison, Heather O'Brien and Juan Contreras.



Supporters watch a live feed of Sen. Lydia Edwards being sworn in at her swearing in watch party at Democracy Tavern in Boston.



Sen. Edwards supporters from Winthrop had front row seats to the swearing in at Democracy Tavern in Boston.

RISE

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Healey// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to some more days on the (campaign) trail as we move forward.”

Healey has long been touted as the successor to Gov. Charlie Baker’s governorship and emerged as a frontrunner for the corner office well before Baker announced he would not seek a third term. Healey’s political rise began during her upset victory for Attorney General over Warren Tollman who had former Gov. Deval Patrick and former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh in his corner.

With over \$3.5 million in her campaign war chest, Healey is poised to become the first Massachusetts Attorney General to be elected governor since James Sullivan pulled off the feat in 1807 --although many have tried with the last being Martha Coakley’s bid against Baker.

“I think about where we are right now as a state,” said Healey during her press conference in Eastie. “We have been through a lot or people have been through a lot. Our businesses have been through a lot. Our children have been through a lot, a lot of anxiety, a lot of despair, some incredible hardship. But I have seen over the last two years such incredible acts of resilience, of caring, of compassion. I have long believed, because I’ve had the privilege of serving as your attorney general for the last seven years, that the state and its people have endless capacity to do great things. We’re at a hard time now. But we’re going to get through it and we’re going to go on and we’re going to build forward in ways that we can’t even imagine right now. That’s what excites me. I want to bring to this as your next governor a lot of things to focus on, a lot of things

that need attention, especially getting the economy back on track and making sure that it works for everyone across the state. But I’m just really excited to be here and to be out in a community like East Boston. It’s about meeting the people where they are. I’ve always been driven by the people and engagement with people.”

Healey said job one for her administration would be a focus on economic growth and job creation.

“So many people are experiencing high cost of living, whether it’s in health care, housing, even transit, gasoline, you name it right now, and that’s something that we’ve got to deal with as a state,” she said. “I recognize there’s monetary policy that the federal government is going to control but there are actually levers and things that we can do as a state to better address that situation. But job one will be making sure this economy is back on track that gets to issues of workforce development and job training. It gets to issues of child care, which is fundamental, especially to getting women back to the workforce. So there’s a lot of opportunity and a lot of work ahead to continue what’s working and address what’s not working. The general governing philosophy is if something’s working, then let’s keep with it and if it’s not working let’s figure out what we need to do.”

Healey continued, “That’s certainly what I’ve tried to do in my time holding this office as Attorney General. I think fundamentally the best thing that Massachusetts has going for it are its people and I see so much possibility and capacity there. I think that we’ve got great people. I think we’ve got great institutions. We’ve

got some really terrific “know how” across the state. If you look at some of what’s happened just in the last few years in near-by Kendall Square or over in the Seaport, the amount of money that’s come into the state in terms of investment. I understand that people wonder if we’re ever going to get through this and out of this and I’m just here to say we are and we will and we will move forward in ways that are bigger and better than ever imagined.”

In the end Healey said she believes her record will speak for itself when it comes time for voters to pick a new governor.

“I think if you look at my record it speaks for itself in terms of where I am on fighting systemic racism and inequality, fighting for access to affordable health care, recognizing that across every sector, whether it’s climate, transportation, the environment, criminal justice,” she said. “We can and should apply an equity lens to everything that we do and bring an intentionality and an energy so that we are in fact improving the lives and well being and stakes of everybody here in the state, regardless of zip code, race, ethnicity, and the like. There are so many things happening right now and I appreciate people’s voices. I appreciate their advocacy. I love people, and I love people’s enthusiasm and right now we’re in a time where people are demanding that what hasn’t worked in our systems be addressed. I think with COVID there was so much being dismantled, so much being disrupted and now we got an opportunity to move forward in new and different ways that are going to be better for every single person in this state.”



Attorney General and Gubernatorial Candidate Maura Healey with Main Streets Director Gladys Oliveros, Sen. Lydia Edwards and Rep. Adrian Madaro.



Attorney General and Gubernatorial Candidate Maura Healey is greeted by Rep. Adrian Madaro in Maverick Square.

State’s December total unemployment rate dropped by 1.3 percentage points

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts gained 20,100 jobs in December. This follows last month’s revised gain of 14,200 jobs. The largest over the month private sector job gains were in Leisure and Hospitality, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, and Educational and Health Services. Since the employment trough in April 2020, Massachusetts has gained 537,000 jobs.

From December 2020 to December 2021, BLS estimates Massachusetts gained 222,200 jobs. The largest over the year gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; and Education and Health Services.

The December unemployment rate of 3.9 percent was the same as the national rate reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force decreased by 41,700 from 3,732,000 in November, as 7,900 more residents were employed, and 49,600 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment

rate was down by 4.5 percentage points.

