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TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

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Give public skating a try this February Vacation

By John Lynds

When February Vacation rolls around parents are usually scrambling to make plans for their children and families. While some families will go on vacation, many families will stay home because parents are still working.

Finding a good inexpensive winter activity that can keep their kids active and out of the house instead of glued to a device for the duration of va-

cation can sometimes be challenging.

Luckily in East Boston there's the Porrazzo Skating Rink that can offer a few hours of fun activity during vacation week. Public skating at the Porrazzo is a great way to spend time with friends and family.

Public skating at the Porrazzo down on Constitution Beach will be held each day during vacation at 2pm and costs only \$6 if you have skates and \$12



Residents looking for something to do during February Vacation can head over to the Porrazzo Rink for public skating each day at 2pm.

if you need to rent a pair. There is also a snack bar on site serving pizza, fries, hot chocolate and other treats.

The rink is a Commonwealth of Massachusetts public ice skating facility,

overseen by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). FMC Ice Sports has been operating the arena for DCR since 2005 and provides patrons with affordable

See SKATING Page 2

Tree Eastie's Bill Masterson looks to plant 100 trees in the spring

By John Lynds

For a couple of years now Tree Eastie has been trying to rekindle the neighborhood's grassroots effort to get more trees planted in East Boston.

Tree Eastie's Bill Masterson has been on a crusade to get the neighborhood's tree canopy closer

to the average tree canopy in other Boston neighborhoods.

"There's a lot of benefits the trees have unfortunately in East Boston, we suffer from the lowest tree canopy in the city," said Masterson at a community meeting last week. "East Boston's tree canopy is at 7%. The city average is 27% and you know as residents that when you walk around the neighborhood you can see an overall lack of trees."

At the meeting Masterson said Tree Eastie will have a pretty busy spring planting trees thanks to grant money given to the cause.

"So we have grant money to be able to plant

street trees," said Masterson. "We also have some alliances and some benefactors who are asking us to help them site tree plantings. The first is the Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery on Wordsworth Street, which is the oldest Jewish Cemetery in Eastern, Massachusetts. They're celebrating their 180th anniversary and 180 is a big number in the Jewish community in terms of significance, so they want to plant 18 trees in the area of the cemetery. There's already enough trees in the cemetery so we're going to plant trees both at Constitution Beach as well as the Salesian Boys & Girls Club. We've met with Mike Triant at the Boys

& Girls Club and the kids are going to help us. We're going to do an education piece with it as well."

Masterson said Tree Eastie focused on Eagle Hill when planting street trees last fall. With Eagle Hill being one of the worst urban heat islands in Eastie, Masterson said Tree Eastie wanted to plant trees where the heat islands are the most severe.

"So we've identified spots in Orient Heights, as well as Harbor View, that need street trees and we'll be planting 30 new street trees in those two neighborhoods in April and May," said Masterson. "This year we are also go-

See TREES Page 2

Piers Park Phase II on track for 2023

By John Lynds

At a Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) meeting last week, Massport's Anthony Guerriero said the project is on track to be completed by the end of the 2023 calendar year.

"We're still scheduled to open the park at the end of 2023," said Guerriero. "We're working very closely with the East Boston Project Advisory Committee (PierPAC). We started this process in 2017, PierPAC voted on a concept in 2019 and voted on that design in November of 2021. We're going to be going out for bids in the late spring or early summer."

Since 2017, Massport has collaborated with East Boston residents and PierPAC members on a design for Piers Phase Park II. At a community meeting in 2019 Massport officials and members of PierPAC

narrowed down the design options for the new park to three and presented those options to residents.

Then in 2021 PierPAC narrowed the options down to one.

Massport has contracted Kleinfelder Northeast Prime as the park's landscape architecture and Pressley Associates to work with Kleinfelder in incorporating climate resilience designs into the park to deal with future sea level rise. Piers Park II will be elevated to match the existing Piers Park and seamlessly extend the Harborwalk and connect the walking paths of both parks.

The new park will also have berms to prevent flooding along Marginal Street. Additional resilient and sustainable elements will be incorporated in the Park's final design.

"We are building a park

See PIERS PARK Page 5

Hearing focuses on language barriers on area beaches

By John Lynds

At last Wednesday's Metropolitan Beach Commission meeting, Commission Co-Chair Rep. Adrian Madaro made a shocking revelation.

"In my district of East Boston, I'm blessed to represent an incredibly vibrant community and immigrant community and our diversity is our point of pride," said Madaro. I am fortunate to represent so many people of different ethnic backgrounds and perspectives. About 50% of our community is foreign born and many residents are non-native English speakers. Yet at Constitution Beach, East Boston's only public beach and the only point of access to the water, the signage is only in English. These language barriers are quite concerning. In

East Boston language justice and language access are not merely aspirations, they are absolute necessities to ensure the safety, well being and success of all of our neighbors."

Madaro's testimony came at a Beach Commission hearing focused on language barriers on area beaches.

"Language Access on our beaches entail providing critical safety information about water quality, weather conditions, upcoming activities and general beach safety knowledge," continued Madaro. "Empowering residents with the ability to make informed decisions while at our beaches helps ensure overall public safety and enjoyment. This starts with ensuring that signage on our beaches is multilin-

See BEACHES Page 3



Typical signage in English only on a local beach.

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WE ARE NUMB
TO THE NUMBERS

With mask requirements being lifted just about everywhere around the country, there is a general sense that the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

But as we begin the third year of the pandemic, that is far from being true.

The death toll in the United States from COVID breached 900,000 last week. As this is being written, almost 2500 Americans are dying each and every day from a COVID-19 infection.

Even if the death rate slows down in the weeks ahead, the one million mark almost certainly will be reached within the next two months.

