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Wednesday, February 16, 2022



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

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-

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

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

The rink is a Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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

Due to the President's Day Holiday on Monday February 21, 2022 Trash will be delayed by one day

Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

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

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781-485-0588 385 Broadway, Revere MA | Citizens Bank Building 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 & 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 is-

lands 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-



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 BostonProject Advisory (PierPAC). Committee 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 Pier-PAC 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 Kleindfelder 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.

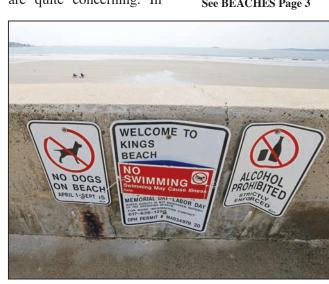
"In my district of East Boston, I'm blessed to represent an incredibly vibrant community and immigrant community and our diversity is our point of pride," said Madaro. I am fortunate to represent so many people of different ethnic backgrounds and perspectives. About 50% of our community is foreign born 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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Berkshire Roots looks to add medical cannabis to its adult use dispensary on Meridian

East Boston's first adult use dispensary is looking to add medical marijuana to its menu and expand its

At a Boston Cannabis Board hearing last week, Berkshire Roots CEO James Winokur said the dispensary at 253 Meridian St. has been successfully operating as an adult use facility since 2020 but would like to provide for the area's growing medical marijuana community.

Winokur said Berkshire Roots is also looking for permission from the Board to expand their hours to be more reflective of some of the other dispensaries in Eastie and neighboring towns. As of now the dispensary's hours are Monday through Saturday 9am to 7pm and Sunday 11am to 6pm.

Winokur said Berkshire

Roots is proposing expanding the hours Monday through Saturday 10am to 9pm and Sunday 10 am to

"There are two requests for changes here," said Winokur at the hearing. "One is to add medical cannabis and the other is to expand our store hours. We're asking to open one hour later at 10am and extend the evening hours till 9pm. On Sundays we currently open at 11am and close at 6pm. We'd like to open an hour earlier at 10am on Sundays and close at 7pm."

Winokur said would give Berkshire Roots a consistent opening time of 10am each day but will still close earlier on Sunday.

"These hours do match pretty well with the adultuse cannabis stores in the area," said Winokur. "The top four, Happy Valley,

Ascend, Pure Oasis and Seed all have adult use and similar store hours that we are proposing. We do find that customers are interested in those evening hours and have expressed that to us."

The second request, said Winokur, is to add medical cannabis that involves approval from the state's Cannabis Control Commission.

"So this is a first step for us going through the Cannabis Control Commission process," said Winokur. "Berkshire Roots also operates out in Pittsfield. We've been co-located there with adult use and medical cannabis for quite a while now so we have good experience doing it. We are highly interested in medical as part of the cannabis community. I personally am on a board that is for physicians in the medical community

to advocate for medical cannabis. In fact, we have a letter from Dr. Jordan Kessler, who's a "cannabis recommender" in Boston and has a physician practice in East Boston. He currently has patients in East Boston as a cannabis recommender and we agree that it's important to the community to be able to service those who are within walking distance to the store."

ally is no other alternative for medical cannabis patients and adding medical marijuana to Berkshire Roots would improve patient access.

Winokur said there re-

Winokur also presented a letter of non-opposition from Rep. Adrian Madaro on Berkshire Root's plans.

"He wrote that he does not see a medical license having any additional impact on the surrounding community and that he has not heard significant opposition from the neighborhood regarding this is-

sue," said Winokur. One member of the board asked Winokur how medical patients are serviced differently from adult-use customers.

"So under the state regulations through Cannabis Control Commission, medical patients do not pay sales tax and they have products available to them that recreational customers don't with certain limits on what we can provide recreational customers", Winokur explained.

It was also announced that Berkshire Roots has tabled its application to partner with a cannabis delivery service that would bring marijuana products right to customers' front door.

The Boston Cannabis Board approved the first "Delivery Operator License" for cannabis delivery within the city limits. The license was granted to local social equity company, Zip Run, at the BCB's Dec. 15 Board meeting.