The state’s labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – was down seven-tenths of a percentage point at 65.4 percent. Compared to December 2020, the labor force participation rate is down 1.1 percentage points.

December 2021 Employment Overview

Leisure and Hospitality gained 4,400 (+1.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 65,200 (+25.6%) jobs were added.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 3,600 (+0.6%) over the month. Over the year, 19,700 (+3.6%) jobs were added.

Education and Health Services gained 3,300 (+0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 36,400 (+4.9%) jobs were added.

Professional and Business Services gained 2,900 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 40,600 (+7.0%) jobs were added.

Construction gained

2,000 (+1.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 10,000 (+6.2%) jobs were added.

Government gained 1,300 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 23,200 (+5.5%) jobs were added.

Manufacturing gained 1,100 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 9,900 (+4.3%) jobs were added.

Other Services gained 800 (+0.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 7,900 (+7.0%) jobs were added.

Information gained 700 (+0.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 7,900 (+9.2%) jobs were added.

Financial Activities had no change in jobs over the month. Over the year, 1,300 (+0.6%) jobs were added.

Labor Force Overview

The December estimates show 3,545,200 Massachusetts residents were employed and 145,100 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,690,300. The unemployment rate was down 1.3 percentage points at 3.9 percent. Over the month, the December labor force was down by 41,700 from 3,732,000 in November, with 7,900 more residents employed and 49,600 fewer residents unemployed. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was down by 0.7 percentage point at 65.4 percent. The labor force was down 62,800 from the December 2020 estimate of 3,753,100, as 106,600 more residents were employed and 169,400 fewer residents were unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends. The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.



Attorney General and Gubernatorial Candidate Maura Healey talks with East Boston residents during her campaign kick off in Maverick Square.

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EAST BOSTON JETS IN HOCKEY ACTION AGAINST LITTLETON

Boston Public Schools sports programs returned from a month-long Covid-inspired shutdown this week, and the rust on the skate blades of the East Boston Jets was evident as they absorbed a 12-1 loss to Littleton Saturday at Porazzo Rink. The Jets had been idle—with neither practice nor games—since their December 18 encounter with Lynn Classical and had practiced only briefly before taking the ice Saturday for what was, in reality, only their second game of the season. East Boston is scheduled to face off against Minuteman Tech Saturday, January 29 at 4:50 at Porazzo Rink.



BOARD BATTLE: East Boston's Vinny Almeida fights for a loose puck with Littleton's Ryan Johnson (4).



SURROUNDED: Matt Griffin finds himself alone to deal with Littleton's Ryan Johnson (4), Ethan King (14) and Colin Murphy (5).



SOCIAL DISTANCE: East Boston's Vinny Almeida defends against Littleton's Ethan King.



A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS: East Boston goaltender Jacob Thomas has some assistance from teammates Chris Frazier (8), Keith Splaine (14) and Matt Griffin (6).



IN THE CHASE: East Boston's Matt Griffin chases a puck up the sideboards as a Littleton player gives chase.



CLEARING PASS: East Boston's Matt Griffin clears the puck from the East Boston end as Littleton's Ethan Dangel moves in.

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OBITUARIES

Miguel Marrero

He Fought a Courageous Battle

Miguel Marrero, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Friday, January 21 at the age of 61. He fought a courageous battle.

Miguel was a jack of all trades and a talented master carpenter for over 40 years. He will be remembered as a beautiful soul, loving husband and devoted father and friend to all. His big heart, generosity and charismatic personality will be missed by many. Cherished and devoted son to Maria Del Carmen Vega and the late Johnny Marrero.

He was the beloved husband of Alessandra (Gaeta) Marrero with whom he shared 25 years of marriage; cherished and devoted son to Maria Del Carmen Vega; loving father to Christina Marrero, Michelle Casey, Michael Marrero and Nicholas Marrero; dear brother to Juan Marrero of Brockton and Jose Perez of Florida; doting nephew to Hermina and the late Benjamin Vega; adored son in law to Martha Gaeta; dearest brother in law to Regina, Derek, Gerard, Dante and Jessica; loved and admired uncle to Stephanie, Gabriella, Isabella and Derek; cherished grandfather of Ava and Kieran Casey and Zoey Marie Marrero. He is also lovingly survived



by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Miguel's bigger than life personality will never be forgotten for those who knew and loved him.

Family and friends will honor Miguel's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St. on Thursday, January 27 from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. before leaving in funeral procession to St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass in celebration of Miguel's life. Services will conclude with Miguel being laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting the goFundMe page set up for his son: For Nicholas #autismspeaks at the following link: <https://gofund.me/6512a9ed>. For more information please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Catherine Strazzula

Of East Boston

Catherine "Katie" (Argiro) Strazzula of East Boston passed away on January 19.

