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Wednesday, February 2, 2022

ALWAYS A TIME TO RELAX, EVEN DURING A SNOW STORM





Residents on Thurston Street awoke to the reality of having to shovel out their buried cars. See Page 4 for more photos.

and helping residents shovel out on Saturday and Sunday.

Eastie resident Christian Kelley was

offering his snow shoveling skills

Madaro looks to reform state's Energy Facilities Siting Board after Eastie substation debacle

By John Lynds

Last week Rep. Adrian Madaro testified before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy in support of his new bill, H.3336 An Act Relative to Energy Facilities Siting Reform.

Madaro's legislation aims to address environmental justice, climate, and public health by reforming the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) and provide greater protections for environmental justice communities through a more robust public process.

The EFSB has been under fire for voting in favor of Eversource's plans to put an electric substation in East Eagle Square in East Boston despite widespread community support.

The Conservation Law Foundation recently filed an appeal in court of the state's decision to grant Eversource a license to build the substation, arguing the community process

was woefully inadequate. "I am grateful for you giving me the opportunity to testify on an important issue impacting my constituents, and many others in the Commonwealth," said Madaro. "I was motivated to file this legislation after seeing the process unfold firsthand in my own district of East Boston. Several years back, a new high-voltage electrical substation was proposed for a plot of land sited on the banks of the Chelsea Creek in East Boston. From the beginning, residents felt there were seri-

ous issues with this plan. Located immediately next to a highly frequented public park, and adjacent to the largely working-class, immigrant community of Eagle Hill, the site of the proposed substation is in a flood plain with a record of flooding from the creek during storm surges. In light of these issues, opposition to the substation from the community was both immediate and near universal. Led by community organizers and grassroots organizations, residents fought the substation through every step of the process. Ultimately, like all energy projects, the process reached the Energy Facilities and Siting Board, an organization little-known or understood by average residents."

Madaro said it was clear that the process was not designed with the commu-

nity in mind. "We faced numerous hurdles with the EFSB concerning notification and outreach to the neighborhood, lack of language accessibility, and inaccessible meetings," said Madaro. "The process our neighborhood experienced was one designed to meet minimum thresholds, to tick off boxes, and not to truly engage the community and listen to its voice. Whether through obscure notification, lack of translation services, or meetings that were hard to attend, there were many pitfalls that limited accessibility to residents, and may have led

See MADARO Page 6

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CFL files appeal after Eversource substation approval

By John Lynds

The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) announced last week it has filed an appeal on behalf of more than ten residents of East Boston to stop construction of the highly controversial Eversource substation in East Eagle Square. The state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently granted a license to the substation.

In its appeal CLF argues state officials shut the community out of the planning process for the project, wrongfully characterized the substation as a water-dependent use, and failed to consider the negative impact on environmental justice popula-

"Allowing this substation to be built ignores community voices and established law in Massachusetts," said Vice President of Environmental Justice at CLF Staci Rubin,. "If the loud community opposition wasn't

enough to sink this project the proposed site should be reserved for uses that must be on the water, not energy infrastructure that can be located elsewhere. It's time for state officials to evaluate this project on its merits instead of rubber stamping Eversource's requests."

CLF's appeal challenges the site's Chapter 91 state waterfront license. Massachusetts' Chapter 91 regulations require waterfront projects to provide certain community benefits that are greater than project detriments. CLF argues by mischaracterizing this project as a water-dependent use, Eversource and state officials are effectively sidestepping more rigorous review and public benefit requirements that should be required for this site.

Eastie residents were promised an athletic field and natural flood protection buffer on the Condor Street property, which was

See SUBSTATION Page 6

Nathalia Benitez announced as new Neighborhood Liaison

By John Lynds

Last week Mayor Michelle Wu announced she has appointed East Boston's Nathalia Benitez to serve as Eastie's Mayoral Liaison in the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS).

Benitez replaces Lina Tramelli who served as the neighborhood's liaison since 2019 but left a few months ago for another position in City Hall.

Benitez was born in Colombia, migrated to Spain at the age of four, and then moved to the U.S. when she was 12. She went on to graduate from the University of Massachusetts Boston with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with distinction.

Benitez will work to encourage, facilitate and maximize citizen input and participation through service requests, neighborhood meetings, mailings, and emergency responses.

"I have always enjoyed

being a resident of the vibrant East Boston community and am honored to now serve the neighborhood as the East Boston liaison," said Nathalia Benitez. "I look forward to working alongside the people of my community to ensure that Eastie remains an inclusive and beneficial place for every-

Benitez said she enjoys indulging in the growing

See BENIETZ Page 3



East Boston's Nathalia Benitez announced as new Mayoral Liaison.



East Boston

Times-Free Press

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TEACHER SHORTAGE WAS **INEVITABLE**

An article in the Wall St. Journal this week highlighted yet another area of a labor shortage in the country that has been fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic:

"Burned out teachers are leaving the classroom for jobs in the private sector, where talent-hungry companies are hiring them—and often boosting their pay—to work in sales, software, healthcare, and training, among other fields. The rate of people quitting jobs in education rose more than in any other industry in 2021, according to federal data. Many of those are teachers exhausted from toggling between online and classroom teaching, shifting Covid-19 protocols and dealing with challenging students, parents, and administrators. According to LinkedIn, the share of teachers on the site who left for a new career increased by 62% last year."

It was inevitable that COVID-19 would impact the field of education.

Public school teachers have long been the most-underpaid and under-appreciated groups of workers in our

The pay for teachers has been substandard for decades in the U.S. compared to many other countries, but the teaching profession always has attracted those who truly have a love for teaching and who have been willing to work for less pay in return for what had been a rewarding career path.

But it has been only fairly recently that teachers have become a favorite foil for the usual suspects (i.e., Republican politicians) in our overheated political environment in which teachers are deemed the enemy and not worthy of respect.

Now, thanks to COVID-19, teachers have been pushed over the edge and are leaving the profession in droves for greener pastures where their skills, abilities, and work ethic actually are appreciated.

The Wall St. Journal article goes on to say:

"The exodus is worsening a nationwide teacher shortage and proving a boon to hiring managers in industries such as IT services and consulting, hospitals, and software development. Teachers' ability to absorb and transmit information quickly, manage stress, and multitask are high-demand skills, recruiters and careers coaches say. Classroom instructors are landing sales roles and jobs as instructional coaches, software engineers, and behavioral health technicians, according to LinkedIn."

The Biblical admonition, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap," finally has caught up with us -- and teachers today now are able to take advantage of another, more-modern aphorism: "Take this job and shove it."

PRES. BIDEN'S SUPREME **COURT PICK**

There has been criticism from the usual suspects regarding President Joe Biden's declared intention to choose a Black woman for the U.S. Supreme Court seat to fill that of Justice Stephen Breyer, who announced his imminent retirement last week.

We'd like to make two comments:

First, there are thousands of lawyers, of all races, ethnicities, and genders, who are qualified to be a Supreme Court judge. Statements such as those by U.S. Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi that the selection of a Black woman constitutes "affirmative racial discrimination" are both absurd and offensive.

Second, we firmly believe that every institution in our democracy should reflect the diverse make-up of our country. It is axiomatic that the only way that the three branches of our government can be truly representative of our citizenry is to be composed of those who bring the unique life experience of every American to that institution.

We applaud Joe Biden's commitment to broaden the breadth of our nation's highest court by appointing a Black woman for the first time in the court's history.

We look forward to the perspective that she will bring to the highest court in the land in this, the third decade of the 21st century, bringing us another step closer to fulfilling the promise of the words written in the Declaration of Independence 246 years ago.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

> Our fax number is **781-485-1403**. Letters may also be e-mailed to

editor@eastietimes.com. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.