Although the worst-case scenarios at the start of the pandemic in February, 2020, suggested that up to 1.7 million Americans could die from the disease, none of us really thought that would be possible.

And when the vaccines miraculously came along at the end of 2020, we assumed then that life would be returning to normal soon enough.

But life does not always follow the plan.

The resistance of millions of Americans to getting vaccinated threw a monkey-wrench into the war against COVID-19, with the vast majority of COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations attributable to the unvaccinated.

And although scientists all along have predicted that the virus would mutate, the speed with which the highly-transmissible Omicron variant swept through the world, even among the fully-vaccinated, caught everyone off-guard.

So where do we go from here?

Americans, as is the case with people across the globe, clearly have had it with restricting their lives because of COVID-19.

It seems that we’re entering a new phase of the pandemic -- scientists refer to it now as an endemic disease, like the flu -- which could be summed up this way: People still are dying in great numbers, but we don’t seem to care.

It’s a modern day version of, “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead.”

Or, in the words of the Cars’ rock anthem, “Let the good times roll.”

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.

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Parks Department hosts Feb. vacation week activities

Children, parents, and caregivers are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for free February school vacation week activities at the Bubble at Carter Field located at 709 Columbus Avenue on the South End/Roxbury line. On-line registration and more information on all these free family activities can be found at boston.gov/sports.

The Parks Department hosts a February Vacation Wiffle Ball Tournament at the Bubble on Tuesday, February 22. The tournament will feature two divisions for ages 13 and under and 10 and under. To register or for more information call (617) 961-3083 or contact Damien

Margardo at damien.margardo@boston.gov.

On February 22 and 23 the Bubble will be the site of free Softball Hitting and Fielding Clinics for ages 10 and up from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The program features UMass Boston softball players and coaches and is open to teams and individual players of all skill levels. For more information call (617) 961-3047 or email jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov.

Free Baseball Clinics will be offered for ages 10 and up on February 24 and 25 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required. To sign up call (617) 961-3093 or contact charles.conners@boston.gov.

The Carter Playground Bubble is also the location for the ongoing Winter Soccer Clinic series for boys and girls ages 10 to 15 that began January 30 and continues Sundays through February 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sessions focus on ball control, dribbling, passing, shooting, and defending. Pre-registration is required. For more information call (617) 961-3084 or email woodley.auguste@boston.gov

In addition to these programs, Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the annual Children’s Winter Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground on Thursday, February 24, from 11

a.m. to 2 p.m.

This family school vacation event is presented in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation and L.L. Bean. Additional support provided by the Boston Globe and Dunkin’. The festival will feature music, field games, giveaways, various winter attractions, treats, and crafts. Visit boston.gov/winter-festival for online event information.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

East Boston Democratic Ward Committee to elect delegates on March 5

By John Lynds

On Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th, democratic delegates will gather virtually, as well as at the DCU Center in Worcester, to endorse candidates for statewide office, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Attorney General and Auditor, ahead of the Democratic Primary this September.

On Saturday, March 5 at 10am East Boston Democrats will gather at a

location to be determined to elect delegates to the convention during the Ward 1 Democratic Committee’s caucus.

ViceChair of the Ward 1 Democratic Committee, Brian Gannon, said the delegates elected at caucus will go on to the Democratic State Convention in June.

“If you’re new to the neighborhood, you’ll probably come to realize that we vote a lot in East Boston and there’s a lot of elections and oppor-

tunities to get involved politically,” said Gannon. “What the the caucus is is where we elect delegates that go to the state convention and those delegates will vote on Democratic platform issues at the convention but also decides which candidates for state races that the Democratic Party will endorse. So, this year being an election year, it’s an opportunity to get there and cast a vote for one of the Democratic candidates running for governor, attorney gener-

al, lieutenant governor.”

Gannon said any Eastie Democrat can show up to the caucus and can either run for being a delegate, or they can vote for delegates to go to the convention.

“So attending the convention is pretty cool,” said Gannon. “It’s a neat way to experience politics in Massachusetts.”

Delegates, alternates, and guests will be able to attend the State Convention virtually and all voting will take place remotely.

Registry of Motor Vehicles preparing for high customer volume

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is preparing for a high volume of in-person customer service transactions during school vacation week which is scheduled to take place the week of February 21, 2022. The RMV traditionally sees a high volume of customers at its statewide Service Center locations during this annual vacation week, and encourages customers to schedule appointments for required in-person transactions and avoid unnecessary visits by using Mass.Gov/RMV to conduct more than 40 RMV online transactions.

Customers should also note that Commonwealth of Massachusetts offices, including RMV Service Centers, will be closed on Monday, February 21, in observance of the President’s Day holiday.

“The RMV historically experiences a higher volume of in-person transactions during February school vacation week, and we encourage customers to schedule appointments, plan ahead, and conduct transactions online,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Scheduling appointments ahead of time and arriving prepared for required Service Center visits will provide flexibility and help customers save time for more enjoyable activities.”

The Registry anticipates a higher volume of students will be seeking

to secure learner’s permits during the vacation week. Customers who are requesting learner’s permits need to begin the application process with an in-person visit at an RMV Service Center location and are encouraged to complete their application online at Mass.Gov/RMV. The learner’s permit exams can then be taken online after initial application requirements have been fulfilled.

The RMV has made available a new informational online portal to provide easy access to a variety of educational resources and materials that can be used to help guide first-time drivers, and parents and guardians of Junior Operators, through the detailed step-by-step process of securing a Massachusetts driving credential. The portal can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/first-time-driver-start-here>.

Highlights of the key features of the online portal are as follows:

- Steps to Getting a Driver’s License – Information regarding the requirements for RMV learner’s permits and road tests, and links that can be used to schedule appointments.
- Parent/Guardian Information – Information regarding Driver’s Education Programs, the Parent Supervised Driving Program which provides a methodical approach to teaching requisite driving

skills, and Junior Operator License (JOL) requirements including details on certain motor vehicle citation penalties which are imposed by the Junior Operator and the Safe Operator Law.