Catherine was 25 year resident of the Victory Garden in East Boston where she started Bingo.

The beloved wife of the late Vincent "Jimmy" Strazzula, she was the devoted mother of Kathy Vitello and her husband, Carl of Lynn and Karen Buttiglieri and her husband, Jimmy of East Boston; cherished grandmother of Michael Gaetak loving aunt of JoAnn Palermo, dear sister of Vicki DeLuca and Joseph Argiro and the late Teresa Palermo, Marion Gingola and Jane Torname; adored sister in law of Marie LoVuolo and John Strazzula and the late Marie Strazzulla and Rose Klein. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.



Family and friends will honor Catherine's life by gathering at the Sacred Heart Parish, 45 Brooks Street, East Boston on Friday, January 28 at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Catherine being laid to rest at Puritan Lawn Cemetery in Peabody. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Boston Senior Home Care, 89 South Street Suite #501, Boston MA 02111. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Nicholas Joseph Gaudino

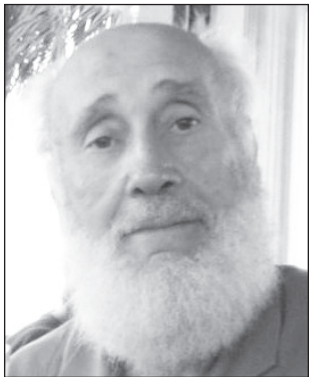
Retired Troubleshooter for Boston Edison

Nicholas Joseph Gaudino of East Boston, formerly of Florida and Maine, passed away on January 20 surrounded by his loving family.

A US Air Force veteran of the Korean Conflict, Nick worked for the Bos-

ton Edison Company for 37 years as a troubleshooter and was a member of the Local Union 387. He was also a past member of the Winthrop Elks and the American Legion Post in Florida. Nick enjoyed time spent with friends in both Maine and Florida. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He was the beloved husband of Loretta Buda of East Boston, loving son of the late Joseph and Anna (Colagiovanni) Gaudino, dear brother of Susanne Ruggiero and her late husband, Robert and the late Elissa Blak-



ley and her surviving husband, Sylvester, adored brother-in law of Kathy Giacobbi and her husband, Frank and Stephanie Dangoia and cherished uncle of Anna Louise Ruggiero, Robert Ruggiero and his wife, Anna Maria, Nicholas, Matthew, Danielle Dangoia and her wife, Kelly, Candice, Nicole, Michael and Brian Dangoia.

In accordance with the family's wishes, all services are private.

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

Mark Christopher

Employed by the City of Boston Traffic Lighting Division for more than 40 years and member of Orient Heights Yacht Club for over 50 years

Mark R. Christopher of Plymouth, formerly of East Boston, passed away on Saturday, January 15 at 70 years of age.

Mark was employed by the City of Boston - Traffic Lighting Division for 40 years. He was also a member of the Orient Heights Yacht Club in East Boston for over 50 years.

He was the beloved husband of Eileen M. (Goglia) Christopher; loving son of Alice Christopher and her late husband, Gerald; devoted father of Mark Jr., Jason and his wife, Amanda and Justin and his loving companion, Naomi, all of Plymouth; dear brother of Allyn Christopher and David Christopher and his wife, Marilyn; cherished grandfather of Julian, Charlotte, and Violet and



treasured step-grandfather of Noah and Julia.

Family and friends will honor Mark's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston for a memorial visitation on Sunday, January 30 from 12 Noon to 3 p.m.

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

Market Basket in top three U.S. grocery retailers, Dunnhumby Retailer Preference Index finds

A nation-wide consumer survey confirms what legions of loyal customers already know. Major chains can learn a thing or two from New England's regional favorite, Market Basket which boasts 86 stores, including Revere and Chelsea, with three more under construction throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island.

According to the fifth annual Retailer Preference Index (RPI), Massachusetts-based Market Basket ranked third, following Amazon, which earned the top spot for the second consecutive year—and H.E.B., a supermarket chain headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, with more than 340 stores across the U.S.

The online survey of 10,000 U.S. households was undertaken by dunnhumby, a British customer data science company. Dunnhumby asked respondents to rate grocers on a number of key factors including service, pricing, quality, digital options, operations, convenience, speed, and rewards programs.

Widely recognized for outstanding customer service, competitive pricing, an extensive variety of high-quality products, and an unparalleled commitment to its employees, Market Basket ranked

above Trader Joe's, Wegman's Target, Walmart, Costco, and other top retail brands in the survey that examined competitors within the U.S. grocery retail sector.

"We were gratified to learn that our valued customers placed us in the top three supermarkets in the country," said David McLean, Operations Manager at Market Basket. "They highlighted continued excellence on price and operations, which is rewarding as our team seeks to fulfill our commitment to our "More for Your Dollar" shopping philosophy. The acknowledgement is truly a testament to how hard our Associates have worked and continue to work to serve our valued customers."