Forum

GUEST OP-ED

America's crumbling bridges, can we save ourselves?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

The Forbes Avenue bridge over Fern Hollow Creek in Pittsburgh's Frick Park collapsed last Friday morning, January 28th with several vehicles, including a Port Authority bus, on the span at the time. The bridge that collapsed is known as the Fern Hollow Bridge, used by an estimated 14,500 vehicles daily. (From Pittsburgh Action 4)

Ten people were injured. No one was killed when the bridge buckled at 6:39 a.m., officials said, though four people were hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening. President Biden who was ironically visiting the area warned that the country might not be so lucky next time. "We don't need headlines saying that someone was killed when the next bridge collapses," Biden said. (Washington Post)

"The most recent report using 2021 data showed more than 43,500 of the country's roughly 615,000 bridges were rated poor. That number is about 4,000 less than those reported to be in poor condition nationally in 2017." (WHYY Public Broadcasting)

America has seen horrific bridge collapses.

The Hyatt Regency Walkway, Kansas City, Missouri, 114 deaths, July 17, 1981. Big Bayou Canot, Out-

side Mobile, Alabama, 47 deaths, September 22, Silver Bridge. Between Point Pleasant, West Vir-

ginia and Gallipolis, Ohio, 46 deaths, December 15, Cypress Street Viaduct,

Oakland California, 42 deaths, October 17, 1989. Sunshine Skyway

Bridge, St. Petersburg, Florida 35 deaths, May 9, 1980. I-40 Bridge, Web-

ster Falls, Oklahoma, 14 deaths, May 26, 2002. Cline Ave, East Chicago Indiana, 14 deaths,

April 15, 1982. I-35 West Bridge, Minneapolis, MN, 13 deaths,

Schoharie Creek Bridge, Fort Hunter, New York, 10 deaths, 1987.

August 1, 2007.

Sydney Lanier Bridge, Brunswick, Georgia, 10 deaths, November 7, 1972. (CNN.Com)

The cost of repairing 45,000 structurally deficient bridges, which are on average 68 years old,

In the last fifty years is \$41.8 billion, using data from the US Department of Transportation. 36% of all bridges need replacing, while 22% need structural work, 19% need rehabilitation work, 18% need widening or rehabilitation and 5% need deck work. (Global Construction Re-

As we consider rebuilding our bridges and other infrastructure, we have to face our current \$29 trillion gross federal debt. This is held by the public as well as by federal trust funds and other government accounts. We are our own biggest creditor with Japan being second and China third. \$29 trillion is greater than the size of the economies of China, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom and India combined. This amounts to \$87,000 per person in

our country. Researchers at Brown University estimate that the U.S. has spent \$5.8 trillion on the war in Afghanistan and other conflicts stemming from the September 11, 2001 attacks. That includes direct and indirect spending on everything from military equipment to homeland security to death gratuities for the families or slain American service

members." (Watson.

Brown.Edu.) Will Russia's military maneuver on the Ukraine border cost America? Whenever there is a problem in the world we go regardless of the cost. The problem is we don't have any money, our bridges and other infrastructure are crumbling. We are in debt and dependent on Taiwan and China to even completely build an automobile. We have become a poor nation because of our indebtedness and dependence on foreign countries. A friend of mine received his Covid-19 test in the mail last week and even it was made in Chi-

If we don't rebuild our infrastructure, including regaining energy and technology independence, and manage our debt, we won't be able to help ourselves.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

LETTER to the Editor

LOOKING AT THE EDWARDS - D'AMBROSIO **PRIMARY** ELECTION

To the Editor,

Now that Lydia Edwards has taken office as our State Senator, it is instructive to look back at the Democratic Primary Election held in December and see how what some thought would be a very close contest turned into a strong victory for Edwards.

There are three parts to any election: who is in the race, how the race is run. and who turns out to vote.

Initially it looked like the race would be between Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio, East Boston State Representative Adrian Madaro and Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards. D'Ambrosio declared his candidacy first, even before State Senator Joseph Boncore officially submitted his resignation. Even though this may have upset some of Boncore's closest supporters, it was effective since, with a \$50,000 loan to his own campaign and the potential for more, D'Ambrosio was able to convince other potential candidates from Revere to forgo the race.

Next, Madaro and Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards began to reach out to pollical activists in the State Senate district to elicit support for potential candidacies. Both were popular in East Boston where they reside, but Edwards represents the

City Council and looked

to be the stronger can-

didate in other parts of Boston and Cambridge in the State Senate district. Madaro, with a new baby son and potential changes to his State Representative district due to redistricting, decided to focus on his current position and against entering the race once Boncore's resignation became official.

Now the race was on between D'Ambrosio and Edwards. D'Ambrosio was expected to win Revere handily and Edwards was expected to win Boston and Cambridge handily. Winthrop would be the battleground. D'Ambrosio needed to win Winthrop by a big margin while Edwards needed only to keep the margin close.

As for the race itself, D'Ambrosio's campaign relied heavily on yard signs, direct mail, newspaper ads, billboards, and even a television commercial. Edwards's campaign devoted a good deal of her campaign funds to field organizers, with less reliance on signs, direct mail, and newspaper ads. Edwards also had a stronger record to run on due to her service on the Boston City Council and secured endorsements from political leaders across the State Senate district and Commonwealth. numerous labor unions and several progressive organizations. The most important of Michelle Wu.

these was Boston Mayor To the casual observer, the race looked quite different depending on where one lived. In Revere, D'Ambrosio signs North End on the Boston

were everywhere, while

in Cambridge they were

nonexistent. In Boston,

there was strong support for Edwards, while in Winthrop it seemed more competitive.

However, in the last 10 days of the campaign, D'Ambrosio sent out 3 negative mailers against Edwards which showed to astute political observers that he believed that he was well behind in the

On Election Day when the results came in Lydia Edwards won Boston with 77% of the vote, Cambridge with 95% of the vote and, most importantly, Winthrop with 57% of the vote. Anthony D'Ambrosio won Revere with 76% of the vote. Equally important was the turnout across the State Senate district. Compared to the 2016 Special Election won by Joseph Boncore, the turnout in Boston increased by 700 votes, while Cambridge decreased by 150 votes, Revere decreased by 1,200 votes, and Winthrop decreased by 1,200 votes.

Lydia Edwards beat Anthony D'Ambrosio by 2,700 votes across the State Senate district because she had a stronger record to run on, and a dedicated field organization that contacted voters door-to-door in all four communities and turned them out on Election Day. This was especially true in Boston with the support of Mayor Wu and other

elected officials. Edwards's strong victory with 60% of the

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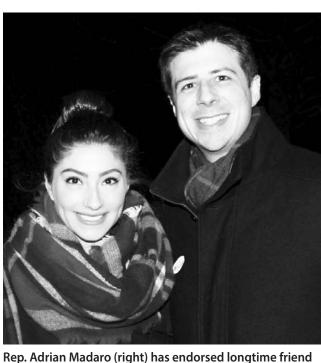
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District 1 City Council candidate Gabriela Coletta picks up key endorsement from Rep. Madaro

By John Lynds

She ran his campaign's field operation during his successful bid for state representative in 2015 and later served as his community liaison-so it comes as no surprise that Rep. Adrian Madaro has endorsed longtime friend and Eagle Hill neighbor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta's candidacy for District 1 City Councilor.

"I'm excited to endorse my dear friend, Gabriela Coletta, to be our next city councilor," said Rep. Madaro. "I've known Gigi for many years. Like me, she grew up on Eagle Hill in a family of activists fighting for East Boston, attending meetings, rallies, and protests -- all experiences that fostered in her a deep love for our community. Gigi shares our neighborhood's values, understands our history and struggles, and cares about helping people and moving our community forward. She is the type of partner we need in city



and Eagle Hill neighbor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.

government. I am proud to stand beside Gabriela Coletta in her campaign to become our next city councilor."