- Safe Driving Tips – Links to educational YouTube videos that highlight MassDOT’s “Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet” campaign which addresses specific roadway safety topics such as being cognizant of pedestrians and bicyclists, mirrors and blind spots, and a “double threat” when pedestrians are crossing multiple lanes of traffic that are heading in the same direction.
- Studying for Learning’s Permits and Road Tests – Links to helpful practice exams for learner’s permit exams and the option to download the Massachusetts Driver’s Manual at no cost or purchase a hard copy of the manual which will be mailed to the customer, informational videos to become familiar with maneuvers that are evaluated during road tests, and links to specific requirements for applicants and sponsors.
- Time to Take Your Permit – Links to the learner’s permit application process, detailed instructions for taking the exam online, and alternative options that are available to take the exam.

The RMV also offers online practice learner’s permit exams which can

be accessed by customers through Mass.Gov/RMV or by logging into their myRMV account. Customers can also purchase a copy of the Massachusetts Class D (Passenger) Drivers Manual and Commercial Driver’s License Manual online using their myRMV accounts, instead of visiting a Service Center. Ordered manuals will be mailed to customers within 7-10 days of purchase.

Additional information on RMV service offerings and appointments can be found at www.Mass.Gov/RMV, including more than 40 transactions that can be conducted online, by mail, or by phone. The RMV recommends that all customers get ready online before their appointment.

Appointments for many RMV transactions can also be made at AAA customer locations if the customer is a member of AAA.

Please note that customers who are fully vaccinated are allowed to go without face coverings in RMV Service Center locations unless the city/town where the center is located has an Indoor Mask Mandate. Customers who are not yet fully vaccinated are required to wear face coverings in RMV Service Centers.

For the latest RMV updates and information, follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

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

HARBOR HOUSE COLLECTIVE DISPENSARY CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

Photos by John Lynds

Harbor House Collective began selling a wide array of cannabis products produced from the dispensary's onsite grown facility at 80 Eastern Ave.

Last Friday Harbor House Collective, owned by the Londono family, joined elected officials

and community partners in cutting the ribbon on the new cannabis facility.

The event featured a food truck, music as well as the unveiling of some new cannabis products not yet on the menu.

The business is a vertically integrated cannabis business that grows all the products they sell.



Inside the facility's cannabis cultivation area, a staff member works to cut clones from the mother plants.



Chelsea City Manager Thomas Ambrosino joins Chelsea elected officials and the Londono family, and the Harbor House Collective team on cutting the ribbon on the 80 Eastern Ave. dispensary and cannabis grow facility



Chelsea City Councilor Leo Robinson talks with Harbor House Collective staff.



Customers check out their purchase at Friday's ribbon cutting and special event.



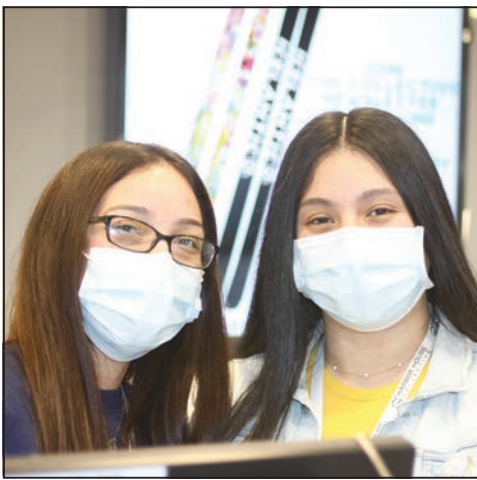
Gabriel Londono gives guests a tour of the facility.



Harbor House Collective's nautical themed lobby.



Chelsea City Councilor Todd Taylor, Miguel Londono, City Manager Thomas Ambrosino and City Solicitor Cheryl Watson.



Staff work the counter inside Harbor House Collective.



City Solicitor Cheryl Watson talks with Harbor House Collective General Manager Mike Kerwin.



A customer checks out.

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EAST BOSTON JETS 66-60 OVER ACTON-BOXBOROUGH

Roni Andujar Jr. poured in 24 points-- including a crucial basket with 1:05 left to give East Boston a 3-point cushion—and Christian Sanders added fourteen points to lead the Jets to a 66-60 win over visiting Acton-Boxborough at East Boston High on Tuesday, February 8.



SNEAK ATTACK: Acton-Boxborough's Josh Poretto sneaks a hand on the ball from behind East Boston's Christian Sanders (33).



REBOUND TUSSLE: East Boston's Sean Curtis (20) fights with Acton Boxborough's Colten Lestorte for a rebound.



PARDON MY REACH: East Boston's Daquin Hinnett reaches in on Acton Boxborough's Owen Layton.



ACCURATE COUNT: East Boston High students Jennifer Delgado (left) and Cindy Alfaro managed the official scorebook, perhaps bringing good luck to the Jets as they topped Acton Boxborough 66-60 Tuesday, February 8 at East Boston High.



FINDING A WAY: East Boston's Angel Franco has a hand in his face and Acton Boxborough's.



KEY BASKET: Roni Andujar Jr. (4) races toward a layup that gave East Boston a 63-60 lead with 65 seconds left and set the stage for the Jets 66-60 victory.



COME HERE, BALL: Christian Sanders (33) has his eyes on a rebound.



EYES ON ONE THING: East Boston's Daquin Hinnett has his defensive focus strictly on the ball.



FINGERTIP CONTROL...ALMOST: East Boston's Daquin Hinnett gets his fingertips on the ball but could not keep the play in bounds.