Zip Run was set to partner with Berkshire Roots and would have become the state's first-ever recreational cannabis "delivery-only" retailer.

Wu announces budget listening tour

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Budget Management (OBM) announced a series of listening sessions in partnership with the Boston City Council to both educate residents and solicit public feedback on the FY2023 Operating Budget and FY23-27 Capital Plan, ahead of the Mayor submitting each to the City Council. At the sessions, OBM will outline the budget process and highlight changes made through the recent ballot initiative vote. Through its passage, it alters the City Council's role in approving the budget and calls for the creation of a participatory budgeting model. The City will solicit public feedback to inform the annual budget, federal recovery funding from the American Rescue Plan,

budgeting model. "This came about after the leadership of community partners, along with City Councilors, to assure the City Council would have a larger partnership in ensuring our City's dollars are equitably allocated according to the needs, interests and visions of our residents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The community listening sessions represent an opening up of the process to residents

and the new participatory

from the very beginning." "It is critical that we develop a budget for the City of Boston that addresses our long-standing needs, such as housing affordability and stability, public health, public and pedestrian safety, climate resiliency and sustainability, and equitable access to city services," said Boston City Council President Ed Flynn. "Thank you to Mayor Wu and her team for working with the City Council and providing this opportunity for neighbors to offer feedback on the best use of taxpayer dollars that will continue to help move us forward in Boston's economic recov-

"With great enthusiasm, I look forward to the commencement of the Budget Listening Sessions on the horizon," said Boston City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair of the Council's Committee on Ways and Means. "These sessions offer our city an opportunity to help inform, through the power of the purse, what policies we want to pursue and community enterprises we want to platform. I look forward, as Ways and Means Chair, in playing an integral role in the decision making processes that will distribute our city's resources in an equitable and progressive

manner." The budget is the most direct way the City of Boston invests in its residents' quality of life. Community engagement ensures that the City is spending its resources equitably and that the process is accessible for residents. Each listening session will be dedicated to collecting the public's input, including through a survey.

"It is crucial that we educate constituents about the City of Boston's budget and the process in which these resources are allocated," said Chief of Community Engagement

Brianna Millor. "Engaging our constituents empowers them to vocalize their needs and ensure that their City is working to address them."

"OBM looks forward to sharing information on the annual budget process and welcomes collaboration with the Boston City Council and the residents of Boston to establish budget priorities for the next fiscal year," said Budget Director Jim Williamson.

Residents are encouraged to share feedback at one of four virtual listening sessions, organized by City Council district:

- Saturday, February 19, 2022, 1 - 2pm | Districts 1,
- Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 6 - 7pm | Districts 2, 7, 9
- Friday, February 25, 2022,10 - 11am | Councilors-At-Large

The Mayor will submit the recommended budget to the City Council on April 13. A series of Council hearings will follow in May-June. The Council will vote to adopt, reject, amend, or reduce the Operating Budget by June 8, and the budget will be resubmitted by June 15. The new Fiscal Year starts

Interpretation services can be requested for the Zoom listening sessions upon registration. CART will be provided on February 15, 19, and 23. Feedback can be submitted in any language through the survey at bit.ly/3myT0LG, at the listening sessions, or by calling 311. For more information on how to participate, visit boston. gov/budget.

The United States Holo-

caust Memorial Museum

will present a live virtual

program for New England

residents on Wednesday,

March 9, from noon to 1

p.m., as part of its ongoing

efforts to rescue the evi-

Museum Council Mem-

As event chair, former

dence of the Holocaust.

The East Boston Chamtonchamber to enter in a ber of Commerce will be raffle for a free US flag like those found in the displacing a display of Amerplay.

ican flags to commemorate the upcoming President's Day on Monday, February winner on the East Boston Chamber of Commerce 21 at the Daniel H Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street.