Along with Liana La-Mattina serving as Madaro's campaign manager, LaMattina and Coletta became a political force during the 2015 special

election to fill the state rep seat vacated by Carlo Basile. Working a solid ground game, Colatta's field operations helped catapult Madaro to the top of the ticket in the five-way race that year. LaMattina would go on to serve as Madaro's Chief of Staff while Coletta served as his community liaison-attending community meetings and dealing with constituent concerns on his behalf.

Madaro is one of the first elected leaders to endorse Coletta for the District 1 seat and herBoston City Council District 1.

"I am both humbled

and honored to receive Rep. Madaro's endorsement," said Coletta. "As a former staffer, I have seen firsthand his strong advocacy for our community on environmental justice, worker's rights, and holding special interest groups accountable. He is an incredible public servant and I look forward to partnering on all issues and working together to better the quality of life of all East Bostonians."

Coletta will be hosting a virtual campaign kickoff on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 5:30 pm to officially launch her candida-

"I'm so grateful for the broad support and the coalition of residents from across the district," said Coletta. "Please join us for a night to kickoff this campaign surrounded by community members who share our vision for a vibrant and inclusive district."

In just the first month of her candidacy, Coletta has raised over \$70,000 and secured the endorsement of over seventy community leaders including various former and current elected officials. Those interested in attending can visit www.bit.ly/gc-kickoff for more information on how to join the event.

Coletta said she intends to run a robust, grassroots campaign focused on listening to residents, having inclusive discussions about the issues, and will bring her vision for the district directly to voters.

So far Coletta and former director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement, Tania Del Rio, have emerged as serious candidates for the seat that will be vacated by Senator Lydia Edwads on April 30. Edwards was recently sworn in as First Suffolk & Middlesex

State Senator. Coletta is currently the External Relations Manager at the New England Aguarium where she advocates for a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible waterfront for all Bostonians.

After serving as Madaro's community liaison she ran Edward's successful campaign for District 1 City Councilor in 2017 and then served as Edwards's chief of staff until last summer.

Letters // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

vote across the State Senate district compared to D'Ambrosio's 40% should discourage potential challengers in this fall's election. D'Ambrosio certainly has a political future in Revere given his vote in that community, but his negative mailers have hurt his reputation should he seek election in a district outside of that community.

> William Schmidt Winthrop

ADDRESSING THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM

To the Editor,

strongly support Rep. Adrian Madaro's two comprehensive bills which address the significant and growing problem of East Boston traffic congestion which is caused by non-East Boston sources such as Massport and other communities.

H3527 would establish a bold congestion pricing pilot program for the three East Boston vehicular tunnels-Sumner, Callahan and Ted Williams-that would evaluate the effectiveness of toll congestion pricing based on reduced tolls for off-peak travel, an important variant of other congestion pricing programs based on increased tolls for peak hour travel which tend to penalize working class commuters. a very creative approach.

H3528 would require MassDOT to carry out an area-wide detailed study of the precise sources of East Boston vehicle congestion including Logan Airport and regional commuters passing through the community to other destinations. Such a study would be essential for the development of meaningful remediation strategies and public policies

such as completing the long delayed MBTA Blue Line-Red Line Connector which would be a quantum leap in effective public transit for the Greater Boston North Shore which is a major source of East Boston congestion. There are clear indi-

cations that our region's transportation systems are recovering from the pandemic, such as increased Logan Airport flights and highway traffic which have historically impacted East Boston in many ways, including traffic congestion. Rep. Adrian Madaro's two progressive bills offer an opportunity to avoid having history repeat itself.

Thank you,

John Vitagliano **Former Boston Transportation** Commissioner and **Massport Board** Member

Suffolk Downs site looking to become an outdoor entertainment venue through 2025

By John Lynds

In a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed recently with the Boston Conservation Commission (BCC), owners of the defunct Suffolk thoroughbred Downs racetrack are looking to create an interim outdoor entertainment venue that would operate through 2025.

HYM Investment Group, who is redeveloping the entire 170 acre site into a mixed-use development over the next two decades, looks to be capitalizing on the success of last summer's move to open the historic racetrack oval to the public this summer. HYM also ran a successful drive-in movie program during the height of the COVID-19 pan-

"The proposed project is located on the Boston

zations and campaigns.

beat of delivering city

services, ensuring we are

connected across every

neighborhood and com-

munity," said Mayor Mi-

"Our

 $Benitez \ /\!\!/ \ {\it continued from page 1}$

portion of the Suffolk

Redevelopment Site, which is located at 525 William F. McClellan Highway," read the NOI that was filed with the BCC. "The project consists of creation of an interim outdoor entertainment venue, associated infrastructure, and other related site improvements to be located in a portion of the existing infield area. The venue will consist of a grassed area with temporary stage, restrooms, and vendor booths to remain in place until late 2025. This work is located within the footprint of the site grading designed as part of plans for future redevelopment of the site, and specifically for an area that is planned for a portion of the future Central Common open space previously approved under Order of Conditions (OOC) by MassDEP."

Owners had to file a NOI with the BCC because the planned entertainment venue is on land subjected to Coastal Storm Flowage, borders Vegetated Wetland (BVW), and is within the local 25-Foot Waterfront Area regulated under the city's ordinance protecting local wetlands and promoting climate change adaptation in Bos-

"The proposed work will not have an unacceptable significant or cumulative adverse effect upon the areas protected by the Ordinance," read the NOI. "Therefore, we respectfully request that the Conservation Commission issue an Order of Conditions (OOC) allowing the project to proceed."

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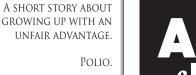


chelle Wu. "I'm so graterestaurant scene throughout the city as well as ful for their leadership and hard work to empower volunteering and working with local political organievery resident and make Boston a city for every-Neighborhood Services team is the heart-

area, which grading was

Wu also announced that she appointed Enrique Pepén as the director of ONS and John Romano as the new deputy director of

Pepén and Romano will oversee the operations of ONS with an aim to improve overall engagement across City neighborhoods, delivering city services, and ensuring the department's quality of the work under the leadership of Chief of Community Engagement, Brianna Millor.



contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a

world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease. But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements

in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Galpin actually credits his own

incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while





Why have some communities not been a part of medical research? You can help researchers develop new and better

treatments that benefit all of us. Many groups of people have been left out of

research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the All of Us Research Program, you'll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy. JoinAllofUs.org/NewEngland

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*All participants will receive \$25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height. weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked

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EAST BOSTON UNDER 22 INCHES OF SNOW

The blizzard last weekend dumped more than 22 inches onto local streets and sidewalks. For the children, East Boston was tuned into a winter playground with sledding, snowball fights and just having fun. For the adults, the snow was an added burden of shoveling the sidewalks and clearing the snow off the cars. If the weather forecasters are right, residents can expect melting and a break in the frigid temperatures until Friday



The nearly two feet of snow made many side streets impassable and walking the neighborhood was a bit tricky like at the intersection of Bennington and Moore Streets.



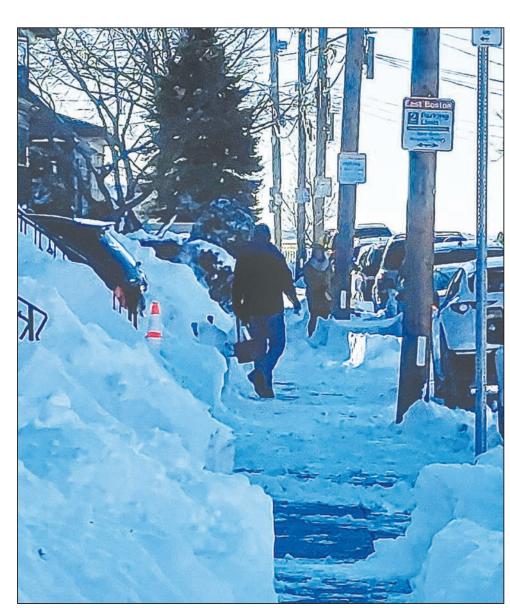
storm.