BASELINE BATTLE: East Boston's Leroy Martin fends off Acton Boxborough's Josh Poretto (14) and Teddy Murray (10) as they try to keep a ball in play.

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City reports Boston’s most popular dog names

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s Animal Care and Control Division reminds city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year. “Not only is licensing your pet the law, but a license is your pet’s ID and provides their fastest ticket home if they become lost,” notes Animal Care and Control Director Alexis Trzcinski. “We like to remind owners that if your dog ever gets out, the chances of being reunited are greatly increased with a license.”

In preparation for the 2022 licensing deadline, the Animal Care and Control Division analyzed licensing data from the previous year to reveal the most popular dog names of 2021.

The most popular male dog name in 2021 was Charlie with 82 registered in Boston, while Ziggy brought up the back of the pack with 27 males with that name. The top female name registered was Luna with 112 registered while 25th place went to Riley with 29 licensed. Other

male names in the top ten were Teddy, Oliver, Max, Ollie, Milo, Cooper, Toby, Rocky, and Finn. The top ten female names included Bella, Lucy, Daisy, Penny, Lola, Stella, Molly, Bailey, and Rosie.

The data also provided the most popular dog breeds registered in Boston. In 2021 the top breeds included Labrador Retriever with 1,833 registered, Golden Retriever (703), Chihuahua (442), German Shepherd (422), Beagle (345), Yorkshire Terrier (329), Miniature Poodle (307), Shih Tzu (303), Australian Shepherd (278), and Pit Bull (275). Boston Terrier came in at 143 while 25th place went to Miniature Schnauzer for the males with 75 and Pomeranian for the females with 53 registered.

All dog owners need to license their dogs by Thursday, March 31, 2022. Dogs must be licensed if they are older than six months. Owners must provide a copy of their dog’s current rabies certificate. For spayed and neutered pets, owners must submit proof of spaying or

neutering if they have not done so previously.

Licensing fees are \$15 for a neutered male or spayed female or \$30 for an intact male or female. The dog licensing fee is waived for service animals and residents age 70 and older. Owners must also pay any outstanding Animal Care and Control fines. The fine for an unlicensed dog is \$50. Please call (617) 635-5348 or email animalcontrol@boston.gov with any questions about the licensing process or to update your information in the database.

For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link to license your dog online, visit Animal Care and Control’s how-to article.

The City of Boston will also host a series of dog licensing and pet vaccine clinics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from March 5 to June 4 at seven BCYF community centers. For details, fees, and locations please visit boston.gov/animals, call (617) 635-1800.

Animal Care & Control posts photos of adoptable

pets on their social media accounts at [instagram.com/bostonanimalcontrol](https://www.instagram.com/bostonanimalcontrol), twitter.com/animalboston and [facebook.com/bostonanimal](https://www.facebook.com/bostonanimal).

Top 25 female dog names of 2021

Based on City of Boston 2021 Licensing Data

1. LUNA
2. BELLA
3. LUCY
4. DAISY
5. PENNY
6. LOLA
7. STELLA
8. MOLLY
9. BAILEY
10. ROSIE
11. MAGGIE
12. LILY
13. SADIE
14. RUBY
15. OLIVE
16. CHLOE
17. SOPHIE
18. WINNIE
19. COCO
20. WILLOW
21. PIPER
22. MILLIE
23. MAYA
24. LULU
25. RILEY

Top 25 male dog names of 2021

Based on City of Boston 2021 Licensing Data



Pumpkin reminds Boston's dog owners that March 31 is the deadline for licensing your pet.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. CHARLIE | 14. GUS |
| 2. TEDDY | 15. BUDDY |
| 3. OLIVER | 16. LEO |
| 4. MAX | 17. BREA |
| 5. OLLIE | 18. LOUIE |
| 6. MILO | 19. JACK |
| 7. COOPER | 20. ARCHIE |
| 8. TOBY | 21. BENTLEY |
| 9. ROCKY | 22. BRUNO |
| 10. FINN | 23. DUKE |
| 11. WINSTON | 24. BAXTER |
| 12. TUCKER | 25. ZIGGY |
| 13. HENRY | |

The team behind Immersive Van Gogh directs its lens to the life and work of Frida Kahlo

Lighthouse Immersive, North America’s leading producer of ground-breaking experiential art exhibits, and Maestro Immersive Art today announce its newest immersive art installation, Immersive Frida Kahlo. On the heels of its critically acclaimed blockbuster Immersive Van Gogh (now on-view in 15 cities), the Lighthouse Immersive team has set their sights on the art and life of Frida Kahlo (1907-1954), the beloved 20th century Mexican artist best known for compelling self-portraits and radiant pieces inspired by her life in her native country of Mexico.

The exhibition features some of the artist’s best-known works “brought to life” by the world-re-

nowned master of digital art, Italy’s Massimiliano Siccardi, again accompanied by composer Luca Longobardi’s resonant score. Vittorio Guidotti is the Art Director. A brilliant, bold and uncompromising painter, Kahlo’s work is globally recognized for its raw emotional vitality, vibrant color work and unflinching intimacy.

Immersive Frida Kahlo arrives in Boston at the Lighthouse ArtSpace at the Castle (130 Columbus Avenue) Thursday, February 10 through Sunday, May 8, 2022. Ticket prices start at \$39.99 with timed and flexible options available.

For more information about Immersive Frida Kahlo, visit immersive-frida.com.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BROSILOW




The Mass. Gaming Commission releases January 2022 Gross Gaming Revenue

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission reported today that the month of January 2022 at Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor generated approximately \$82 million in Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR). PPC, a category 2






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

ed to several specific state funds as determined by the gaming statute.

To date, the Commonwealth has collected approximately \$994 million in total taxes and assessments from PPC, MGM and Encore since the respective openings of each gaming facility.