President's Day is a celebration of United States' Presidents. It is a day to remember the founding of our nation. Please note that the flags are for display purposes. If anyone wishes to obtain a flag, please feel free to contact the Chamber at eastbostonchamber.com to purchase a flag. You can take a selfie of yourself or others with the flag display and post it on social media with the hashtag #eastbosWe will announce the

East Boston Chamber commemorates President's Day

Facebook Page. La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston conmemora el Día del Presi-

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston colocará una exhibición de banderas estadounidenses para conmemorar el próximo Día del Presidente el lunes 21 de febrero, 2022 en Daniel H. Solari Square, frente a la oficina de la Cámara de Comercio en el 464 Bremen Street en East Boston.

El Día del Presidente es un día para recordar la

fundación de nuestra nación. Tenga en cuenta que las banderas son para fines de exhibición. Si alguien desea comprar una bandera, póngase en contacto con la Cámara de Comercio por medio de la página oficial en eastbostonchamber.com.

Para participar en un sorteo de una bandera estadounidense tómese una selfie solo o con otras personas en donde se encuentran las banderas en exhibición y publicarlas en las redes sociales con el hashtag #eastbostoncham-

Anunciaremos al ganador en la página de Facebook de la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston.

Skating // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recreation in a clean, safe, and well maintained facil-

If you do end up checking out public skating at the rink you can also learn about the variety of programs FMC offers for all ages and abilities.

In fact, registration is now open for FMC's Learn to Skate Spring Session. Classes start February 28th and schedules vary for the Spring Session due to seasonal arena schedules.

If you do decide to head

to the rink this vacation please be advised that there is a mask mandate currently in place requiring all skaters and spectators to wear a face covering at all times when in the

Trees // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing to focus on Maverick and Central Square and then Jeffries Point. We have just received, along with Speak for the Trees, a large grant from Delta Airlines." Masterson said that

money will be used to plant 40 new street trees across these areas.

"Again, we will focus on those high heat island areas," he said.

Tree Eastie also plans to plant more fruit trees at the Rockies in Jeffries Point across from Piers

"We've developed a really cool relationship with Eastie Farm to be able to take the harvest from those trees, which include apple trees, peach trees, pear trees, cherry trees and mulberry, and put those fruits back into the community through Eastie Farm," said Masterson. "This is done through distributing the food to folks that need it as well as putting it into the Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that they've established."

In the end Masterson, all the efforts of Tree Eastie and community volunteers will result in a healthier Eastie.

"In addition to not having enough trees in East

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum encourages New

facility. Boston, which provide shade through the canopy, we have several heat islands," said Masterson. "These areas of the community heat up during those hot summer days. The asphalt heats and the temperature of the asphalt doesn't have a chance to

be able to cool because

there's no trees around. So

in terms of the benefits of

trees, and what advantag-

es they provide us in addi-

tion to reducing stress and

noise and air pollution,

they cool off the streets.

They also filter stormwa-

ter, increase property val-

ues and add beauty to the

neighborhood."

Why have some communities not been a part of medical research?

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(617) 768-8300

*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.

All of Us and the All of Us logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL BOSTON MEDICAL

ber Michael P. Ross will provide introductory remarks. A former Boston City Councilor, Ross is the son of the late Stephan Ross, who survived 10 concentration camps and was liberated by American soldiers at Dachau.

"Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic,

the Museum is in a race against time to collect Holocaust artifacts and oral testimonies," Ross said. "The Museum is now focusing its efforts within the New England region and is offering specialized one-on-one appointments for people interested in donating artifacts or researching their family history." During the March 9

program entitled "Preserving Holocaust History: Collecting Artifacts

and Researching Fates," the following presentations will be made: • Fred Wasserman, ac-

quisitions curator of the

Museum's National Insti-

tute for Holocaust Documentation, will explain the Museum's rigorous process for reviewing, acquiring, and conserving Holocaust artifacts, such as photos, letters, diaries, films, testimonies, and other objects that document the Holocaust, enabling the Museum to teach this history with authenticity and relevance to every new generation.

• Diane Afoumado, chief of the Museum's Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center, will explain the process of

Immediately

conducting personalized research on family history during the Holocaust.

follow-

England residents to donate Holocaust-era artifacts ing the March 9 program, the Museum will offer participants the opportunity to schedule personal appointments to discuss donating artifacts to the Museum, contributing oral testimony, or requesting assistance researching family fates. To RSVP for this free program, advance regis-

tration is required: ushmm.org/events/ new-england-collections

For more information

on the program, interested participants may contact the Museum's Northeast Regional Office at northeastoutreach@ushmm.