District 1 City Council Candidate Gabriela Coletta was out Saturday night during the storm helping elderly neighbors shovel out on Eagle Hill.

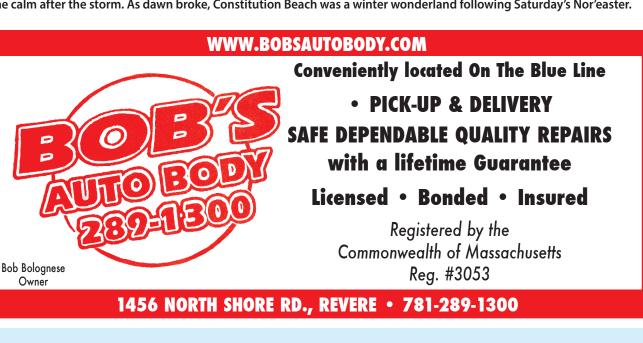


Some neighborhood kids headed to Constitution Beach to play in the beach park and sled on the hill.

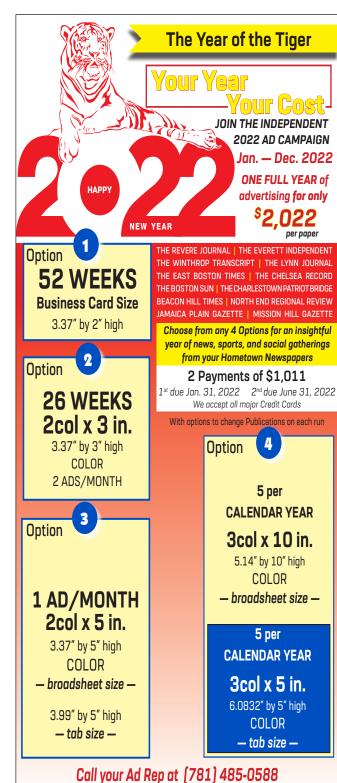




The calm after the storm. As dawn broke, Constitution Beach was a winter wonderland following Saturday's Nor'easter.







Or Reach them on Email! Tap on Your rep below to start sending an email! Maureen DiBella | Sioux Gerow | Deb DiGregorio | Kathy Bright-Procopio

EAST BOSTON JETS IN BASKETBALL ACTION AGAINST LATIN ACADEMY

East Boston fell to Division-leading Latin Academy 79-50 in Boston City League basketball action Friday, January 28 at East Boston High.



LOST CONTROL: East Boston's Leroy Martin loses control of the ball as he tries to get past Latin Academy's Michael Johnson Correia.



PLAYING ROUGH: East Boston's Christian Sanders makes sure this Latin Academy scoring attempt goes nowhere.



BIG REACH: Leroy Martin (2) reaches for a rebound in front of Latin Academy's Terrance Woolfork.



SHARP ELBOWS: East Boston' Anthony Holman (13) makes sure no one gets in his way on a drive to the basket.

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



with the ball and the Latin Academy defense.



TOO FAR: Anthony Holman (13) can't reach a courtlength pass as Latin Academy's Osman Aden looks on.



NO ESCAPE: Anthony Holman (13) can't shake the defense

of Latin Academy's Benny Martinez.

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ABCD, city's EITC program in full swing at Eastie's APAC office

Most people don't want to think about it but it's the time a year to begin thinking about filing 2021 tax returns. For many working people in East Boston there's some relief from the confusing process of figuring out taxes.

Action for Boston Community Development's (ABCD) APAC office on Meridian Street, in partnership with the City of Boston, kicked off its annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program last week.

From now until April, Eastie residents can head to the APAC office at 21 Meridian St. for free tax help. The office will be opened Monday through Friday to help begin the tax filing process. Taxes for qualifying residents can be done through appointment by calling the office at 617-567-8857 or by calling ABCD Connect at 617-348-6329.

For many working people in Eastie the program has provided some relief from the confusing process of figuring out taxes. Qualified hard working low-wage workers often receive significant EITC credits and see a big increase in their tax returns through the free program. This is money that can directly help low-income residents who work hard for their money. It can be used to pay the heat, food and rent costs that are weighing people down.

ABCD President/CEO John Drew is urging East-

ie residents who earned \$58,000 or less in 2021 to schedule an appointment at APAC and take full advantage of the program.

Drew said this year EITC provides a married couple with three or more children earning up to \$57,414 and filing jointly with the maximum federal 2021 EITC of \$6,728 plus the state EITC of \$2,018 for a total EITC of \$8,746. For details regarding family size and payments, see bostonabcd.org/tax-assis-

EITC can also be accessed retroactively for the previous three years, so eligible taxpayers can qualify for a sizable sum.

Drew noted that ABCD has worked with people buried under a mountain of debt, people who felt they were out of options and who didn't know they qualified for EITC. The IRS estimates one out of five eligible taxpayers will not claim EITC and will lose out on this important credit.

In addition, taxpayers who were eligible to receive the American Rescue Plan payment of \$1,400 but did not receive the full amount in 2021 can claim the Recovery Rebate Credit against their 2021 income tax.

"The COVID-19 pan-

demic with its crushing

variants plus soaring

prices due to inflation have thrown vulnerable individuals and families into a full-blown crisis," said Drew. "This free tax preparation service can mean the difference be-

tween paying their rent

and being at risk of losing

their home. It can meet refunds. needs for immediate expenses such as food and medication and utility bills and help families find financial footing, moving forward."

For two decades ABCD has worked in tandem with the Boston Tax Help Coalition. ABCD played a significant role in founding the coalition in 2001.

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu urged qualified residents to take advantage of the free tax help.

"Boston residents can save hundreds of dollars per household through the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation," said Wu. "Staff and volunteers will also help eligible residents receive the highest Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit possible. These free resources are not only a valued resource to thousands of Boston residents, but serve as a model for similar programs around the country.'

ABCD tax prep volunteers also make sure that eligible clients receive the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit which provides seniors aged 65 and older with up to \$1,170 in tax refunds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This credit is available to all eligible seniors who pay unsubsidized rent or property taxes and is retroactive for three years.

year, Last ABCD helped 2,517 residents complete their state and federal tax returns, maximizing EITC, Child Tax Credits, Senior Circuit Breaker and more, and resulting in \$6.1 million in

Drew said that economic infusion channels dollars back to hardworking families and revitalizes businesses in under-resourced neighborhoods like Eastie.

The Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC has been called one of the most successful anti-poverty

programs ever provided. An initiative that rewards working people, it was established to assist income-eligible taxpayers, reaching out to those in underserved communities.

Initiated by the IRS in 1969, the EITC and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a nationwide program that assists taxpayers earning up to \$58,000 a year. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations such as community colleges in low income areas.

Substation// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

City land until Eversource was given the prime waterfront site in a hastily arranged land swap with the City to build the new Bremen Street Branch Library. Eversource owned the land the current library sits on but was given city land on the Chelsea Creek so the library could be built.

Prior to the land swap, the City's Inspectional Services Department granted Eversource a complete waiver on basic City review of the project. The City gave Eversource this rarely-given blanket waiver without any notice to neighbors or opportunity for comment.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has consistently stated her opposition to the substation as a City Councilor, appearing at events and rallies in Eastie against the facility at its proposed location. Wu also signed the joint letter with other elected leaders in December 2020.

Despite widespread community opposition as well as opposition from over a dozen Massachusetts elected officials the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) approved unanimously Eversource's highly controversial plan to build a new substation in February 2021.

Despite state Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides saying at

Monday's hearing that the substation would be placed in a "heavily, heavily industrialized area within an environmental justice community that has historically suffered disproportionate environmental harms and a heavy burden of infrastructure" she still voted in favor of Eversource's plans as an EFSB board member.