REVENUE REPORT

JANUARY 2022	GROSS GAMING REVENUE		TAXES
MGM SPRINGFIELD SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	 TABLE	\$4,214,795.50	\$4,650,422.06
	 SLOTS	\$14,386,892.72	
	TOTAL	\$18,601,688.22	
ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	 TABLE	\$26,084,612.47	\$13,489,836.67
	 SLOTS	\$27,874,734.20	
	TOTAL	\$53,959,346.67	
PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO SUBJECT TO 49% TAXES	 SLOTS	\$9,842,331.07	\$4,822,742.22
	TOTAL	\$9,842,331.07	
TOTAL TAXES		\$22,963,000.95	

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Small celebrations

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

You don't need a special occasion or particular day to celebrate. Over the past two years, many of us have not done enough celebrating because our virus safety comfort levels confined us. Today, we offer you ideas for small celebrations. These may not look like your traditional idea of celebrations; however, we find these lift our spirits and make ordinary days memorable.

Joyful Rituals

Back in 2007, we resolved to toast every new month with a glass of something sparkling. This is a resolution we've kept and shared with friends. Each month we plan for the wine and food we will have to open the next month. When the times and weather allow, we invite friends and neighbors to join us on our building's roof deck and toast with us. We even made a few virtual toasts with friends over the past two years.

Canadian chef Laura Calder and her husband Peter Scowen shared their Friday night date nights on social media. They set a beautiful table, cooked a special meal, dressed up for the occasion, and launched their weekends in style. They inspired us to upgrade our take-out experiences by setting the table, plating the food carefully, pouring some wine, and eating our version of a restaurant meal together more often.

Upgrades and Special Treats

Penny bought Ed a truffle in December. With this small indulgence, he enjoyed two egg and truffle meals. This was inspired by a neighbor who sent us a truffle-themed thank you gift. Sometimes giving



For one of our small celebrations, we ordered take-out from a favorite restaurant, plated it carefully, and toasted a new month with a bottle of Bollinger Champagne.

someone else a gift can be a source of celebration for both of you.

You can also upgrade things you use all the time as a way of celebrating. We replaced our ice cube trays with an easier-to-use option and included one tray that makes round ice in the process. The old trays were still good and went right into our donation box.

We upgraded much of our kitchen equipment with the money we would have spent dining out during the pandemic. Penny also cleaned out the kitchen and passed things on to those who might enjoy them. When we had no takers, we sent them to donation centers that do good work. We have to admit that every time a box of donations leaves our home, we celebrate!

Take a Day Off

It can be a day off from work or some chore that is getting the best of you. Over the warmer months, we used outdoor dining to take many days off from cooking. When the cold ended that option, we added more take-out days to our weekly menu plan. This not only gave the resident cook a break from

cooking, but also from planning and shopping for our meals.

When we order food that reheats well or that can be quickly whipped up into a second meal, it results in two days off! And, remember, every take-out order you place helps your favorite restaurants to survive. That's another reason to celebrate as you enjoy their work.

Something Different

Just doing something different can feel celebratory. It might be breakfast for dinner or a cocktail party for two with a menu of canapes and favorite foods like shrimp cocktail. Buy a few pieces of your favorite dessert indulgences and cut them into tasting pieces for a mid-week afternoon tea.

You'll find you benefit from even small steps out of your daily routine. We'll end this with the quotation that inspired this column, "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Being alive is the special occasion."

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

OHNC meeting set for February 22

Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) Zoom meeting is on Tuesday, February 22.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., but the Zoom link will open at 6 p.m. to get acclimated. The meeting will be recorded.

Zoom meeting link: <https://bit.ly/OHNCFeb22>
Passcode: OHNC

Meeting Information and Protocol

All participants will be muted upon entry and during presentations. Questions and comments to those presenting can be asked using the chat or "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. If there is a lull in conversation you may feel free to unmute but please be considerate of others attempting to participate at the same time. All submissions submitted via the chat will be read aloud by the OHNC host. Anyone unable to use the chat feature is welcome to email questions and comments to OrientHeightsNC@gmail.com and they will be passed on to the presenters.

Attendance will be taken via a Google Form and responses will only be accepted from the start of the meeting until the end. Marking your attendance ensures your voter eligibility. Voters must have attended two out of the three regularly scheduled OHNC meetings or be an abutter to the property being voted on. The sign-in form will be posted in the Zoom chat at the beginning of the meeting and throughout.

A recording of the meeting, meeting minutes, responses to any questions not answered during the meeting, and copies of the presentation slides, if available, will be provided following the meeting via Facebook and email. Meeting recordings are always available on our

YouTube channel.

Voting: During the pandemic voting will take place online via a Google Form. Board members vet all votes to ensure that the individual is eligible as either an abutter to the property or an attendee of two out of the last three meetings. All responses are confidential and not accessible to anyone but board members for the purpose of confirming voter qualification. Once votes have been tallied all Google Form submissions for that vote are deleted.

Agenda
Announcements & General Presentations
Public Safety

Sergeant Joe Cintolo and/or Officer Tom Domenico provide an update on activity for Boston Police District A-7.

Bill Masterson with Tree Eastie presents on the canopy development initiative looking to include more green space in new developments.

Both City Councilor Candidates for District 1 speak and answer your questions.

Tania Del Rio
<https://www.delrioforboston.com/>

Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta
<https://www.gabriela-coletta.com/>

The Route 1A Project Team seeks feedback from residents about both the Route 1A Corridor study itself as well as the corridor in general. This input will help develop strategies for addressing issues on Route 1A and devise potential uses of the rail corridor along the Chelsea Creek.

Design Review Committee 2/3/2022 Meeting Recap

NOTE: 92, 96 and 104 Waldemar Avenue- a proposal to raze existing structures and erect 3 new residential structures each with 5 units and 5 parking

spaces- was rescheduled for the 3/3/2022 Design Review Committee meeting.

116 Waldemar Avenue - Combine lots and erect an 11 unit residential dwelling with 14 parking spaces.

Landscape plan: <https://bit.ly/116Wald>

Permit set: <https://bit.ly/116Wald2>

Variances Requested: use, side yard, rear yard, FAR, height, parking

Owner/Developer: Jeanne McCaldon, 617-207-1190

Attorney: Richard C. Lynds, Esq., RCLynds-esq@gmail.com

Architect: Context Development Presentations & Vote

No proposals are up for a vote this month.

Adjournment
Old Business / New Business / General Community Updates

Have news you'd like to share? Excited about a new effort in the neighborhood? Feel free to share any comments, feedback, updates, etc. during this time.

Toni Noble submitted her resignation letter to the OHNC Board with 30 days notice and will continue operating as OHNC President through the March 3rd, 2022 Design Review Committee meeting.

Should Toni remain a stakeholder in the Route 1A Corridor study and report back to the group routinely, or would folks rather another member be appointed?

The next OHNC meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.

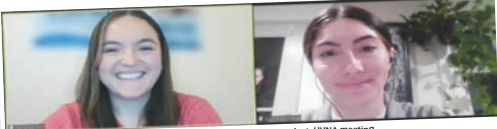
The next OHNC Design Review Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 at 6 p.m.

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Wednesday, February 9, 2022



City Council candidates Tania Del Rio and Gabriela Coletta during Monday's HVNA meeting.

District 1 City Council candidates stop by Monday's HVNA meeting

Two candidates vying for the District 1 City Council seat stopped by Monday night's Hunter View Neighborhood Association meeting to introduce themselves to the community.

First up was candidate Tania Del Rio, who recently served as the city's director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement.

"My name is Tania Del Rio. I'm a BPS mom, I'm Latina immigrant originally from Mexico City, and I'm a leader with proven results in this community and in city government," said Del Rio. "I'm running for city council, because I want to be our district's strongest voice for keeping this community together by fighting for attainable and affordable housing."

Del Rio also wants to be fighting for quality schools and environmental justice. We, as you all know, are dealing with an urgent crisis with our neighbors being pushed out as our work force leaving keeps turning into luxury condos."

Del Rio said another major issue is that families are also leaving the neighborhood and city because they feel BPS is not delivering for their children.

"All of us have to find a way to stop all of this," she said.

Del Rio said she grew up in Mexico City and spent her childhood traveling between Mexico and the United States.

Del Rio said another major issue is that families are also leaving the neighborhood and city because they feel BPS is not delivering for their children.

"All of us have to find a way to stop all of this," she said.

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Elected officials of color condemn hate directed at Mayor Wu

There's a fine line between freedom of speech and hate speech, and elected officials of color have expressed their concern during a peaceful protest and using hateful and inflammatory language to express one's views.

Since implementing the city's vaccine mandate for all indoor venues in Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu has been exposed to some vile language from a group of anti-vaxxers that have camped outside her home as well as City Hall.

One can argue the language used against the city's first Asian-American female Mayor is not to express a point of view nor a disagreement with Wu's policies but language intended to intimidate.

"To have a chance at healing and building community, we can't keep repeating this," Wu recently tweeted. "They're shouting at metaphors."

Wu was recruited by Lopez in 2017 to serve as the Health Center's Executive Director of Neighborhood PACE, which saw a 48 percent growth under his leadership.

Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, or PACE Program, has allowed

in his ability to lead this organization and continue the health center's mission in the months and years to come.

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Saturday: 8:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
The Parish office is open Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Phone: 617-560-0416 E-Mail: ortoneparish@gmail.com
Website: www.stjosephstlazarus.org

VALENTINE'S LOVELINES
PAGE 6

OBITUARIES

Rosemarie Barone

Of East Boston

Rosemarie (Ruvido) Barone, 84, of East Boston, formerly of the North End, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 11.

The devoted mother of Michael J. Barone of East Boston, Stephen A. Barone of Revere, Donna Gorman of Hudson and the late Maureen Barone, she was the former wife of the late A. Joseph Barone, dear sister of Joseph Ruvido of Braintree and predeceased by five brothers and three sisters; cherished grandmother of Michelle, James, Stephen A. Jr. and Cristina Barone, and Jenny, Katie, and Jodie Gorman; treasured great-grandmother of eight great-grandchildren and also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Rosemarie's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home,



971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Saturday, February 19 from 8 to 10 a.m. before leaving in procession to the Most Holy Redeemer Parish, East Boston for a Funeral Mass celebrating Rosemarie's life at 10:30 a.m. Services will conclude with Rosemarie being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Rosemarie's name to a charity of your choice. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Rosemarie Addivinola

Of Everett

Rosemarie (Pepper) Addivinola of Everett died on February 9.

The beloved wife of Anthony Addivinola, she was the loving mother of Joseph Hickey and his wife, June, Ronald Hickey and his girlfriend, Lorena, Sandra Hickey, Pamela and her husband, Orazio De Luca and Samantha Addivinola; sister of Betty Pepper, Frankie and his wife, Michelle Pepper, Warren Pepper and the late Leonard Pepper and his wife, Jackie; grandmother of eight and great grandmother of one. Rosemarie is also survived by a very close friend, Valerie Sheppard and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



Funeral from the Salvatore Rocco & Sons Funeral Home, 331 Main Street, Everett at 11 a.m. today, Wednesday February 16 in the funeral home. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Robert Russo

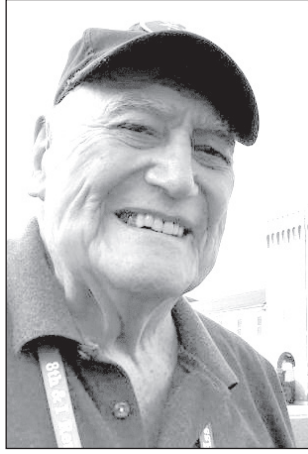
Retired Mass. State Police Trooper one time head of security for the rock band KISS

Robert J. Russo of East Boston passed away on February 11. He was 90 years old.