Beaches // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gual giving all the ability to read and understand the important information being shared. There's a lot of work to make sure our public spaces, including our public beaches within the Commonwealth, reflect that all belong and all deserve access. Eliminating language barriers and ensuring language access at our beaches would be one major step in the right direction."

The Department of Conservation and Recreation will begin deploying multilingual signs "across our system, including of course, on all the Metropolitan beaches" beginning in 2022.

"Overcoming language barriers is a key issue," said Executive Director of Save the Harbor/ Save the Bay Chris Mancini. "If we don't have diversity in programs and signage on our beaches, folks will be forced to be spectators when they should be involved, active participants."

At the hearing participants heard presentations on current and best practices for multilingual signage and websites. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Policy Intern Caroline Adamson made a presentation about using QR codes on beach signage as one easy way to connect people to the multilingual resources they need. QR codes are already in use on signs at Revere Beach and elsewhere.



Rep. Adrian Madaro testifies.

"Of the 250 signs we looked at across our Massachusetts coast, just four of them were in languages other than English," said Director of Strategy and Communications of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay-Bruce Berman. "That's simply not good enough."

Late last spring, the Commission decided to focus attention on ways to increase diversity, equity and inclusion on the Metropolitan Region's public beaches, to improve access for people of color, people with disabilities, and people who may not speak English as their primary language. Last May, the Beach Commission heard from a diverse group of civic leaders and community members about ways in which we could increase diversity on the beaches and in our beach programming.

In November, Beach Commission focused on ways to increase and improve access for people with disabilities on

the Metropolitan Region's public beaches. The most recent hearing focused on ways to overcome language barriers that prevent people from safely enjoying their beaches. "We are focused on

having our areas accessible and safe," said Acting DCR Commissioner Stephanie Cooper. "We also need to have signage and information that provides people with the rules and regulations. What are the amenities? What do I need to know to enjoy the beach and be safe?" Cooper underscored the importance of the use of QR codes, observing that, "Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's presentation highlighted some of where we are headed and some of the progress we still need to make. The great thing about a QR code is that you can provide a lot of information in all the languages that you want. Our plan is to use QR codes this year."



The group of attendees at last week's Metropolitan Beach Commission hearing.

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Gabriela Coletta, candidate for City Council District 1, endorsed by OPEIU Local 453

Gabriela Coletta, candidate for Boston City Councilor District One, announced the endorsement of OPEIU Local 453, the second largest union at the MBTA and the only one in all 34 departments. Preliminary Election Day is April 5, 2022. General Election Day is May 3,

"These are difficult times for the citizens of Boston dealing with COVID-19, change in the Boston school system, and costs rising for consumer goods and housing," said Timothy Lasker, President/Business

Manager of OPEIU Local 453. "It is critical to have someone with Gabriela Coletta's experience on the City Council. OPEIU Local 453 supports her candidacy knowing she will implement progressive and equitable solutions that will affect all of Boston in a positive way."

"I am humbled by the support of the dedicated public servants of OPEIU Local 453," said Coletta. "They have been on the front lines of the pandemic, ensuring that working people have a safe, accessible transportation system. I'm grateful for their work and would be proud to work alongside them as a member of the Boston City Council."

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.

Coletta 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.

To learn more visit about gabrielacoletta.com, Facebook at @GigiforDistrictOne, and Twitter @Gigi4District1. Please gigi4district1.us/ events to sign up and learn more about ways to get in-

About Gabriela: Gabriela Coletta has dedicated her entire life working in service to others and empowering her neighbors to

become involved in local democracy. She's currently the External Relations Manager at the New England Aquarium where she advocates for a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible waterfront for all Bostonians. Gabriela brought her passion for public service in her role as Chief of Staff to Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards. She centered and amplified the lived experiences of those systemically overlooked in every policy discussion, constituent case, and civic engagement initiative. For more information, please visit https://www.gabriel-

acoletta.com/about. About OPEIU Local 453: OPEIU Local 453 is the original management union representing a segment of the employees of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Bay Authority. Representing over 400 of the Authority's employees from nearly every department across the "T". For more information, please visit http:// www.opeiu453.org/index.