The project was then granted a license from the

Elected officials led by US Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren, Senator Lydia Edwards, State Representative Adrian Madaro and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley went on record in a joint letter affirming their support of Eastie residents and opposition to the proposed substation location.

The substation is the subject of numerous pending appeals and legal challenges at the state level from Eastie residents and organizations.

The environmental justice organization Green-Roots then filed suit challenging the Board approval in the state's Supreme Judicial Court. Attorney General Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healy declined to defend the state Siting Board approval, and the Siting Board has been compelled to seek outside legal counsel to defend their decision.

During Boston's Mu-

nicipal Election in November a non-binding ballot question was posed to voters here and across the city asking if the substation should be sited in East Eagle Square. An overwhelming number of voters thought Eversource should not build a substation in Eastie and seek a nearby alternative location such as non-residential Massport land at

Logan Airport. During the election 5,755 Eastie voters voted "NO" on Ouestion 2 with only 600 voting "YES". A NO vote meant that the voter opposed building the substation at the proposed East Eagle Square location and favored locating the facility at a secure location such as Logan Airport.

Citywide 101,953 voters voted "NO" on the ballot question with only 19,797 voting "YES". At 101,953 NO votes against the substation received the largest single vote total for any ballot measure or candidate in Boston over the last 17 municipal elections according to the City of Boston Election Department records.

Historically, non-binding ballot question provides information to elected officials and the public of voter sentiment on a particular issue and it seems most Bostonians are on Eastie's side when it comes to this particular

Eastie's weekly COVID positive test decreases for a third week

By John Lynds

It seems the city's "B patrons at indoor venues to show proof of vaccination is having an impact on COVID infections in East Boston and across the city. The mandate, which kicked off early in January, has been in effect for nearly three weeks and the weekly COVID positive test rate has decreased in the neighborhood and across the city once again. Sadly. deaths

from COVID in Boston increased once again and it is becoming more evident that the virus is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

Three weeks ago nearly 4 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last

week turned out to be positive but last week only 2 out of every 10 Eastie resi-

ie residents were tested for the virus last week and 20.6 percent were positive--this was a 29 percent decrease from the 29.2 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on January 24. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 45.5 percent in Eastie since January 17.

ditional Eastie residents contracted the virus between January 24 and January 31 and there are now 13,859 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic. The citywide week-

Four hundred seven ad-

ly positive test rate also

decreased last week. According to the BPHC 29,063 residents were Together" mandate that dents tested were positive. tested and 17 percent were requires all employees and Last week, 1,974 East- COVID positive--this was a 29 percent decrease from the 24 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 24. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 46 percent in Boston since January 17.

> 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 4 percent last week and went from 151,584 cases to 157,675 confirmed cases in a week. However, there were

> 36 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,624. Deaths increased 6 percent in Boston last week, two more than the 34 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

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Madaro// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to some never even hearing about the process at all. It is only thanks to tireless efforts from activists in the neighborhood, who did their best to make up for these gaps, that many residents were able to attend meetings and voice their concerns with the project."

Madaro argued in his testimony that when an entire community, an environmental justice community at that, voices its opposition to a project that will only compound the environmental burdens and risks to residents, and is unanimously rebuffed, that is a clear indication that the process is neither representative nor accountable to the populations it most directly impacts. "In fact, we found that

EFSB decisions receive overwhelming support by the Board, regardless of the host community's position," said Madaro. "This speaks to a significant flaw in the siting process, whereby residents feel like their concerns are not heard, nor even factored into the decision making process." To address these issues

Madaro said his legislation makes several important reforms at the EFSB.

First, it adds environmental justice, public health, and climate to the Siting Board's responsibilities, ensuring these critical factors are weighed when making decisions.

"It would require improved community engagement prior to filing for environmental or Siting Board review of a petition to construct a generating facility or an oil, gas, or substation facility," said Madaro. "The bill would also mandate a cumulative impact assessment and an environmental justice impact statement before approval of any electric generating facility or oil, gas, or substation facility, and would prohibit the approval of electric generating facilities or substations if the environmental justice impact statement shows that they will result in public health or other harms to environmental justice pop-

Finally, the bill lowers the thresholds for what generating facility projects are subject to Siting Board The Independent Newspaper Group Offices are

ulations."

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review from 100 mega-

"These reforms will im-

prove the functions of the

EFSB, making the siting

process more accountable

to potential host communi-

ties, and more responsive

to the priorities of envi-

ronmental justice, climate

watts to 35 megawatts.

change, and public health," said Madaro. "The EFSB has recognized the need for such changes, launching a public process on updating their rules and regulations. While I appreciate these efforts, the provisions of this legislation will be more comprehensive and will encode these protections into law. Although this bill will not reverse the process that happened in East Boston, it will take the lessons we learned from this experience, and the many that came before, to ensure that future energy projects are sited equitably in commu-

While Co-Chair of the Joint Committee, Sen. Michael J. Barrett, raised some concerns regarding the bill at the hearing but Madaro said he looks forward to working with Barrett and the committee to address his concerns as environmental justice legislation is ultimately enshrined into law in the Climate Roadmap Bill.

nities across the Common-

wealth."

"We would appreciate the opportunity to continue this conversation in partnership with you (Barrett), Co-Chair Rep. Jeffrey Roy, and the committee to work on the language of H.3336," said Madaro.



DA Hayden forms Community Advisory Committee to review procedures and policies

District Attorney Kevin R. Hayden announced the formation of a Community Advisory Committee to assist in the evaluation of the District Attorney's Office, its bureaus, units, and supervisory functions, and examination of the impact of key SCDAO policies.

"Community engagement will be the cornerstone of everything my administration does. I am delighted to have such a sterling group help review procedures and policies and make recommendations so that the Office will continue to be a guiding force in legal strategy and reform," Hayden said. "Community input is critical to building trust in this office. This process is focused on structures, functions, and results. I believe the staff here is filled with professional, talented individuals dedicated to serving the people of Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop. It will be important to have outside leaders and specialists who live, work and worship in Suffolk County provide their point of view as we move forward."

The volunteer committee of 18 will be cochaired by Robert Gittens and Reverend Dr. Ray Hammond and will begin its work immediately.

Gittens is passionate about the welfare of children and families and has spent his career serving the public including as Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Vice President for Public Affairs at Northeastern and First Assistant District Attorney in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. He previously played a distinguished role in the community as Chairman of the Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. He currently serves on the boards of the Children's League of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and Commonwealth Care Alliance, and is the executive director for Cambridge Family

and Children's Service.

Hammond co-founded Bethel A.M.E. Church with his wife, Gloria, and is the co-founder and chairman of the Ten Point Coalition, an ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders mobilizing the Greater Boston community around issues affecting Black and Latino youth, and an Executive Committee member of the Black Ministerial Alliance. He also serves as a trustee on many institutions, including the Foundation. Yawkey BMC Health System, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and the MATCH School. He previously served as chairman of The Boston Foundation. Rev. Hammond is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is the recipient of numerous honors and honorary doctorates.