Market Basket's slogan is "More for Your Dollar" and is recognized by Consumer Reports as the top supermarket operator in the Northeast. The grocer is known for its excellent service, quality, value, variety, and store cleanliness. As reported in Consumers' Checkbook, a family that spends \$200 a week on groceries can save \$1800 annually at Market Basket when compared to other supermarkets. Market Basket currently operates 86 stores in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island.

Dorothy Merullo

Staple at E. Boston High School Jets games and East Boston High School Food Service Worker

Dorothy (Kelly) Merullo of East Boston passed away on January 19.

Dorothy was the devoted wife of Carmine J. Merullo for 70 years. Together, they raised five sons and were lifelong residents of E. Boston. Dorothy was a proud mother, grandmother, and member of the community. She was a staple at E. Boston High School Jets games and a familiar face in the halls of E. Boston High School and as a food service worker. Dorothy was happiest spending time in Gloucester, surrounded by her family and holding a glass of Crown Royal.

The loving daughter of the late John L. and Margaret A. (Thornton) Kelly, she was the beloved wife of the late Carmine J. Merullo for 70 years; devoted mother of John K. and significant other, Debroh Roberto and, Robert M., all of East Boston, Leo A. and Michele of Peabody, Peter V. and Suzanne of Winchester, and Michael J. and Susanne of Lynnfield; cherished grandmother of Christopher Merullo, Sharna Sullivan, Shanee Masciulli, Katelyn Noble, Alyssa Bicchieri, Shaylyn Merullo, Jaclyn Merullo, Arianna Merullo, Meaghan Merullo, Christina Merullo, Erica Merullo and



Lauren Merullo and cherished great-grandmother of five great-grandchildren; dear sister of the late John, Edward and Ruth A. and most beloved aunt among countless nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Dorothy's life by gathering at St. John the Evangelist Church, Winthrop and services concluded with Mrs. Merullo being laid to rest with her beloved husband Carmine at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Dorothy's name to the COPD Foundation, 3300 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Miami, FL 33134, 1-866-731-2673 ext. 387, or email at donations@copdfoundation.org. Donations can also be made online through the foundation's website: <https://www.copdfoundation.org/Take-Action/Donate/Donate-Now.aspx>. For more information please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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New regulations requiring public notification of sewage discharges into waterbodies

The Baker-Polito Administration announced final regulations establishing rules and procedures requiring permittees to notify the public of untreated or partially treated wastewater, including discharges caused by weather events, into the Commonwealth's surface waters. Discharges of this nature can have negative health impacts and these new rules will ensure that the public has the most up-to-date information on water quality.

"Our Administration continues to take significant steps to implement these new public notification regulations to ensure both greater transparency and awareness of when discharges into local waterbodies occur," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Importantly, Massachusetts residents will now know in a timely fashion when water quality is impacted and potentially unsafe to use, providing the Commonwealth with an important tool to protect public health."

"With aging infrastructure, discharges of untreated and partially treated sewage into the Commonwealth's waterways continues to be a significant challenge for many of the state's cities and towns," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "With these new regulations, public awareness will be further raised as we work with our local partners to address infrastructure improvements."

Notifications must be issued within two hours of the discovery of the discharge to specific local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as to any individual who has subscribed to receive such notifications.

The regulations also require notifications to be sent to the two largest news organizations that report on local news in nearby communities and be published on permittees' websites. Follow-up reporting to MassDEP will be required monthly. Permittees with combined sewer overflows (CSOs) will also be required to maintain signage at public access points affected by CSO discharges. Furthermore, the regulations will also require municipal boards of health or health departments to issue public health warnings and post signage under certain circumstances.

"With the promulgation of these regulations, the Baker-Polito Administration is seeking to ensure the public will receive timely information related to pollution entering waterbodies," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "We appreciate the contributions of stakeholders who have advocated for the law and those who provided valuable input for the development of the regulations."

"We are committed to protecting and improving Massachusetts' water quality," said Commissioner Martin Suuberg of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). "While we recognize there is more work to be done to achieve this goal, these regulations serve an important purpose of informing the public about potentially unsafe conditions while we work toward eliminating these risks for the future."

MassDEP kicked off the regulation development process with stakeholder meetings in April 2021. The draft regulations went out for public comment in early October 2021, with two public hearings held in late October. The final regulations benefitted from extensive public comments from watershed advocacy organizations, municipal wastewater officials, and municipal health officials. For more information about the sewer discharge regulations, please visit MassDEP's website.