Eastie's weekly COVID positive test decreases

By John Lynds

Last week Gov. Charlie Baker announced the state will lift the mask mandate for students and teachers on February 28 but will give power to local school districts on whether or not they decide to lift mask wearing inside the class-

"Given the low extremely low risk for young people, the widespread availability and the proven effectiveness of vaccines and the distribution of accurate test protocols and tests, it is time to give our kids a sense of normalcy and lift the mask mandate on a statewide basis for schools," said Baker at a press conference last

Baker added that school districts no longer need to request a waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to remove masks in school buildings where 80% of staff and students are vaccinated.

Following the nouncement Boston Mayor Michelle Wu said Boston Public Schools will keep mask wearing in place for now until the city's weekly infection rate drops below 5%; if

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less than 95% of adult ICU beds are occupied; and if there are less than 200 daily COVID hospitalizations in Boston. Boston is already below one of the metrics, with 91.3% of ICU beds occupied. Both the citywide

weekly positive test rate and East Boston's weekly positive test rate decreased last week, which is a good sign that students may be getting close to a maskless school for the first time in over a year.

According to the Boston Public Health Commission 15,795 residents were tested citywide last week and 6.9 percent were COVID positive--this was a 35 percent decrease from the 10.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on February 7. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 66 percent in Boston since January 31.

A little over a month ago nearly 4 out of every 10 Eastie residents tested for the virus turned out to be positive but last week only 1 out of every 10 Eastie residents tested were positive.

Last week, 953 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 10.1 percent were posi-

tive--this was a 21 percent decrease from the 12.8 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on January 31. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 51 percent in Eastie since January 31.

Ninety six additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between February 7 and February 14 and there are now 14.083 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased percent last week and went from 161,136 cases to 162,683 confirmed cases in a week.

There were 22 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,678. Deaths decreased 31 percent in Boston last week-10 less than the 32 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

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East Boston

Times-Free Press

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EDITOR:: Cary Shuman

PUBLISHER EMERITUS: John A. Torrone

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 pan-

demic -- 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

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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Forum

Parks Department hosts Feb. vacation week activities The Carter Playground

Children, parents, and caregivers are invited to ioin 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. Online registration and more information on all these free family activities can be found at boston.gov/ 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. 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.

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 ! Democratic Committee, Brian Gannon, said the delegates elected at caucus will go on to the Democratic State Convention "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 opportunities 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 con-

vention 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 appointments schedule 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. are requesting learner's 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 athttps://www. mass.gov/guides/firsttime-driver-start-here.

Highlights of the key features of the online portal are as follows: 1. 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 appoint-2. Parent/Guardian In-

formation – 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) require-Customers who ments including details on certain motor vehicle permits need to begin the citation penalties which application process with are imposed by the Junior Operator and the Safe Op erator Law.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 pur-

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 up-

dates 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

Boston to offer residents weekend curbside textile collection

Building on the success of the neighborhood textile dropbox program, Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston will begin offering weekend curbside collection of household textiles at no cost to residents. The Boston Public Works Department has again partnered with Northeast textile recycling company, Helpsy, which will coordinate pick-ups across the

"Bringing a curbside textile recycling program to Boston is an important step towards making waste reduction practices equitable and accessible for all our residents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "By empowering our residents to take bold action against climate change and finding innovative and convenient ways to recycle, we're creating a cleaner, more sustainable city for future generations to come."

Residents looking to schedule a pick-up can simply fill-out an online request form at boston. gov/textiles. Once a date is scheduled and confirmed, household textiles should be left on the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled pick-up day. Textiles should be clean, dry, and properly bagged to allow for a quick pick-up for Helpsy drivers. Acceptable textile items include dresses, shirts, pants, suits, coats, towels, bedding, costumes, curtains, placements, tablecloths and throw rugs. Items that will not be accepted include breakable houseware or glass, electronics, furniture, construction materiel, scrap metal, appliances, mattresses, books or magazines.