Robert was the beloved husband of the late Joan G. (Connolly) Russo.

Born in Boston, Robert was the cherished son of the late Rocco and Albina (Graziano) Russo and a Korean War veteran serving in the USMC. Prior to his retirement, Robert was Massachusetts State Police Trooper who enjoyed working in carpentry and painting with water colors. He loved watching the New England Sports Teams with his family. Robert always looked forward to his next tri-annual trip to Washington D.C. for his Marine Corps reunion. After retirement, he worked in the security industry and was a one time head of security for the rock band KISS.

Robert was the devoted father of Michael C. Russo and his partner, Elisabeth Axtell of East Boston. He was the dear brother of the late Eleanor Merullo, Mary Nazarro, Anna



Gavegnano and Pauline M. Russo; brother-in-law of John Domenico and the late Barbara Domenico of Winthrop.

Robert's funeral was held on Tuesday, February 15 in St Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, East Boston. Cremation was private.

Donations in his memory can be made to the S.P.A.M Benevolent Fund Scholarship Program, 11 Beacon Street, Ste. 700, 7th Floor Boston, MA. 02108.

Funeral arrangements were from the Maurice W. Kirby Funeral Home 210 Winthrop St. Winthrop. For guestbook, please visit: www.maureicekirbyfh.com.

Frank Martone

He was kind, generous, always helping and will be greatly missed.

Frank B. Martone of East Boston died on February 1.

The beloved son of the late Mary (Sarnacchiaro) and Joseph A.

Martone Sr., he was the loving brother of Dorothy D'Addario and her husband, Rudy of Saugus and the late Joan F. Martone, Joseph A. Jr. and his late wife, Paula, Anthony J., and Louis R. and his wife, Annette Martone. Frank is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Frank was born in Charlestown and raised in East Boston. Early life saw him as an altar boy, attending Catholic School, Trade School and then being drafted into World War II. After the war, he held several jobs until settling into the automotive parts industry and he worked until his late retirement.

Even at the age of 94.5, Frank was fiercely independent – still shopping, doing his own laundry, cooking his own food (although he loved the occasional take out from Meridian Market), and paying his own bills. He made a walk to the Maverick Dunkins every morning to get coffee, donuts for him and the birds and a Boston Herald newspaper. He enjoyed the local green spaces, sitting on the benches, watching wildlife, the waterfront, and talking to friends and family every day.

He was fond of every-



one in his building – all his neighbors, office staff, and maintenance crew. You could always find him sitting by the hallway window doing the newspaper's daily crossword puzzle. His mind was sharp and he had a creative streak – starting with musical friends in the early days and ending with many items he handmade of wood.

He was ever present at family gatherings and celebrations and we were fortunate that the pandemic lifted just slightly enough in recent months to allow a few final moments together. Many knew him. He was kind, generous, always helping, and he will be greatly missed.

Due to the COVID pandemic, private Graveside Services with Military Honors were held for the immediate family in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. Please leave messages of condolence for the family on his Tribute Page at MagrathFuneralHome.com.

Donations in his memory to any Veterans Organization would be appreciated.

MBTA hosting multiple public forums for feedback

MBTA staff proposed to the Audit and Finance Subcommittee of the MBTA Board several fare policy changes as part of the MBTA's Fare Transformation, which aims to make paying for transit easier and more convenient for our customers.

"These fare media updates will provide MBTA riders with greater flexibility through the introduction of 'tappable' forms of payment that are compatible with future fare readers on buses and trolleys, allowing for all-door boarding and, ultimately, for faster service," said MBTA General Manager Steve Pofatak. "We know some changes will take time to get used to, like the \$3 card fee that allows for 'one more trip protection' and making sure every rider has a Charlie Card or other form of fare payment. But, if approved by the MBTA's Board in April, we're excited to make these important improvements to our fare system and to provide even more easy-to-use fare options to our riders."

Upon completion of the public input process in March and subject to the MBTA Board approval in April, these policy changes would go into effect with the introduction of the MBTA's next phases of Fare Transformation.

The MBTA is actively seeking public comment through multiple forums and channels on the following fare policy changes related to the upcoming fare media:

- Ending "Passback": Currently allowed through the legacy fare system, the same CharlieCard or CharlieTicket loaded with fare value can be used to allow multiple riders through a fare gate. The MBTA refers to this practice as a "passback." In order to have "proof of payment," introduce mobile and contactless payments, and integrate the Commuter Rail

without creating pricing errors, "passbacks" will be discontinued.

- Fare Media per Rider: Customers aged 12 and older will need to have their own fare media to ensure riders do not experience unexpected duplicate charges at fare gates and on fare readers as well as for riders to be able to provide proof of payment.

- \$3 Fare Media Fee and Free Card Distribution: There will be a \$3 card cost for most new fare media issued by the MBTA. The MBTA recognizes that the cost for fare media may be a burden for some riders and is currently developing a plan to distribute free Charlie Cards to minority and low-income communities through partner organizations. Cards will continue to be free to Reduced Fare Riders and for all riders purchasing a 1-Day Link Pass on a new Charlie Card.

- "One more trip" Protection on Charlie Cards: The upcoming fare media will allow riders to board with low/zero balance to improve convenience and avoid leaving riders stranded.

The MBTA welcomes and invites the public to provide feedback on these proposed updates and changes at a virtual public meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 15, at 6 PM and at the official public hearing to be held virtually on Tuesday, March 22, at 6 PM. For specific details to access these virtual meetings and/or to submit direct comments regarding these proposed updates and changes, please email publicengagement@mbta.com. The public may submit comments through Thursday, March 31, 2022.

For more information about Fare Transformation, please visit mbta.com/FareTransformation or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU21C0561CA

In the matter of: Brendan Steven Bingman A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Brendan Steven Bingham of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Brendan Steven Portanova

IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at:Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 10, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

DOCKET NUMBER: SU20D0769DR

Elizabeth Henao Plaintiff

VS. Edgar Builes Defendant

To the Defendant: Then Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are summoned and required to serve upon: Steve Gutherz, Esq. 678 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 904 Cambridge, MA 02139 your answer, if any, on or before 03/31/2022. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 1, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

2/16/22 EB

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU22C0001CA

In the matter of: Hisham Ahmed Ali Hassan A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Hisham Ahmed Ali Hassan of East Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Hisham Ali Hassan Sinclair

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at:Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/01/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 10, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

2/16/22 EB

OBITUARIES

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Baker-Polito Administration outlines bipartisan infrastructure law funding plans

The Baker-Polito Administration outlined initial plans to make significant and additional investments into roads, bridges, public transportation and environmental infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth with funding from the recently passed federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides made the announcement today near the Rourke Bridge in Lowell, which the Administration committed to advancing and funding the replacement of with the additional resources made available within the BIL. With an anticipated cost of approximately \$170 million, the Rourke Bridge will be funded as part of an anticipated \$3 billion bridge program to be implemented over the next five years using a combination of BIL funding and the Commonwealth's Next Generation Bridge Program. As part of today's announcement, the Administration released a list of 146 bridge projects, representing 181 individual structures, to be funded as part of that program.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will deliver billions in funding to the Commonwealth, helping to build on the investments our Administration has made over the past 7 years to improve our roads and bridges, and make our public transportation system more reliable and resilient," said Governor Charlie Baker. "We are grateful for the efforts of the congressional delegation to secure this funding for Massachusetts and look forward to work-

ing with them and our local partners to deliver critical projects across the Commonwealth."

"Thank you to the members of the delegation for advocating for this important funding," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "The funding from the BIL will fund hundreds of bridge and road projects across the Commonwealth, delivering important upgrades to our communities."

"Significant investments are going to be made in transportation infrastructure thanks to both reauthorized and increased federal funding within the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and these investments will be transformational," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler. "I want to thank members of the Congressional delegation for delivering this new funding and express appreciation to state legislators, municipal leaders, planning organizations, and stakeholders who will partner with us to advance the Baker-Polito Administration's FY 2023 budget, advance the Transportation Bond Bill to be filed soon, and support MassDOT as we identify and scope projects which can be accelerated."

"Since coming into office in 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has taken significant steps in addressing the Commonwealth's aging infrastructure, including enhancing its transportation network and modernizing municipal water and sewer systems," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "Massachusetts' portion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will further our own efforts, and we thank our federal partners for working to deliver these

significant funds that will have an immediate impact in every region of the state."

Over five years, the BIL will deliver approximately \$9.5 billion in total funding to the Commonwealth including \$5.4 billion in highway formula funds, \$2.2 billion in MBTA formula funds and \$591 million in Regional Transit Authority (RTA) formula funds, as well as \$1.4 billion in both formula and discretionary funds for environmental work.

The new law will also allow all 50 states to compete for a portion of an additional \$110 billion through various discretionary transportation funding, creating multi-pronged opportunities to help finance and advance both locally-significant and major projects like the federally owned Cape Cod Bridges and the Allston I-90 Multimodal Project. MassDOT has begun preparations to work with its local partners and compete for every dollar possible as federal guidance for these programs becomes available.

Federal funding, both formula and discretionary, requires state matching funds and the increased amounts provided by the BIL will require additional state resources, which the Administration has committed to begin seeking with the filing of a new Transportation Bond Bill in the coming weeks.

The Baker-Polito Administration's Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal also includes \$3.4 million dollars to further bolster MassDOT's internal resources and efforts to implement and ramp up both new and existing programs authorized within BIL and to accommodate execution of projects.

DEAN'S LIST HONORS ANNOUNCED AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the Fall 2021 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Ali Haddi of East Bos-

ton Class of 2023

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in

a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

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CAPTAIN JACE WAI IS A SUPERSTAR FOR THE AQUAJETS

The East Boston HS swim team just completed their '21-'22 season and captain Jace Wai was the Swiss Army Knife for the AquaJets. Coach Dave Arinella commented "Jace was the most versatile swimmer in the league this year. She swam butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and swam on relays. She was a force all year and was a true example of a team captain. Jace was the second fastest female swimmer in the city championship this year and never complained about her increased and difficult workload. Eastie had a very large team this year although its numbers declined a bit due to Covid-19. Jace acted as an assistant coach and made the great number of new swimmers feel comfortable in the pool."

As usual Eastie's competition was a formidable group of Division 1 opponents. The AquaJets were without a home pool for the second straight season as Paris St. pool gets refurbished. Coach Arinella added, "Five of our meets were within eight points, that can be made up in just one event. Assistant Coach John Hall is such a valuable asset to our team. He has the same fierceness as when I was coaching him at Eastie. The AquaJets future is very promising as we have so many talented 7th and 9th graders who came out for the team.



The Silver Medal 200 Yard Medley Relay Team: (L-R) Captain Jace Wai, Captain Jared Pacita, Captain Jhoneider Herrera, and Tania Tabares Catano.



Captains Jace Wai (right) and Captain Jhoneider Herrera celebrate their 200 Yard Individual Medley success.



The East Boston High School swim team and coaches.

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