"These regulations are the next step to protect people from sewage in

ivers," said State Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville). "Thanks to all those who have supported the bill through passage and now in providing comments. And thanks to MassDEP for listening and taking a comprehensive approach to public notification. I hope that increased awareness will encourage investment in our water infrastructure so we can get rid of sewage overflows."

"I commend MassDEP for their collaboration in crafting these regulations to implement the Legislature's sewage discharge notification law and for their diligent work to car-

ry out the Legislature's vision. I am very much looking forward to continuing this close collaboration," said State Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), the lead House sponsor of this legislation. "My thanks also to the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance and the many environmental organizations for their continuous advocacy. Communities across the Commonwealth will be safer and healthier because of this law and these regulations, and we are already collaborating on the next steps to upgrade our infrastructure."

MassDEP's mission is

to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's natural resources – air, water and land – to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people, and a clean and safe environment for future generations. In carrying out this mission, MassDEP commits to address and advance environmental justice and equity for all people of the Commonwealth, provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for people to participate in agency decisions that affect their lives and ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities served by the agency.

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CITY PAWS

Mindfulness for your dog

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The next time you're walking without your dog, try to notice how connected and aware dogs and their guardians are to one another. Occasionally you'll see a dog that keeps looking up, checking to see what the person on the other end of the leash is doing. That can be a sign that some good training has taken place. The dog and person have learned that the first step for any change in behavior is for both to pay attention.

What Is Mindfulness?

The website Mindful.org has defined mindfulness as, "... the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us."

Dogs may not understand the concept of mindfulness but people can and should. This is especially true for some portion of the time they give to their dogs. We call them com-

panion animals. We talk about the bond between a human and a canine. But, we don't always give these pack-oriented animals enough of our full and focused attention.

As you make your walking observations, notice the people with a phone in one hand and a leash in the other. Or, even worse, the person on the phone while their illegally off-leash dog wanders down the sidewalk or interacts with other dogs in a legal off-leash recreation area.

Of course, we all have times when we feel the need to multi-task and phone addiction is a real thing. There are also some dog walks that are quick trips outside to get the job done and get back to work.

Just How Focused Are You?

Now, think back over the past week and estimate how much time you spent really focused on your dog in an enjoyable and relaxed way. Consider tucking your phone and ear-

buds away for a dog walk. If it's something your dog enjoys, consider a mutual time-out, just sitting with your dog and simply stroking or massaging her in an attentive way.

Are there other experiences your dog seems to enjoy that might be made better for both of you if you focused on just that for a time? For example, one part of being outside that our Poppy loves is sitting on benches and watching what's happening. We both enjoy doing this with her when the weather permits.

For many dogs, exploring the scents of the world is the best part of any dog walk. While a bit of aerobic exercise is important for both of you, try to allow time for your dog to enjoy sniffing and exploring.

While he is doing his thing, you can put on your "protective person hat" and watch for any dangers that a busy nose might encounter from dropped food to nasty critters. Most of the time, all you'll see is



Yes, you might need your phone on a dog walk. However, keeping it in your pocket can ensure a more mindful time with your canine companion. (Photo: lstockphoto.com)

your dog enjoying himself but this task will give you a reason to stay engaged.

Make Dog Time a Calm Time

Finally, try to make your mindful, bonding time with your dog a calm time for both of you. We can all use some relaxation

and calm in our lives. We all have to spend a part of our time with our dogs doing chores we don't love, protecting them from dangers, and correcting unwanted behaviors. It's good to remember why we have a dog in our lives and consciously make some calm time for the

relationship. Take a few deep breaths, relax and enjoy a half-hour of quality time focused on your best friend.

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

MBTA proposes several fare change proposals for riders

MBTA staff presented several fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders, minimize pandemic-related revenue implications and budget uncertainties while increasing ridership where possible, and simplify fare tariff rules as the MBTA's Fare Transformation Program (AFC 2.0) moves forward. If approved by the full MBTA Board in March, these fare changes would go into effect on July 1, 2022. The MBTA welcomes public comment on these proposals.

"We're excited about our upcoming fare proposals that prepare for technology updates to come as part of AFC 2.0, increasing equity through improvements to LinkPasses, especially for our Reduced Fare Riders, and making the popular mTicket 5-Day FlexPass permanent for Commuter Rail riders," said MBTA

General Manager Steve Poftak. "If approved by the MBTA's Board in March, these proposals will allow the T to continue to best meet the needs of riders through incremental fare improvements that reflect how they travel now and in the future, while minimizing revenue implications in this time of continued uncertainty."

Making Permanent 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket for Commuter Rail:

First introduced as a pandemic fare pilot in June 2020, the 5-Day FlexPass available on mTicket for the Commuter Rail is a bundled fare valid for any five days of travel within a 30-day period. Good for unlimited travel within a 24-hour period, these five passes are available for 10% off the cost of 10 one-way trips. An attractive option for riders whose travel patterns have changed due to hybrid work schedules and the availability of re-

mote-work options, the 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket is proposed to be made permanent. If approved, the permanent 5-Day FlexPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022, or sooner.