Once household tex-

tiles are collected, sorted and graded, 95 percent will be reused, upcycled, or recycled. The higher grades are resold to thrift stores in North America and other second hand markets around the world. The lower grades get turned into rags for industrial use or alternative functions like stuffing or insulation. In just the last year, Helpsy has collected and processed over 30 million pounds of textiles from the Northeast region. Of that, 5 million pounds were generated from the Greater Boston area. "The City of Boston is

always looking for new and creative ways to expand recycling services to our residents," stated Superintendent of Waste Reduction, Brian Coughlin. "We not only want to provide convenient programs that work for everyone, but also educate residents on why and how these programs will assist in our ultimate goal of becoming a zero waste city."

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, textile waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the United States, occupying nearly 5 percent of all landfill space. As a country, the U.S. throws away 36 billion pounds of textiles each year, nearly 100 pounds per person. Of those discarded textiles, currently only 15 percent is recycled, whereas 95 percent could be.

Along with weekend curbside collection, residents can also drop off their textiles at 30 dropbox locations across the city. Dropboxes are located at city owned municipal lots, as well as Boston Public School and Boston Housing Authority locations. You can find a full list of locations and accepted items here. The City of Boston

continues to encourage residents to utilize tools like the City's free "Trash Day" app. The app enables Boston residents to search a directory of hundreds of household items to find out the right way to dispose of them while on the go or at home. App users can also view a calendar for their home's collection dates, set reminders, and get notifications of schedule changes to service. Boston residents can also safely dispose of hazardous waste, shred unwanted documents, discard textiles and recycle electronics for free at a series of Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off events. These programs build

on Boston's Zero Waste Plan, which includes 30 near- and long-term strategies to divert at least 80 percent of the City's waste from landfills and municipal solid waste combustors by 2035. Key pieces of the plan include expanding Boston's composting program, increasing access to recycling opportunities and launching a city-wide education campaign on recycling. Greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal is equivalent to approximately six percent of Boston's overall emissions. By reducing waste, recycling more, and composting, Boston can reduce emissions associated with waste and move one step closer to its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, outlined in the City's 2019 Climate Action Plan up-While reducing emis-

sions, the City is working to prepare for sea level rise and the impacts of climate change. Climate Ready Boston is the City's initiative to prepare for the short and long term impacts of climate change. In addition to citywide climate resilience plans, the City has created neighborhood-level coastal resilience plans for areas most vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal storms, including East Boston, Charles-South Boston, town, North End, Downtown, and Dorchester.

This expansion reinforces the Wu Administration's commitment to a Boston Green New Deal and creating sustainable recycling and waste disposal resources. Additionally, Mayor Wu signed an ordinance to divest City-funds from the fossil fuel, tobacco, and private prison industries. Mayor Wu also announced new, lower community choice electricity rates and outlined steps to reduce vehicle emissions and electrify the City fleet. Mayor Wu additionally announced the launch of the twoyear fare-free program on MBTA bus Routes 23, 28, and 29 on March 1, 2022.

News in Brief

FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION **WEEK 2022 PROGRAMS** The Department of

Conservation and Recreation have are holding several events at local beaches and at the Belle Isle Marsh. All Programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Dress for the weather including possible ice on the ground. For more information call (781) 656-1485 or email matthew. nash@mass.gov

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

Location: DCR's Belle Isle Marsh Reservation parking lot, 1399 Bennington Street, East Bos-

Saturday, February 19 An OASIS FOR BIRDS 7:30-8:30 am

Explore DCR's Belle Isle Marsh & vicinity. which are known birding hotspots with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will travel on foot on easy level terrain in search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle. Appropriate for Adults and Teens. Co-sponsored by Brookline Bird Club and the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. Note that this program meets every month of the year on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month except when occurring on State or National Holi-

Wednesday, February 23 and Friday February 25 Winter Wildlife Detec-

1:00-2:00 pm & 2:15-3:15 pm

Can you imagine living outside the entire winter like the coyotes do at Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston? Join a DCR Park Interpreter as we explore the trails of the Marsh searching for signs (tracks, scat and chews) left by the wild creatures that are active during the winter. Appropriate for all ages. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh.