Other members are:

- True-see Allah is the Director of Reentry at the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for the State of Massachusetts and brings the lived experience of a returning citizen to the committee.
- Daniel Bennett, a CEO of companies in the private sector including Liberty Forensics and a former Secretary of the Executive of Public Safety and Security who oversaw significant reforms at Bridgewater State Hospital and First Assistant of the Worcester County District Attorney's Office;
- Jim Borghesani, a communications executive who oversaw communications strategy for the successful 2016 ballot initiative to legalize marijuana, he has held several top communication positions in state government;
- Andrea Cabral, a former Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and twice elected Sheriff of Suffolk County, and was Chief of the District Courts at SCDAO; she is currently CEO of a multistate cannabis company;
- J.W. Carney, Jr., is a renowned criminal defense attorney who began

his career as a public defender and is a contributing author to the treatises on Massachusetts Criminal Practice and has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1998. Carney also has been a member of the Massachusetts Judicial Nominating Commission for 20 years;

- George Hardiman is an attorney with more than 25 years' experience, he was a prosecutor in SC-DAO and also litigated securities fraud cases for the Secretary of State's office. He has been in private practice for almost 18 years.
- Lisa Howard is the Superintendent of Winthrop Public Schools and a past board member of the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, she is a lifelong resident of Winthrop;
- Nancy Hurley is an attorney focused on criminal defense and a member of the board of Suffolk Lawyers for Justice;
- Byron Knight, a former Suffolk ADA who joined the Patrick Administration as special counsel to assist in providing discovery with all parties affected by the Hinton Lab drug scandal and later served a Deputy Legal Counsel for Governor Deval Patrick, is a lawyer with a focus on criminal defense;
- Sandra M. McCroom is president and CEO of

Children's Services of Roxbury, which provides comprehensive childcare services to economically disadvantaged families and previously served as for Criminal Justice in the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security;

- Kristen Palma is a former victim witness advocate at SCDAO who became public affairs director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance;
 Kourou Pich is ex-
- ecutive director of HarborCOV, which provides services and opportunities that promote long-term stability for people affected by violence and abuse, she began work there in 1998 as the Cambodian advocate. Kourou has served as a consultant for the Women of Color Network since 2011;
- Paul Popeo is cochair of Choate's litigation department who has served as a special assistant attorney general and special Suffolk ADA;
- Pastor B. Christopher Sumner is chief of operations executive at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center of Boston and associate Pastor at Jubilee Christian Church. Previously he's served as Executive Director of the Boston Ten Point Coalition the Blue Hill Boys and Girls Club of Boston;
 - Marjorie Pauléon

Tynes, an attorney and former Suffolk ADA and victim witness advocate, is a member of teaching team at Harvard's Trial Advocacy Workshop;

• Gladys Vega is executive director of Chelsea's La Colaborativa, who played leadership roles in organizing for immigrants' rights, welfare rights, tenants' rights, open space and the environment, multicultural and anti-racism programs and in numerous grassroots campaigns.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles some 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

OBITUARIES

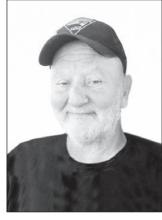
Charles Anthony Zenga Josephine Coyman

Of East Boston

Of Revere

Charles Anthony Zenga of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away on January 30 at the age of 69.

The beloved son of the late Frank and Maria (De-Stasio) Zenga, he was the loving companion of Alicia Harvey, devoted father of Michelle and her husband Brian, Tanya and her husband Richard, Tara, Timothy and his wife Christine, Erik, Matthew, Stefanie, Nicole, Katelyn and the late Kristen Rae; dear brother of Barbara, Charlotte, Patty, Nicholas, Anthony, Judy, Rhonda and the late Annette, Frank, Robert and Johnny and adored grandfather of 12 grandchildren. He is also survived by many loving nieces and neph-



ews.

Family and friends will honor Charles' life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston on Friday, February 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. All other services are private. To leave an online condolence, please visit www. ruggieromh.com.

Josephine L. (Castiglione) Coyman, died in East Boston on January 30.

The beloved wife of the

late Richard W. Coyman, she was the loving mother of John L. Coyman and his wife, Elaine of Bridgewater and Linda Alukonis and her husband, Walter Tewksbury; grandmother of Nicole Fucillo and her husband, Ray, Christopher Coyman, Brooke and Shannon Alukonis; great-grandmother of Lilly, Amelia, Christopher and Emersyn; sister of the late Mildred Cacicio, Rose Ferrario, Anna Athnas, Concetta Mazza, Catherine, Salvatore, and Angelo Castiglione. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services will be held in the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St [at Day Sq], East Bos-



ton Thursday morning, February 3 at 10:30 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited. Visiting hours are today, Wednesday, February 2, from 4 to 7 p.m. Interment, Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Please leave messages

of condolence for the family on her Tribute Page at MagrathFuneralHome. com.

Regina Ciampa

Of Orient Heights

Regina M. (Costanza) Ciampa of Orient Heights, East Boston, passed away peacefully on January 29 at the age of 94.

A graduate of Lasell Junior College, she was the cherished daughter of the late Dr. Pasquale and Katherine (Prisco) Costanza, she was the devoted wife of the late Fred A. Ciampa, loving mother of Robert P. Ciampa and his wife, Christine of Saugus, Patricia A. Ciampa of East Boston and the late Frederick P. Ciampa and his surviving wife, Mary Ellen; adored grandmother of Regina Olivieri and Frank Ciampa and his wife, Christina and also survived by her three great-grandchildren: Frankie, Leo and Georgia Ciampa. A special thanks to her caretaker Gladys Ansah.

Family and friends will



honor Regina's life by gathering on Thursday, February 3, at St. Anthony's Church, Revere for a Funeral Mass to be celebrated in her honor at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Regina's name to North Shore Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Ave. Salem, MA 01970. For online guest-book please visit www. vazzafunerals.com.

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Rose Kennedy Of Saugus and Revere

(DiNatale)

Rose E. (DiNatale) Kennedy of Saugus and Revere passed away peacefully, in her sleep on Saturday, January 22 after a long illness. She was the loving

mother of Joseph M. Kennedy and his wife, Dorothy of Key West, FL and Debra Kennedy-Puzzo and her husband, Brian of Revere, cherished grandmother of Courtney, Brian and Joseph and dear sister of Angelo (Butch) Sicuranza and his wife, Anne of Palm Bay, FL and the late Mary Flammia. She



nieces and nephews.

Services to be private.

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

ST. JUDE NOVENA May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be

adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

My prayers have been answered.

L.P.

To place a

memoriam in the

Times Free Press,

please call

781-485-0588

We knew little that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone; for part of us went with you, the day God called you home You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and though we cannot see you,

You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same; but as God calls us one by one,

Forever Missed & Loved Always in Our Hearts Cheryl, Richard, & Lexi

the chain will link again.

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News in Brief

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on February 7, 2022 at 6pm. Please note that the meeting will only be on Zoom. There will be no In Person format this month. We hope maybe in March that we may be able to go back to a hybrid model once again.

So please go to our Facebook or website to access the link for the meeting. Our interpreter, Ricardo, will be present for our Spanish members.

Agenda is as follows: Welcome/Introduction Announcements 180th Anniversary of Temple Ohabei Shalom, New ONS East Boston Liaison Nathalie Benitez, 56

ing date. HVNA elections June Station 7 Update (10min) Sgt. Cintolo, Officers Domenico and Mos-

Byron Street ZBA Hear-

Senator Lydia Edwards (10min) To speak about her new job as our Senator and continuing as our City Councilor for a transition to the special election.

City Council Candidates (10min) Gabriela Coletta and Tania Del Rio will each have 5 minutes to introduce themselves and speak about their mission to be our next City Councilor.

Trustees Piers Park 3 (5min) Gabriela Ramirez, Survey, Design update Virtual Meeting on February 16th at 5:30pm.

200 Byron Street (30min) 1st Presentation Paul Passacantilli representing the owner. Proposal is to change occupancy to a two family dwelling. Construct a third floor vertical addition and rear addition. Extend living space in the basement. Full interior renovations. Three off street parking spaces.

(20min) 1st Presentation Chris&Dana Griswold owners. Architect Diane Miller.Family has grown by 3 children and needs additional space. Proposal is to add a bedroom, bathroom, and play space.

Any 3 for

\$300.00

134 Wordsworth Street

Replace old stairwell, old water heater and furnace shed.

Cargo Ventures (25min) Jacob Citrin Owner to provide update on McClellan High Way proposed development project.

Please stay safe and we look forward to you attending our Virtual meeting.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on March 7, 2022.