Reducing Price of the 1-Day LinkPass:

In an effort to increase ridership by encouraging more riders to buy passes and increase equity for low-income and minority riders who often purchase this fare product, MBTA staff have proposed to lower the cost of the 1-Day LinkPass from \$12.75 to \$11. An \$11 LinkPass pays for itself with five subway rides taken in 24 hours. If approved, the \$11 1-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Expanding Second Transfers on Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway:

Currently, the MBTA only allows one transfer between Bus and/or Subway with one recent addi-

tion - CharlieCard riders may transfer from Bus to Subway to Bus. To simplify complexities in the T's transfer policy, MBTA staff have proposed standardizing the transfer process to allow all combinations of second transfers involving Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway, including Bus-Bus-Subway, Subway-Bus-Bus, and Express Bus-Express Bus. If approved, the second transfers on Subway and Buses and transfers between Express Routes would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Proposed Changes for Reduced Fare Riders:

Some riders are eligible for reduced fares, including people with disabilities and Medicare cardholders, people 65 and older, some middle and high school students, and people 18 - 25 with low income. MBTA staff have proposed three fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders:

· Introducing the 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders:

Aiming to increase equity by increasing the benefits of purchasing fares in bulk for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed the introduction of a 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders, which is not currently available. This 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is proposed to be available for \$10, which breaks even after nine subway rides. This product is designed to meet the needs of individuals who might not have enough cash on-hand to afford a monthly pass, but who qualify for Reduced Fare programs. Reduced Single Ride fares for Reduced Fare Riders are \$1.10 for the subway and \$0.85 for the bus with a Reduced Monthly LinkPass available for \$30. The Full Fare 7-Day LinkPass is available for \$22.50. If approved, the expansion of Reduced Fare 7-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

· Introducing Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus:

In order to increase eq-

uity by closing gaps in the T's offering of products for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed introducing monthly passes on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus for Reduced Fare Riders. This proposal would offer a full set of monthly passes for Reduced Fare Riders at approximately 50% of the full fare pass prices. Currently, Reduced Fare Riders have to purchase Single Ride tickets to benefit from the Reduced Fare pricing. If approved, the expansion of Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

· Expanding Availability of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail Zone 1A and Inner Harbor Ferry:

Currently, a LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is only available on CharlieCard fare media instead of a printed "flash pass" CharlieTicket that Commuter Rail conductors and ferry staff can see to visually validate a fare. As more updates take place as part of AFC 2.0, customers

will be able to use tappable tickets as well as CharlieCards to travel on the Commuter Rail and Ferries. As such, and to increase access and equitable pricing on Reduced Fare passes, MBTA staff have proposed making the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders valid for Commuter Rail travel in Zone 1A and on the Charlestown Ferry. If approved, this expansion of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

The public is invited to comment on these proposed changes at a virtual public meeting to be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 6 PM well as the official public hearing to be held virtually on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 6 PM. The public is also welcome to submit comments online through Thursday, March 3, 2022, at mbta.com/2022FareChanges or by email to publicengagement@mbta.com. The Title VI analysis will be shared with the MBTA's Board and posted to mbta.com prior to the scheduled March 24, 2022, Board meeting.

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Baker-Polito administration to file for \$200 million in Chapter 90 funding

The Baker-Polito Administration announced plans to file legislation next week seeking \$200 million in Chapter 90 funding to help all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts improve transportation infrastructure and address needs within their local communities. Governor Charlie Baker made the announcement at the Massachusetts Municipal Association’s (MMA) Annual Meeting.

This funding request complements the \$31.5 million increase in unrestricted local aid that will be included in the Administration’s Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget proposal, as announced by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito at the MMA meeting this past week. Keeping a commitment made by the Governor and Lt. Governor in 2014, the

Administration’s budget proposals over the course of their time in office have increased local aid consistent with tax revenue growth. The Administration’s full FY23 budget proposal will be released in the coming days.

“As former local officials, Lt. Governor Polito and I pledged to be strong partners with cities and towns throughout our administration, and with these proposed investments in our cities and towns and local infrastructure, we are proud to sustain that commitment,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The budget proposals we have filed throughout our time in office kept our promise to cities and towns to increase local aid funding consistent with the growth in state tax revenue, and we have consistently filed

for additional Chapter 90 funds to make critical improvements for local roads and bridges.”

“Our commitment to cities and towns has remained a vital part of our Administration’s approach, and we are proud to once again increase support for local aid through our FY23 budget proposal,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “We look forward to partnering with our legislative colleagues to ensure our municipalities get the support they need to serve their residents and improve their local infrastructure.”