> **Revere Beach** Reservation Meet Location:

DCR's Revere Beach Reservation on the lawn and nearby beach at Eliot Circle. On the day of the event, look for the lawn signs "DCR Public program today. All are welcome."

Thursday February 24 Saturday Feb 26 Winter Beach Safari 10:00-10:45 am & 2:00-

2:45 pm Did you know that razor clams can rapidly burrow deeper into the sand when disturbed by predators? Join us to learn about the fascinating lives of animals of the seashore and to discover the new treasures of animal shells

that have washed up on

the beach. Appropriate for

all ages.

MASK MANDATE FOR PUBLIC **MASSES TO** BE LIFTED ON **FEBRUARY 28**

masks will no longer be required at public Masses in the Archdiocese of Bos-

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are no longer required to wear masks during the distribu-

required in Parish Faith

community for a dropping of a mask requirement. based on his knowledge of the needs of his particular community, he may continue to require the wearing of masks in his parish.

If the local municipality continues to require the wearing of masks in public places, the parish must comply with those regula-

Parishes are still required to maintain, mark and communicate a portion of each worship space as being reserved for those who wish to wear masks

Parishes are also encouraged to continue to exercise and encourage caution in all parish activ-

As of February 28,

Priests, Deacons, and

tion of Communion, but the pastor may continue to require it if he wishes to do so. Masks will also not be

Formation programs as of February 28. If a pastor decides that it is not yet time in his

and social distance.

ities.

Piers Park // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not for 2023 but for 2040," said Guerriero of incorporating seas level rise mitigation into the design. "This design will address not only the needs of the neighborhood now but the needs of East Boston in the future."

The \$15 million construction project will transform the 4.5-acre waterfront park adjacent to the 11-acre Piers Park on Marginal Street into a recreational space that is conducive for multi-generational activities.

Under the plan, a 1.07acre play area will be the centerpiece of Piers Park II. While Piers Park is a passive park, Piers Park II will be an active park that allows for multiple usage, including sports activities by more than one group at the same time. The ovalshaped field will be surrounded with new water features, a picnic grove, several exercise equipment geared for active seniors, and a children's area with a playground structure and a wandering path with musical instruments. A new 1,000 square

foot building for Piers Park Sailing Center and public restrooms will also be built. At the meeting residents got a look of the Sailing Center's new home for the first time.

"We've been getting some input from (PPSC Executive Director) Alex DeFronzo and his team to give them the space that they need," said Guerriero. "Instead of the current trailer they operate out of this would be a permanent structure with a lot of win-

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The final design concept for Piers Park Phase II.

dows so they can see out onto the docks and the harbor."

Guerriero said the park would be secured, monitored and maintained by Massport just like the award winning Piers Park.

"Once we choose a contractor it should take about 18 to 20 months to complete," said Guerriero. "We are going through the permitting process now in order to get that out of the way and be ready to go once bids come back.'

The park is one of several high impact mitigation projects identified by



The Piers Park Sailing Center's current trailer will be replaced with a permanent structure.

both the City of Boston and members of the Logan Impact Advisory Group (LIAG) through their review for both the Terminal E modernization and the future construction of 5,000 additional parking spaces at Boston Logan International Airport.



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QUESTIONS? Contact Erin: 508-591-0230 or erin@RooflessSolar.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



Staff work the counter inside Harbor House Collective.



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

The Beacon Hill Time



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.



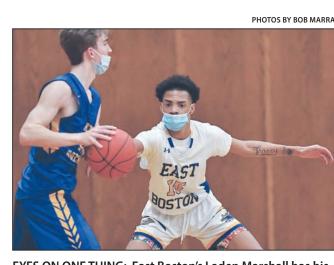


his face and Acton Boxborugh's.





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.



EYES ON ONE THING: East Boston's Laden Marshall 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.



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



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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GROCERY

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

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.

increased with a license."

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 animalcontrol@ email boston.gov with any questions about the licensing process or to update your information in the data-

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 sev-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, twitter.com/animalboston facebook.com/bostonanimal.

names of 2021

Based on City of Boston 2021 Licensing Data

- LUNA
- **LUCY**
- **DAISY**
- **LOLA**
- **MOLLY**
- **ROSIE**
- 11. MAGGIE
- 12. LILY
- **OLIVE**
- CHLOE
- **WINNIE**
- COCO
- **PIPER**
- 22. **MILLIE**
- **MAYA**

of 2021

Based on City of Boston 2021 Licensing Data

Top 25 female dog

- 2. **BELLA**
- **PENNY**
- 7. **STELLA**
- 9. **BAILEY**
- **SADIE**
- **RUBY**
- **SOPHIE**
- **WILLOW** 20.

- LULU **RILEY**
- Top 25 male dog names
- 14. GUS CHARLIE **TEDDY** 15. BUDDY **OLIVER**

Pumpkin reminds Boston's dog owners that March 31 is

the deadline for licensing your pet.

MAX

MILO

TOBY

FINN

12.

ROCKY

WINSTON

TUCKER

HENRY

OLLIE

COOPER

- 16. LEO
 - 17. BREA 18. LOUIE
 - 19. JACK
 - 20. ARCHIE
 - BENTLEY **BRUNO**
 - 23. DUKE
 - **BAXTER**

 - 25. ZIGGY

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

nowned master of digital art, Italy's Massimiliano Siccardi, again accompanied by composer Luca Longobaridi'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 some of the artist's best- about Immersive Friknown works "brought da Kahlo, visit immersive-frida.com.







PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BROSILOW





The Mass. Gaming Commission releases January 2022 Gross Gaming Revenue

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.

\$22,963,000.95





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

Upgrades and Special

together more often.

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



from a favorite restaurant, plated it carefully, and toasted a new month with a bottle of Bollinger Champagne.

For one of our small celebrations, we ordered take-out

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 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.gabrielacoletta.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

NÔTE: 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.

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

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

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

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

Jeanne McCaldon, 617-207-1190 Attorney: Richard C.

Owner/Developer:

Lynds, Esq, RCLynd-sesq@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 meet-

ing 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.





PAGE 6



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Rosemarie Barone

Of East Boston

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

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 Salva-



al 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



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OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo. No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

Robert Russo

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

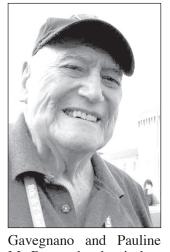
Robert J. Russo of East Boston passed away on February 11. He was 90 years old.



Robert was the beloved husband 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



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.

Frank Martone

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

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



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

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.

Martone Sr., he was the

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-

Give now.



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 pan-

demic, 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. Donations in his mem-

ory 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 up-

dates 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 Poftak. "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 easyto-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 Instagram @theMBTA.

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

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

· 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 Thurs-

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

2/16/22

COMMONWEALTH

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Suffolk Probate

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NOTICE OF

Docket No.

Ali Hassan

SU22C0001CA

In the matter of:

Hisham Ahmed

A Petition to Change

Name of Adult has been

filed by Hisham Ahmed

Ali Hassan of East Bos-

ton, MA requesting that

the court enter a Decree

changing their name to:

Hisham Ali Hassan

Sinclair

PETITION FOR

CHANGE OF NAME

24 New Chardon St.

day, March 31, 2022.

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 Porta-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

OF MASSACHUSETTS

2/16/22

LEGAL NOTICE

THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate **And Family Court LEGAL NOTICE** 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 OF MASSACHUSETTS **DIVORCE SUMMONS**

BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING **DOCKET NUMBER:** SU20D0769DR Elizabeth Henao Plaintiff 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

Register of Probate

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

Date: February 10, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate Felix D. Arroyo

Court.

2/16/22

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 working 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 multipronged opportunities to help finance and advance locally-significant and major projects like the federally owned Cape Cod Bridges and the Allston I-90 Multimodal Project. Mass-DOT 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 Mass-DOT's internal resources and efforts to implement and ramp up both new and existing programs authorized within BIL and to accommodate execution of projects.

LOCAL STUDENTS

EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

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

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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 comfort-

able 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 Pacitta, 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.