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

GET IN SHAPE WITH CITY OF BOSTON'S VIRTUAL WINTER FITNESS SERIES

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) recently launched the 2022 Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts with free virtual classes being held from now through April 30. Everyone is welcome regardless of fitness level.

Current winter offerings led by certified fitness instructors include Afrobeats Dance, Chair Meditation, Chair Yoga, Dance Fit, Strength Training, and Zumba®. For class descriptions and more information including dates and times, please visit Boston.gov/winter-fitness.

The program is tailored to the various interests of residents with offerings including accessible, age-friendly classes as well as classes for those new to group fitness. By engaging in a citywide effort to increase opportunities for physical activity, BPHC and the Parks Department aim to further reduce barriers to active living and achieve the goal of ensuring that Bostonians have ample opportunities to be active year-round.

Participants can visit Facebook and Twitter at @healthyboston and @ bostonparksdept or call (617) 961-3047 for cancellations and class updates.

2022 MASS. 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 meet and select the East Boston delegates Tuesday, February 8. The meeting will be at Kelley's Square Pub, 84 Bennington Street, starting at 6: 30 p. m. (If postponed due to snow, et al. then the make-up meeting will be Thursday, February 10 at the same place and hour.) Delegates will be selected from among those who have expressed their interest with one or more of the local party contacts listed below.

Don't just watch the convention on the news. Experience it yourself! Let the Party hear your voice.

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.

SACRED HEART PARISH IN EAST BOSTON TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT

Boston, Massachusetts, January 20, 2022 – Sacred Heart Catholic Parish in East Boston will host the International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles from February 5 to February 13, 2022 in its parish hall at 303 Paris Street, East Boston, Massachusetts.

The International Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit is a traveling display designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis. It contains an extensive assortment of photographs

and historical descriptions of Eucharistic miracles, recognized by the Catholic Church that have taken place throughout the ages all across the world.

The exhibit allows viewers to learn more about Carlo Acutis, deepen their understanding of Eucharistic miracles, and connect in a special way to the Eucharist during the Year of the Eucharist as designated by Cardinal Seán O'Malley of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Carlo Acutis, was educated in Milan at a Jesuit high school. He was a kind boy, who supported his friends whose parents were divorcing and stood up for kids who were bullied. Outside of school, he did voluntary work with the homeless and poor. He was known as a "computer geek" who had a deep devotion to the Eucharist. As a result, he developed The International Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit, a website that catalogues Eucharistic miracles from around he world. He died of leukemia in 2006 and was beautified in 2020.

The Exhibit contains 159 panels, a story from the exhibit follows below. The panels take the viewer on a journey where they can virtually visit the places where the miracles took place.

Viewers can visit the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit on their own or by guided tour. The Exhibit is open:

Saturday, February 5 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Opening event on February 5 at 2:15 p.m. with special guest speaker Antonia Acutis Salzano, mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis who will join us virtually and Br. Jonas Verdeflor, OMV, who will

speak about the meaning of Eucharistic miracles. The celebration of the Eucharist in the church will follow at 4:00 p.m.

follow at 4:00 p.m. 5:00-6:00 p.m. Guided Tours

Sunday, February 6, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

p.m. 9:15-10:00 a.m. Guided Tours

11:00 -12:30 p.m. Guided Tours Thursday, February 10,

at 6:30 p.m. 6:30-7:00 p.m. Guided Tours

Saturday, February 12, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

9:30 and 11.00 a.m. CCD and parents group visits

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Guided Tours

Sunday, February 13, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Guided Tours

11:00 -12:00 p.m. Family Time: Guided Tours for parents and children

A private tour of the Exhibit can also be arranged during the week by contacting the rectory at 617-567-5776.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL UNCLAIMED PROPERTY DAY BY VISITING FIND MASS MONEY

State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg and the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators are celebrating National Unclaimed Property Day... and you should be too!

One in ten Massachusetts residents have unclaimed money including citizens like Kelly who recently discovered how easy it was to claim her money.

"Checked my name and found money at Find-MassMoney.com." said Kelly. "Once I found money for myself, I started checking my family and friends...even work colleagues! I found money for them too! With this 'found' money, we ordered take out from a local restaurant. I didn't have to cook, and we helped a struggling restaurant in our town."

rently holding over \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property. Treasurer Goldberg urges all citizens to check the comprehensive list for all amounts at www.find-massmoney.com or call our live call center at 888-344-MASS (6277).

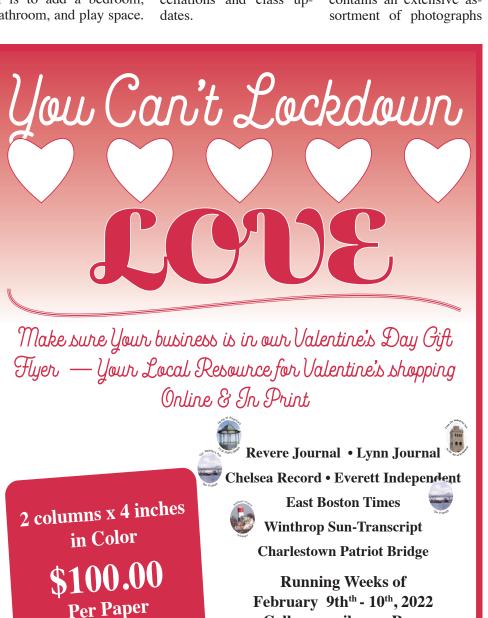
"Take a minute on Un-

The Treasury is cur-

"Take a minute on Unclaimed Property Day to check your name like Kelly," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "Our team is prepared to walk you through the claims process."

Unclaimed property includes forgotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends, and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. Most accounts are considered abandoned and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity. In 2021, Treasury processed over 113,000 claims and returned over \$174 million in cash and securities to its rightful owners.

There is no time limit for a person to claim this property and, in many cases, claimants will receive interest. Searching for unclaimed money is always free by using FindMass-Money.com.



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newspaper preference in emails)

Driver's license bill wins support of 15 mayors and managers

Fifteen mayors and city managers from across Massachusetts announced their support for The Work and Family Mobility Act in a letter submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation.

The bill, currently awaiting a report from the Committee, would allow immigrants without status to qualify for a Massachusetts Standard Driver's License, as long as there is valid proof of identity, date of birth, and Massachusetts residency.

The Act was reported favorably from the Committee on Transportation in 2020 and was poised for passage last session when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Reintroduced this session, the bill has now earned more than 100 co-sponsors in the House and Senate, and the **Driving Families Forward** Coalition supporting the bill has grown to include

more than 270 endorsing organizations, including community, health, faith, labor, business, and law enforcement leaders.

Mayors and Managers from Amherst, Arlington, Boston, Brockton, Brookline, Cambridge (Mayor and City Manager), Chelsea, Malden, Medford, Newton, Randolph, Revere, Salem and Swampscott joined together in support of the bill. In the letter officials noted that the proposal would greatly improve road safety and increase the ease with which law enforcement officers conduct their regular duties.

"[T]his bill would provide broad benefits to our municipalities. Our streets will be safer for everyone when all drivers have passed road tests, and vehicles are registered and insured," the letter reads, in part. "Indeed, many of our policy chiefs support the bill as a public safety tool and agree that it will enable law enforcement to better identify individuals at traffic stops or scenes of an accident'

"All Boston and Massachusetts adults deserve access to driver's licenses regardless of immigration status. I support the Family Mobility Act because it will make all of us safer," said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

"The Work and Family Mobility Act is a commonsense measure that will improve the safety of our streets and strengthen the ability of Massachusetts families and workers to access essential services, health care, education, and places of work," said Mayor Kim Driscoll of Salem. "Massachusetts cities and towns have consistently stepped forward to help all of our residents, and now we're calling on the legislature to do the same. This measure is endorsed by both law enforcement leaders and advocates for our immigrant neighbors. Let's make sure our Commonwealth is a place that works for and welcomes everyone by adopting this important legislation."

"Providing access to driver's licenses to immigrants makes all of our communities safer and more equitable," said Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller.

"Swampscott is one of the most densely settled communities in the Com-

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monwealth. As we look to the future, it's clear we need a focus on pedestrian safety and complete streets to help balance the needs of all modes of transportation," said Sean Fitzgerald, Swampscott Town Administrator.

"Welcoming new residents, regardless of where they come from or the circumstances of their arrival, is important to the long-term economic and social well-being of Greater Boston and the entire Commonwealth," said Lizzi Weyant, Deputy Executive Director of

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Public Affairs and Advocacy at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston, which led the creation of the municipal sign-on letter sent to the transportation com-

mittee. "The Legislature has a real opportunity to meaningfully address some of the structural barriers facing our undocumented residents," said Weyant. "This legislation gives us an opportunity to start to change the way that we treat and include vital members of our communities."

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New smoke alarm PSAs geared toward older adults

State Massachusetts Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey announced a new public service announcement campaign that encourages smoke alarm awareness among older adults, who are at greater risk of dying in a fire. The PSAs are available for distribution through the Department of Fire Services.

The "Dear Grandma Querida Abuela" campaign started this month on television and radio stations in the Boston, Worcester, and Springfield media markets. Recorded in both English and Spanish, it features a granddaughter writing a letter to her grandmother about all the things she looks forward to doing together, interspersed with messages about the importance of having working smoke alarms and replacing alarms after 10 years.

"In Massachusetts and nationwide, people over 65 have a disproportionately high risk of dying in a fire," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "Everyone should have working smoke alarms in their homes, but we developed this PSA to reach older adults in particular because of the higher statistical risk they face. Installing smoke alarms on every floor of the home, checking them regularly, and replacing them after 10 years can dramatically reduce that risk."

Nationwide, about 60% of fatal fires occur in homes without working smoke alarms. And in Massachusetts, people 65 and older comprise about 17% of the population but about 50% of last year's fatal fire victims.

The PSAs are available for download at the Department of Fire Services web page and can be linked or shared from the DFSYouTube chan-They complement nel. the DFS Senior SAFE program, which provides grant funding for local fire departments to provide fire and life safety education for older adults.



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Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's annual Shamrock Splash moves to Eastie

By John Lynds

East Boston's Constitution Beach will host Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's annual polar plunge to raise money for summer beach programs.

The annual event that raises tens of thousands of dollars each year for the Better Beaches grant program is usually held in Southie but will move to Constitution Beach on Sunday, March 6.

"We are excited to be back together in person for the annual Shamrock Splash presented by Arctic Chill," said Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Bruce Berman. "With our normal spot in Southie under construction, we will be splashing in Eastie this year. This is your opportunity to make a huge impact on your community, and bring free programming to our beaches through the Better Beaches Program."

Registration for the annual event opened Tuesday and registered teams can fundraise now through the day of the splash. You can register for the event at http://shamrocksplash. org/default.asp.

With registration individuals and teams get Harpoon beer, a Shamrock Splash koozie, and entry into a raffle to win round trip flights on JetBlue. The more money a team or individual raises the more opportunity there is to win a prize.

"For those of you who want to join in the fun at home, we will still have a virtual participation option," said Burman. "Record a video of your splash by Friday, March 4 and your submission will be in the running for the JetBlue prizes."

During the month of February Save the Harbor/Save the Bay will be awarding weekly fundraising prizes.

"For our new friends and supporters, the Shamrock Splash is our annual polar plunge where we gather on a chilly, and sometimes snowy, beach to splash into the clean water of Boston Harbor to raise money for our Better Beaches grant program," said Burman. "The program partners with local organizations to plan free events and programs on our region's beaches from Nahant to Nantasket during the warmer months. We can't wait for you to join our efforts in raising more money than ever this year to invest back into our community."

Last year, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) awarded \$32,500 in Better Beaches program grants to five Eastie organizations and individuals to support free beach events and programs throughout the summer.

In Eastie, the East

Boston YMCA, Harborkeepers, NOAH (Neighborhood of Affordable Housing), Piers Park Sailing Center and Triangle, Inc. All nonprofits hosted



A scene from last year's Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's annual Shamrock Splash in Southie. This year the annual polar plunge fundraising effort for the Better Beaches grant program will be held at East Boston's Constitution Beach.

and programs in nine

communities, as in-per-

son public programming

resumed on the region's

events including wellness classes, a maritime festival, kayaking and the "Beach:Ability" program for people with disabilities.

The grants awarded in Eastie were part of

\$300,000 in Better Beaches public beaches. The grants value port 150 free beach events public beaches. The grants value possible with \$50,000 in proc

The grants were made possible with the over \$50,000 in proceeds raised from the Shamrock Splash as well as funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Fresh and Local

Stock your soup pantry

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

What should you have on hand to prepare a home-made soup? Stocking a soup pantry is a perfect task for a winter shopping trip. Having stock or broth is terrific but not essential. You can make soup with water and scraps and still have a delicious meal.

We usually have homemade chicken stock on hand made from the bones of a rotisserie chicken or as a result of poaching a whole chicken with some extra wings, backs, necks, and chicken feet added to the pot.

Penny is just as likely to use a box of chicken, vegetable, or mushroom stock to make a soup with lots of other flavor components. She saves her homemade treasure for simple soups where the broth is the star.

Try different brands of stock to find those that suit your taste. Since salt is something you want to control, we recommend low-sodium or no-salt-added for any commercial product you add to your pot. That includes stocks,

broths, tomatoes, and beans.

Crisper Drawer Items

Over the past couple of years, we've added a few new soup favorites to our crisper drawer. Fresh fennel bulbs and leeks wait alongside celery and carrots. There's usually some cabbage or greens ready to add bulk and fiber to soupy meals.

While the soup simmers, you may add bunches of parsley, cilantro, dill, mint, or whatever your favorite soups need



Our homemade chicken stock stars in bowls where the broth takes the lead, like in this chicken noodle soup which we made, very quickly, from leftovers.

for depth of flavor. Then sprinkle more of the same herbs for a bright finish when served.

Roots and Bulbs

Onions, shallots, garlic, potatoes, and sweet potatoes all have separate cool, dry, airy, lightly-covered containers on our pantry shelves. Don't store your onions and potatoes together. The ethylene gas produced and emitted by onions can cause potatoes to ripen, sprout, and rot faster.

Add Fiber for Filling Soups

Rice, noodles, pasta, dumplings, beans, and legumes all add heft and nutrition to your soup. We always cook and store our rice, noodles, and pasta separately and add it to the soup as we serve it. That way, the grains don't soak up all the broth and become stodgy.

Pre-Made and Ready-to-Go

Here again, you have the option of buying some commercially-prepared versions of these additions. We use frozen precooked rice and beans in cans, pouches, and boxes. If chopping and dicing are not your thing, look for prepared containers of pre-cut mirepoix (celery, carrots, and onions) and other peeled and chopped vegetables in the produce department.

We can grab a bag of frozen peas or corn from our freezer to add to soups when those vegetables are not in season. We also have ginger and table-spoon-size dollops of pesto and tomato paste in a freezer container marked "flavors."

Other Soup Tips

Penny has been replacing starches (like potatoes) with rutabagas in some soups and stews because these members of the turnip family freeze and thaw better when she makes big batches.

If a soup is too thin, you can thicken it by mashing some of its vegetables or blending part of the soup and adding it back to the pot. An immersion blender is perfect for this task. Add water or stock if it's too thick, and give it a few minutes of slow simmer to blend.

For variety, set up a soup exchange with another cook. We did this and swapped quarts of flavorful soups with good friends. We are also looking forward to having a soup party as our first roof deck gathering this spring.

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