This \$200 million in Chapter 90 funding would be available to local cities and towns for FY23. After taking office in 2015, Governor Baker quickly directed MassDOT to release \$100 million in Chapter 90 funds that

had been promised the previous year, fulfilling a commitment made to cities and towns. The Baker-Polito Administration has released a total of \$1.56 billion in funding through the Chapter 90 formula, and if approved by the Legislature, this most recent request would bring the total to \$1.76 billion.

“The Baker-Polito Administration continues to focus on supporting cities and towns by providing critical resources through the Chapter 90 program and through increases in local aid,” said Administration and Finance Secretary Michael J. Heffernan. “We are proud to once again request these important resources which give municipalities the tools they need to effectively improve their communities.”

In her remarks to the MMA, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito also announced that the Administration’s FY23 budget proposal will include \$1.2 billion for unrestricted general government aid (UGGA), a \$31.5 million increase over Fiscal Year 2022, and equal to a projected 2.7% increase in tax revenue in the FY23 consensus revenue estimate. Including the FY23 budget proposal, the Administration has increased the total annual UGGA distribution by \$253.9 million since taking office.

“The Chapter 90 funding program is a lifeline for municipalities as they manage and maintain their roadways and bridges,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler. “Additionally, the Baker/Polito Administration has created and fund-

ed municipal programs like the Complete Streets Funding Program, Shared Streets and Spaces, Municipal Small Bridge, Municipal Pavement and Local Bottleneck Reduction, which have not only provided a generational investment directly to communities but helped repair and modernize the transportation network of the Commonwealth.”

Through the Chapter 90 program, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) reimburses cities and towns for costs incurred for eligible transportation projects. Funding is awarded by municipality and is predetermined by a formula that includes factors such as population, road miles, and employment.

Goldberg and Citizens launch Worth and Wealth Seminars

State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg’s Office of Economic Empowerment and Citizens have launched registration for their new Worth and Wealth Seminars. These free virtual trainings will equip Massachusetts women with financial skills and knowledge to build confidence in their economic futures. Participants can choose to enroll in one of the two English-speaking sessions taking place in February and March, or in the Spanish-speaking session scheduled in April.

During each session, participants will attend a kick-off event and four subsequent weekly webinars where they will learn about salary negotiation skills, employment rights, investing strategies, and many other topics that will benefit them in their career and personal life. Registration is open now and all Massachusetts women are encouraged to sign up. The first cohort kicks off on January 26th and will meet on Wednesdays at 6pm for the following four weeks.

“By providing women access to quality financial education resources and tools, we help level the economic playing field all across Massachusetts,” said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. “These seminars will empower participants with the skills to overcome barriers and

to attain the jobs they desire and the pay they deserve.”

The Worth and Wealth Seminars are funded by a generous grant from Citizens to the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund. Citizens staff also volunteer their time to support the program through one-on-one financial wellness checkups for interested program attendees, and lead regional breakout groups to help encourage deeper learning of the topics addressed in the sessions. The Office of Economic Empowerment also created a “Partners Circle” for Worth & Wealth presenters, non-profit organizations, and state agencies to get involved in the events, and spread the word to their constituencies.

“We must remain steadfast in our efforts to ensure that women, who we know have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, are not left behind as the Commonwealth builds back,” said Lisa Murray, President, Citizens Massachusetts. “Financial knowledge is a key lever for economic mobility, and we’re proud to continue our work with the Office of Economic Empowerment helping women build the skills to take control of their financial futures.”

About the Office of Economic Empowerment

Treasurer Goldberg created the Office of Economic Empowerment, led by a deputy treasurer, with the deliberate goal of implementing a range of economic empowerment initiatives that include closing the race and gender wage gap, addressing racial equity, increasing access to financial education, improving college affordability, and investing in STEM careers and education.

About Citizens Financial Group, Inc.

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is one of the nation’s oldest and largest financial institutions, with \$187.0 billion in assets as of September 30, 2021. Headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, Citizens offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, large corporations and institutions. Citizens helps its customers reach their potential by listening to them and by understanding their needs in order to offer tailored advice, ideas and solutions. In Consumer Banking, Citizens provides an integrated experience that includes mobile and online banking, a 24/7 customer contact center and the convenience of approximately 3,000 ATMs and approximately 1,000 branches in 11 states in the

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Baker celebrates educational opportunity, proclaims “Massachusetts School Choice Week”

“It is important for parents in Massachusetts to explore and identify the best education options available to their children,” reads a proclamation just issued by Gov. Charlie Baker, recognizing this Jan. 23-29 as “Massachusetts School Choice Week.”

Gov. Baker’s proclamation highlights the importance of Massachusetts’ diverse educational environments, dedicated teaching professionals, and commitment to continuously improving the quality of K-12 education. In issuing the proclamation, Gov. Baker joined more than a dozen other governors and more than 300 city and county leaders nationwide who have proclaimed School Choice Week in their territories.

For Massachusetts School Choice Week, community members have planned 432 events and activities across the state,

including rallies, discussions, school open houses, and more.

These activities aim to spread information about school types and learning opportunities, bringing encouragement and information as families school search. More than half of American families are considering, or have considered in the last year, choosing a new or different school.


More than 26,000 events have been independently planned for the public awareness effort nationwide, which is celebrated by all types of schools.

“Massachusetts has many excellent schools to celebrate, and families are using the opportunity this January to look for learning opportunities and support in finding the best fit for them,” said Andrew Campanella, president of National School Choice Week. “We appreciate

Gov. Baker proclaiming the Week and recognizing the importance of every child having access to effective options.”

National School Choice Week shines a spotlight on effective K-12 education options for children. As a not-for-profit effort, the Week focuses equally on traditional public, charter, magnet, online, private, and home education options. Every January, participants plan tens of thousands of events and activities — such as school fairs, open houses, and student showcases — to raise awareness about school choice across all 50 states. Year-round, National School Choice Week develops resources and guides to assist families searching for schools or learning environments for their children. The effort is nonpolitical and nonpartisan and does not advocate for legislation.

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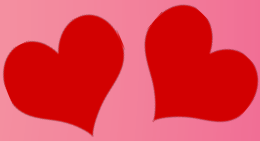


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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022

January 30 -February 5 #CSW22

This year's theme is **“Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.”** Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith. As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

What is Catholic Schools Week?

Special to the Journal

Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Catholic Schools Week is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

An annual tradition that began in 1974, Catholic schools across the nation commemorate Catholic Schools Week with celebrations, Masses, open houses, and activities for students, families, parishioners, and community members. Catholic Schools Week events showcase and celebrate the rich traditions and the incredible value of Catholic education on both a local and national level.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week is celebrated during the last week of January. This year, Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from January

30th through February 5th.

Catholic Schools and the Students They Serve

According to NCEA, there are more than 6,000 Catholic schools nationwide. These schools—serving elementary, middle, and secondary school students—are located across all regions, giving many families the opportunity for accessible Catholic education.

The Benefits of Catholic Schools

- The integration of faith with academic subjects, culture, and everyday life
- The emphasis of living out the faith as missionary disciples
- Catholic virtues and values and Catholic Social Teaching, which contribute to productive citizenship and responsible leadership
- An environment that encourages and nurtures prayer and is safe, welcoming, and supportive

for children

- A favorable student to teacher ratio
- High graduation and college attendance rates
- Teacher commitment

For further reading and in addition to these benefits, explore NCEA’s A Dozen Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools Info Graphic.

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Throughout Catholic Schools Week, schools, parishes, and dioceses schedule activities and events to provide opportunities for celebration and engagement with students and families related to the annual theme. Parishioners and community members are also often invited to participate in some events. Events invite participants to reflect on the value and importance that Catholic education to the school and community, the Church, and the world.

Many Catholic schools also host an open house

to start or during Catholic Schools Week. An open house is an opportunity to celebrate the mission of the Catholic school, welcome visitors and newcomers, and perhaps showcase original student artwork inspired by the 2022 theme. Families, visitors, and special guests can see firsthand the benefits of students learning, playing, praying and living out their faith and school.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week has a theme. The theme for this year’s Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.

Each day of Catholic Schools Week focuses on

a particular celebration. Within the overarching theme for the week are the following daily themes:

Sunday: Celebrating your parish

Monday: Celebrating your community

Tuesday: Celebrating your students

Wednesday: Celebrating the nation

Thursday: Celebrating vocations

Friday: Celebrating faculty, staff, and volunteers

Saturday: Celebrating families

Celebrating Your Parish on Sunday

On the opening day of Catholic Schools Week, many parishes devote a

Mass to Catholic education. These celebrations show the connection between Catholic schools and parishes, on both a local and national level, and reflect the support and guidance parishes provide.

Families and catechists can prepare children and students for this Mass by reflecting with them on the support they witness through the assembly of school, Church and community. Students can be reminded that Catholic school students, families, and supporters are gatherings all over the country as they beginning Catholic Schools Week at Mass in their own parishes.

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5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
7. We teach children respect of self and others.
8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
12. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

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From Pre-K through Grade 8

Safe Environment
Financial Accessibility
Academic Excellence

Picture Caption: East Boston Central Catholic School is successfully conducting in person classes with the Covid Test and Stay program. So far this year, 1500 tests have been administered with only a 2.47% positivity rate. Well under the state and city averages. Student success is of the utmost importance. At EBCCS, every student matters.

Success Starts Here.

Give back to your local Catholic school February 1-2.

Many Gifts, One Nation
A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools