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# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Our offices will be closed Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day

Advertising deadline is Friday @ 4pm

Wednesday, May 25, 2022



HYM Managing Director Thomas N. O'Brien and Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo lead officials in the groundbreaking ceremony for the historic Suffolk Downs Redevelopment Project to be built on the former racetrack site.

### The HYM Investment Group, Cathexis, National Real Estate Advisors, break ground on historic Suffolk Downs redevelopment

Special to the Times-Free Press

Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo along with Revere and Boston city officials, joined executives from The HYM Investment Group ("HYM"), Cathexis and National Real Estate Advisors ("National") to break ground on the former racetrack site at Suffolk Downs. Today marks the beginning of the transformation of the underutilized 161-acre site into a thriving neighborhood and mixed-use community. Spanning two cities, the Suffolk Downs development is one of the

largest real estate projects in Massachusetts' history and will ultimately deliver 16.2 million square feet of development, including 10,000 apartments and condominiums, 5.2 million square feet of life science and commercial office space, 450,000 square feet of retail and civic space, and 40 acres of parks and open space.

The project will ultimately deliver the largest single creation of housing by a redevelopment project in Boston's history. The groundbreaking also marks the official launch of a joint venture

partnership between National and HYM on the initial residential components of the redevelopment. National's equity participation in the project will allow the delivery of nearly 4 million square feet of residential development, or 4,200 units, to be built at Suffolk Downs in the next eight years.

The groundbreaking on a new life science building and new residential building is just the beginning of the first phase of this historic project. 100 Salt Street, a 280,000 square-foot life science lab and biomanufacturing facili-

ty adjacent to the MBTA Beachmont Station, will be the first purpose-built, large-scale laboratory and biomanufacturing space in the City of Revere and will provide the Greater Revere community access to thousands of permanent jobs in Massachusetts' booming life sciences industry. The 100 Salt Street Life Science building, in addition to its life science lab floors, has two biomanufacturing ready floors, which will provide a unique benefit to a life sciences tenant by allowing it to produce

See SUFFOLK DOWNS Page 9

### John Drew, longtime President and CEO of ABCD, set to retire

By John Lynds

For decades East Boston's Action for Boston Community Development's (ABCD) APAC office has been an oasis of help and hope for countless families in the neighborhood.

Social service programs like ABCD's Fuel Assistance have helped low-income residents and fixed income seniors heat their homes throughout the winter without having to worry if they would have enough money for both heat and food or heat and medication.

At the helm of the re-



John Drew, longtime head of ABCD, announced he will retire at the end of June after over five decades with the area's leading anti-poverty agency.

owned antipoverty/community action organiza-

See DREW Page 9

### City approves Tree Eastie's request to plant nine more street trees

By John Lynds

For a couple of years now Tree Eastie, with the assistance of Speak for the Trees, has been rekindling the neighborhood's grass-

roots effort to get more trees planted in East Boston.

Tree Eastie's Bill Masterson has been on a crusade to get the neighbor-

See TREES Page 3

### EBSC CUTS RIBBON ON NEW INFANT AND TODDLER PROGRAM



Justin Pasquariello, the Executive Director of the East Boston Social Centers; David Cali, the Director of Operations; Michele D'Ambrosio, the Director of Early Learning; Krysten Buccella, Site Coordinator, and other invited guests cut the ribbon on the Social Center's new site at the Barnes School. See Page 5 for more photos.



Tree Eastie volunteers help plant trees near the EBHC in Maverick Square. Tree Eastie recently got city approval to plant an additional nine street trees in the neighborhood.

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# Gabriela Coletta sworn in as District 1 City Councilor

By John Lynds

Prior to the weekly Boston City Council meeting last Wednesday, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta was officially sworn in by Mayor Michelle Wu as her mother, Nina, father, Ed, grandmother, Helen, partner, Sebastian Zapata, and her sister, Angela Acevedo looked on.

After taking the oath of office and before the scheduled council meeting began, Coletta addressed the body for the first time as the District 1 City Councilor representing East Boston, the North End and Charlestown.

“I just want to say thank you, Mayor Wu, distinguished guests, and my colleagues on the council and everyone for being here to share this incredible day with me,” said Coletta. “As a former City Council staffer, I have a unique appreciation and reverence for these chambers. From being an Eastie kid coming in here with my mom to advocate for our community to my first day here as a staffer, I stand before you now deeply honored and hum-

bled to be the Boston City Councilor for District 1. I’m in full acknowledgement and awareness of who and what it took to bring us here together today. So at this moment, I want to share this space in gratitude with you all.”

Coletta recognized some special people in her life that were present in the City Council Chambers.

“First I want to recognize the matriarch of my family, Helen Colletta, I’m so happy you could be here today Grandma,” she said. “I’d also like to recognize my (late) grandparents who are here watching over us, the late Edmund Colletta Sr., the late Allesandro Geata, and the late Celia Trujillo—please watch over me and guide me on this journey. Next, my parents Edmund Coletta and Nina Coletta. Dad, thank you for instilling the values of kindness, humility and service to the community. Thank you, Mom. Thank you for my activist spirit and how to not only break the ceiling, but how to swing the hammer. Thank you to my sister and hype woman, An-

gela Coletta Acevedo, my brother and political strategist, Chris, and my incredible partner Sebastian Zapata. I could not have done this without you.”

Coletta then thanked the elected officials for their support and encouragement as well as those who have inspired her throughout her journey.

“Mayor Wu, thank you for already pushing us to aim higher and to be bold,” said Coletta. “You’re already making history and I look forward to working with you. (Former District 1 City Councilor) Diane Modica, I’m here because you did everything first so I stand on your shoulders. I also want to thank Sal LaMattina, Paul Scapicchio, as well as the state delegation, Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, Rep. Dan Ryan and Rep. Adrian Madaro. I’m so happy to do this work with you.”

Coletta then thanked her former boss and mentor, Sen. Lydia Edwards.

“I told you to the moon and back, always,” she said of Edwards. “Thank you for teaching me to shine my brightest light.”

Of the City Council Coletta added, “To my colleagues on the Boston City Council, what an impressive group of powerhouse individuals. I look out at all of you and I realized that this is Boston and I’m happy to be here. I’m just in awe of every single one of you and what you’ve accomplished as a body this year. We are here because we believe in the power of municipal government and how it can better the lives of residents. We are here to ensure a vibrant, resilient, and equitable city for everybody. We are here to bring the voices of those in our communities to the halls of power. I look forward to learning from each and every single one of you and what your life perspective is and ensuring that we can build a brighter Boston for everyone.”

With last Wednesday being her first day on the job, Coletta commented that, “The work literally starts today. I know that we will not agree on everything and there will be some tough conversations ahead of us but I promise to be collaborative, to



District 1 City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta was sworn in by Mayor Michelle Wu. Councilor Coletta was joined by her mother, Nina, father, Ed, partner, Sebastian Zapata, and her sister, Angela Acevedo.

work towards consensus and compromise and to let the work be the motivation and not the politics.”

“I want to be sure to recognize the district that raised me, gave me everything and elected me to represent them on the Boston City Council,” she said. “To the people of Charlestown East Boston and the North End, I love you. You have my heart always. Each (neighborhood) is uniquely beautiful and each has its own set of challenges but I know looking at this room and those in the community, there’s nothing too big for us to tackle together.”

Coletta pledged to her constituents that she is

committed to being bold to speak truth to power, to fight for the District’s interests, to be inclusive and welcoming of all people no matter who they are or where they come from.

“Especially our immigrant brothers and sisters I promise to be accessible and responsive and you have my commitment that I will center your voice in every conversation in action,” she said. “I promise to serve with empathy and with compassion. I won’t be perfect but I ask for your grace and for your partnership in this work, to learn, grow and mobilize with me. The work starts today and I cannot wait to get started.”

## Sen. Edwards’ testimony on Eversource Substation appeal

By John Lynds

In February, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) filed an appeal on behalf of more than ten residents of East Boston to stop construction of the

highly controversial Eversource substation in East Eagle Square that received approval from both the state’s Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

In its appeal CLF argues state officials shut the community out of the planning process for the project, wrongfully characterized the substation as a water-dependent use, and failed to consider the negative impact on environmental justice populations as well as not considering alternative sites.

Last week, Sen. Lydia Edwards provided testimony as part of the appeal process with the purpose of relaying her constituency’s concerns about the facility, the failure to consider other sites for siting the substation, and the need for improved community process.

Edwards spoke on behalf of GreenRoots, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Chelsea that represents the citizens of Eastie as well as the CLF, both of which are plaintiffs in the appeal proceedings.

While Edwards addressed Eversource’s lack of community engagement, wrongfully characterizing the substation as a water-dependent use and impacts to the already overburdened Environmental Justice Community, the Senator was of the opinion, like many, the substation should be placed elsewhere.

“If the EFSB determines that there is a need for a new substation, then Eversource must look for an alternative site,” said Edwards. “The largest consumer of electricity in East Boston is Massport and to my knowledge, Eversource has not considered a site on Massport property. There are other locations that would not present the same challenges. The EFSB should consider that the burdens of the East Eagle Street Substation are greater than any benefits and pose signifi-

cant challenges for environmental justice populations. Such consideration of environmental justice is now enshrined in law after years of hard-fought struggle by residents who have been unseen and unheard by government, and whose communities have been shaped by the demands of industry at the expense of the public.

Edwards testified that Eversource never really took the community seriously when residents offered alternative sites.

“The company has been disingenuous in its claims that it is willing to work with the community,” she said. “While it has given some funds to location organizations, Eversource’s primary community outreach has been superficial.”

Despite widespread community opposition as well as opposition from over a dozen Massachusetts elected officials the state’s EFSB unanimously approved Eversource’s highly controversial plan to build a new substation in February 2021.

Despite state Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides saying at the hearing that the substation would be placed in a “heavily, heavily industrialized area within an environmental justice community that has historically suffered disproportionate environmental harms and a heavy burden of infrastructure” she still voted in favor of Eversource’s plans as an EFSB board member.

The project was then granted a license from the DEP.

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

The substation is the subject of numerous pend-

ing appeals and legal challenges at the state level from Eastie residents and organizations.

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

Edwards also pointed out in her testimony that during Boston’s Municipal Election in November a non-binding ballot question was posed to voters here and across the city asking if the substation should be sited in East Eagle Square. An overwhelming number of voters thought Eversource should not build a substation in Eastie and seek a nearby alternative location such as non-residential Massport land at Logan Airport.

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

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

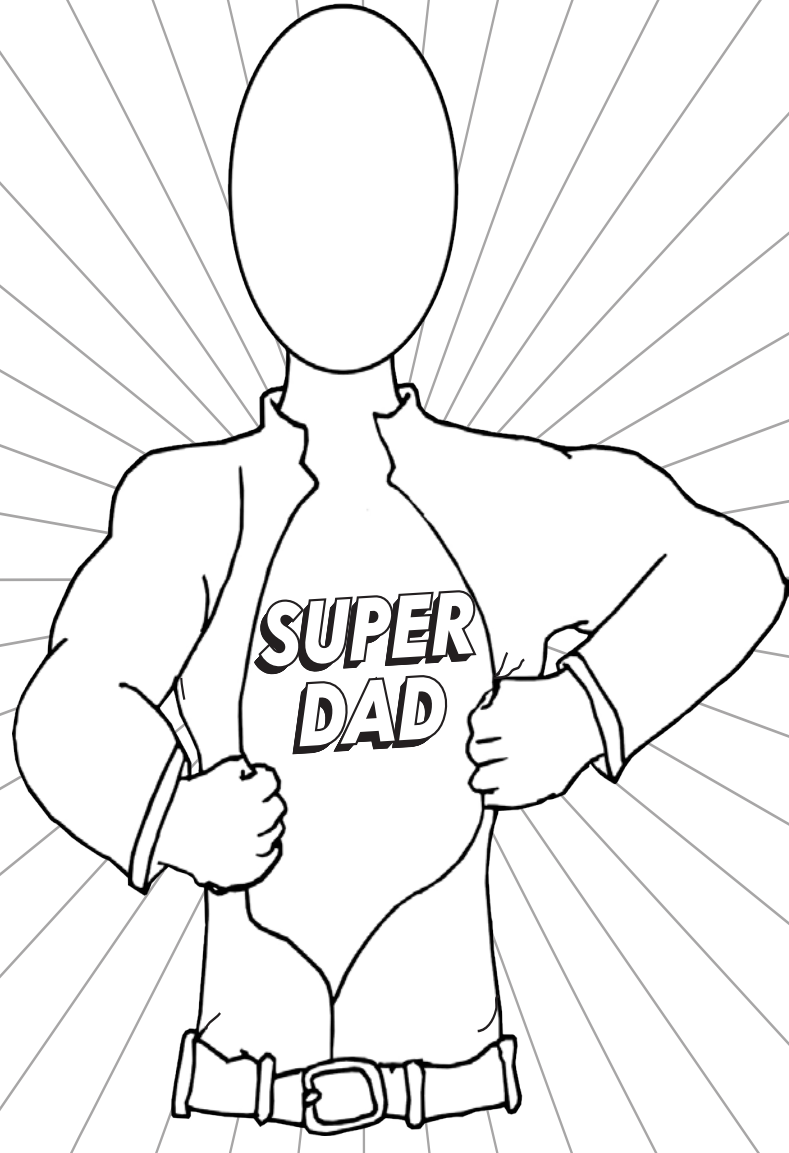
Historically, a non-binding ballot question provides information to elected officials and the public of voter sentiment on a particular issue and it seems most Bostonians are on Eastie’s side when it comes to this particular issue.

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Deadline for entries will be Friday, June 10th.

Entries will be published in the June 15th, & 16th issues of the Revere Journal, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, East Boston Times, Winthrop Sun Transcript, and The Lynn Journal

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# Maverick Landing Community Services receives grant to help engage older adults

By John Lynds

Last week Mayor Michelle Wu and the Age Strong Commission announced Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS) was the recipient of a new grant program, “Creating Community and Reducing Social Isolation”.

Wu said the new grant program is designed to provide funding to non-profit community organizations, like MLCS, to create new or expand current programs inviting older adults to engage more for better physical and mental health.

MLCS was one of 16 community organization to share in the \$360,000 this funding round.

“Connecting our older residents with more opportunities to build community is crucial to our City’s recovery,” said Mayor Wu. “It’s clear that the ongoing pandemic has only exacerbated the challenges that our older adults face as they try to stay engaged and connected. These investments will

help build community for older adults and support our local organizations as they work to expand and build opportunities for our older adults to engage.”

MLCS Director Rita Lara said Maverick Landing is a partner with the Community Healing Center Project, and will use its share of \$27,000 in grant money from the city to reduce social isolation for seniors in Eastie.

“MLCS is a community partner alongside healing practitioners, group facilitators, and educators who will offer healing and wellness activities for underserved seniors in East Boston who are not currently engaged in social activities and who may be experiencing trauma from isolation,” said Lara. “The project will feature multi-generational community healing events with various healing modalities such as mindfulness activities including meditation, yoga and other therapies such as Reiki, group education, and mentoring and will also seek to connect seniors with activities in

the wider community that promotes health and wellness.”

Lara said as part of the program activities will be taking place with seniors residing in the Maverick Landing mixed-income housing development, Barnes School elderly housing and Victory Gardens apartments but are also open to all Eastie seniors who may be experiencing harm from social isolation.

“This project has been developed and designed by a constellation of partnering individuals and organizations who have been working collectively during the pandemic to support community healing,” she said.

Other community partners in this project include the Cooperative Center for Development and Solidarity (CCDS), Mutual Aid Eastie (MAE), Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE), Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC), Eastie Farm, Zumix, and the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC).

Commissioner of Boston’s Age Strong Commission Emily Shea said strong social connections and networks can boost a person’s lifespan by 50 percent, according to an article in Scientific American magazine. Socially-connected communities are more likely to thrive because a virtuous cycle

is created when social connections are strengthened: civic engagement and a sense of belonging increases, which further deepens social networks.

“We’re thrilled to have received so many applications,” said Shea. “Through the pandemic, we had to stop our in-person programs that once

got folks out of the house and engaged with each other. Sure, we pivoted to offering programs online, which is something, but nothing like the benefits of in-person human connection—which is valuable to all people, not just older adults.”

## Trees // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hood’s tree canopy closer to the average tree canopy in other Boston neighborhoods and has been pretty busy this spring planting trees thanks to recent grant money.

While Tree Eastie has been approved to plant 100 street trees this spring the group recently got approval from the City of Boston to plant an additional nine trees in the neighborhood.

“Tree Eastie has received approval from the City of Boston to plant nine more street trees,” said Masterson. “The planting season is quickly coming to an end so we need to get these in the ground soon. To make it more convenient and take advantage of the later sunsets, the plan is to dig holes during early weekday evenings with a targeted planting date of Friday, June 3.”

Volunteers that would like to help in the efforts to plant these additional nine trees can visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegLB-lpJc-FltenQv937t3kiW2VL-38Ne9K7gnZVjJwUIp-GgFw/viewform> and fill out Tree Eastie’s survey which contains additional information on dates and the process as well as other ways to volunteer.

“The time commitment is a couple of hours, no experience necessary and we will provide the training and tools,” said Masterson. “We pair people in groups of two-three to dig 3’x3’x3’ holes in existing street tree pits. You can volunteer individually or as a group and families are welcome. If you participated in our past tree plantings you know this is a fun, feel good, community building, physical workout.”

Those interested in volunteering can also email Masterson at [treeeastie@gmail.com](mailto:treeeastie@gmail.com).

There’s a lot of benefits trees have, unfortunately Eastie suffers from the lowest tree canopy in the city. The neighborhood’s tree canopy is at 7-percent while the city average is 27-percent.

Tree Eastie recently forged some alliances and some benefactors who are asking the group to help them site tree plantings.

The first was the Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery on Wordsworth Street, which is the oldest Jewish Cemetery in Eastern, Massachusetts.

The Temple recently celebrated its 180th anniversary and 180 is a big number in the Jewish com-

munity in terms of significance, so with the help of Tree Eastie and Speak for the Trees planted the first of 18 trees on the Wordsworth side of the Salesian Boys & Girls Club.

This spring Tree Eastie focused on spots in Orient Heights, as well as Harbor View, that need street trees and the group planted 30 new street trees in those two neighborhoods around Earth Day.

Tree Eastie also focused its efforts on Maverick and Central Square as well as Jeffries Point through a large grant from Delta Airlines. Masterson said that money will be used to plant 40 new street trees across these areas.

Tree Eastie also planted more fruit trees at the Rockies in Jeffries Point across from Piers Park through a new relationship with Eastie Farm. Eastie Farm will 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. This program will distribute the food to folks that need it as well as putting it into the Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that Eastie Farm has established.

# Eastie’s weekly COVID positive test-rate back over 10 percent

By John Lynds

East Boston’s weekly COVID positive test rate jumped back over 10 percent last week and Boston health officials are urging residents to keep up with COVID-19 best practices that have proven highly effective at lowering the spread of virus and reducing hospitalizations and death.

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) reported that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue a weeks-long surge due to the new, more contagious variant.

Last week, 1,198 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 10.3 percent were positive--this was a 7 percent increase from the 9.6 percent that tested positive as reported by the BPHC on May 16.

In all, 123 additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between May 16 and May 23 and there are now 15,417 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Boston’s citywide weekly positive test rate also increased last week and is now close to 12 percent.

According to the BPHC 19,958 residents were tested citywide last week and 11.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 7 percent increase from the 10.8 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on May 16.

According to the latest data, Boston is averaging 61 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents per

day and community positivity is now above 11 percent. Increased COVID-19 transmission throughout Boston has made it critical for residents to keep up with effective prevention and mitigation strategies, especially testing.

“We have noted a significant increase in both COVID-19 cases and in hospitalizations,” said Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the BPHC Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. “COVID-19 testing remains a critical tool to decrease the risk of transmission to others, particularly those who are older, immunocompromised, and unvaccinated. They remain at high risk for severe illness. We need to decrease onward transmission to others. Please test prior to gatherings, wear a well-fitted mask in indoor settings, including public transportation, and stay home if you are sick.”

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 1.1 percent last week and went from 184,415 to 186,446 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

There were four additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,466.

The Boston Public Health Commission strongly recommends residents:

Wear high-quality, well-fitting masks indoors and on public transportation;

Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters;

Stay home if you feel sick;

Ensure proper indoor ventilation by opening windows when possible;

Gather outdoors as the weather warms, instead of indoors;

Test for COVID-19; and

Contact your health care provider about anti-viral treatment if diagnosed with COVID-19.

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This construction meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to hear an overview of the Sumner Tunnel Centennial Project including project overview, schedule, and traffic impacts beginning on June 10, 2022. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments. Spanish and Arabic interpretation will be available at both virtual meetings.

All residents, abutters, local business owners, and interested commuters are invited to attend. All attendees who sign into the meeting and provide an email address will be entered into the project’s email database to receive project updates. Prior to the meetings, if you have specific questions or concerns for the project team, please email us: [sumner100@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:sumner100@dot.state.ma.us).

Note: This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as appropriate. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity & Civil Rights Officer by phone at (857) 368-8580, Relay Service at 7-1-1, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email to [MASSDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MASSDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

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# East Boston

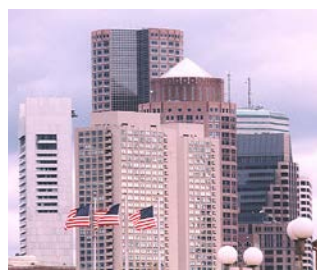
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# Forum

## A MEMORIAL DAY TRUISM: FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

For the first time in 20 years -- that's an entire generation -- America's military men and women are not fighting a war on foreign soil.

The withdrawal of our remaining troops from Afghanistan last August brought to an end a conflict that had long-outlasted its purpose, which initially was meant to destroy the al-Qaeda terrorist organization that was responsible for the 9/11 attacks, but which somehow morphed into a long-term, nation-building undertaking.

Although we technically are at peace, the world stage feels anything but peaceful. Totalitarian adversaries either are wreaking havoc (Russia in Ukraine) or threatening to do so (No. Korea and China).

If the lessons of the past and present teach us anything, it is that we cannot take our freedom for granted.

The same troops who are delivering baby formula today could be called upon to engage in a far different and more dangerous mission at any moment.

This realization made us think back to the roots of Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, with the proclamation by Gen. Logan on May 5, 1868, in which he declared:

"The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit. Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

That in turn got us to thinking of what rates as the greatest testament to the memory of those brave Americans who made the Supreme Sacrifice, the Gettysburg Address by President Abraham Lincoln, in order to preserve our democratic way of life:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

"We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

We hope our readers appreciate the eternal truths of Lincoln's sentiments, which are as relevant today as they have been since the founding of our nation.

We wish all of our readers a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend.

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## GUEST OP-ED

### The way to combat the horror of Jan. 6, is to abolish the filibuster

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Decoration Day was observed on May 30th from 1868 to 1970 to decorate the graves and honor those dying in military service for our country. In 1971 Congress officially made the last Monday in May Memorial Day.

On this day, Americans take time to pay respect and decorate the graves of our military service Americans who died to keep America free. Because of them we can travel the country, have picnics, go to ballgames and more.

For me, Memorial Day has changed. Memorial weekend was a big time of family gathering. I can still remember Mamaw and Grandpa, all nine of their children and the grandchildren gathering to eat, play, talk and laugh. But then Mamaw and Grandpa died and the reunions changed. One by one the siblings passed away. Today, all nine of them and their spouses are gone.

The grandchildren are now passing away. This is my generation. As I begin to think of their names it's a surprising number. All five of my dad's broth-

ers and sister are gone. Throughout the years I've attended too many funerals. This includes my wife of 27 years and our little stillborn baby. Memorial Day has changed. So many people I celebrated the day with are gone. It would be impossible for me to visit all the graves of all these dear people. They are scattered out between Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and other states.

When Memorial Day comes, I try my best to make the six-hour trip to decorate my deceased wife's grave. Carole, who I married 17 years ago has deceased parents who are buried three hours away from where we live. It's never easy. There are flowers to buy. The drive is not easy and we have those who are alive we want to visit. It's makes us feel bad that we don't have hours to go and spend at the cemetery and respect those we loved.

Sadly, there are so many forgotten graves of loved ones and American soldiers. The older we get the number of deceased people we know can become more than the living we know.

Do the best you can. This is all any human being can ever do. There are graves you know you must attend to and others you will have to trust to other family members or friends.

While we are trying to celebrate Memorial Day the right way, please continue to celebrate the living people in your life. There is a story in the Bible where a friend of Jesus anointed him with expensive ointment while they were having dinner. It was her way of celebrating him and what he meant to her. Try to find ways to anoint people in your life who are meaningful to you. Buy them flowers now if you can afford them. I hate to say it but it's true -- dead noses smell no roses.

I've always tried to buy flowers for those I love while they can enjoy them. It may not be flowers but maybe it could be a nice smile. A word of thanks or praise for a person in your life would be meaningful. One way you might make Memorial Day meaningful is celebrating those people you have in your life today because, as we know, it won't last long.

Back in February, my brother-in-law Harold was very sick and I knew his time was limited. My wife and I agreed we needed to go and visit with him. We had a good visit and a good talk. When I left him that day and we said goodbye to each other, I felt that it was truly goodbye at least for this life. He died just a couple of weeks later.

Memorial Day has changed for most of us. However, try to make a good memory or two with those people who are still alive in your life. What you remember about those who have gone on is what you enjoyed while they were living.

This Memorial Day weekend, be very safe and take time to enjoy the living.

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

## LETTER to the Editor

### THE EBNHC SHOULD PRIORITIZE WELLNESS OVER PROFIT

To the Editor,

I am a long time resident of East Boston. I love this community and plan on always living here. The rich diversity and the neighborhood feel make it special and unique in Boston. I am very concerned over the direction of the development and especially the proposed one by the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center on Gove/Oreans/Bremen Streets. I am not against development but believe that it should be done in accordance with the needs of the community.

If a needs assessment were done prior to the planning, it would clearly show the need is not for more luxury housing. It is for mixed, low, moderate,

and truly affordable housing with some 3 bedroom units to accommodate families. Additional luxury units will only further the displacement of long time residents, many who are patients at the health center. One of the primary determinants of health is adequate and affordable housing. In fact, without it, all other health measures suffer.

An update to the proposal increases the "affordable" unit ration to 25%. I applaud this. However the proposed EBCDC building is for rental units only. In order to create intergenerational wealth there also needs to be ownership opportunities for lower and middle income families.

The EBNHC has a unique opportunity to build a development that meets the needs of the ex-

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# EBSC CUTS RIBBON ON NEW INFANT AND TODDLER PROGRAM AT THE BARNES SCHOOL

On Tuesday the East Boston Social Center cut the ribbon on its new site at the Barnes School in East Boston.

The Social Centers proudly opened the doors to this new infant and toddler program at the Barnes School after three years of planning and renovations.

The renovation project was made possible, in part, by a \$1 million grant in 2020 from EEC as part of the Commonwealth's EEOST Capital Fund. The Barnes School infant and toddler program serves several purposes. First, it accommodates seven infants and 26 toddlers displaced from their early learning program at a Chelsea public housing facility, where they provided full-day childcare, due to demolition and renovations. It also doubles the number of infants they are serving—from seven to 14 and adds one additional toddler spot to meet the childcare needs of working parents in the community. But most of all, it builds a foundation that prepares children for a lifetime of learning through high-quality, affordable programming.

"We see the delight and engagement our toddlers have experienced in this beautiful new facility with new toys and supplies. Our team, architects, construction team, and funders created a beautiful, state-of-the-art space where our youngest learners can learn and grow—and it is amazing to see it in action," said EBSC Executive Director Justin Pasquariello. "There is an acute shortage of infant care in Boston and we are proud to have collaborat-

ed with all of you to double the number of infants we are able to support at the Social Centers."

The EBSC team also dedicated a plaque in honor of former House Speaker Robert DeLeo.



Justin Pasquariello, the Executive Director of the East Boston Social Centers; David Cali, the Director of Operations; Michele D'Ambrosio, the Director of Early Learning; Krysten Buccella, Site Coordinator, and other invited guests during the ribbon cutting.



The renovation project was made possible, in part, by a \$1 million grant in 2020 from EEC as part of the Commonwealth's EEOST Capital Fund.



Guests tour the new infant and toddler room after the ribbon cutting.



EBSC staff, families and community supporters turned out to support the new program.



EBSC staff, families and community supporters pose for pictures during the ceremony.



Some of the toddlers that will benefit from the new space on the first floor of the Barnes School.



Former House Speaker, Robert DeLeo (left) was honored for his support at the ribbon cutting. EBSC Executive Director Justin Pasquariello (center) unveiled a plaque dedicating a classroom in the new childcare center in DeLeo's name during the ribbon cutting.

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 a small message here written by the parents,  
 Ro prio, dem o venius

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### EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S SPRING SHOW

Photos by Marianne Salza

Students glowed through the aisles clapping to "Let's Get Loud" in the spirited opening act of East Boston Central Catholic School's (EBCCS) Spring Show,

"Let's Get Loud," on May 20. Grades 4-8 cha-chad, jived, and drove motorcycles wearing leather jackets; and the Eighth grade's "Footloose" routine received such applause that students returned to the stage for an encore.



Sixth graders, Elena Gonzalez and Lillian Ezequiel-Blake, singing "Taking Care of Business."



Daniella Lopez, Carlos Hincapie, Kelsey O'Connor, and Elena Gonzalez singing "Born to be Wild."



Luciana Malpica, Ruby Viens, Valentina Frias performing "Jump, Jive and Wail."



Alden MacNulty, Santiago Ramirez, and Jacob Alvarez, Eighth grade, performing "Footloose."



Eighth graders performing "Footloose."



Seventh graders, Mackenzie Holden, Sofia Varon, and Nyla Taylor.



The choir singing "You Light Up My Life."



Fourth graders, Rane Ruggs, Santiago Ruiz, LuisFelipe Perez, and David Aguirre performing "Sway with Me."



Fifth graders singing to "At the Hop" and "Jump, Jive and Wail."

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# Sports

## EB JETS WIN IN BASEBALL ACTION AGAINST REVERE

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

East Boston suffered its first defeat of the season as the Jets fell to Revere 5-2 at Memorial Park on Thursday, May 18.



**STRONG EFFORT:** Mike O'Neil pitched a solid game for the Jets.



**SAFE ARRIVAL:** Luis Ortiz slides safely into second base with a stolen base as Revere shortstop Chris Cassidy leaps for a throw during the first inning of the Jets' loss to Revere Thursday, May 18, at Memorial Park.

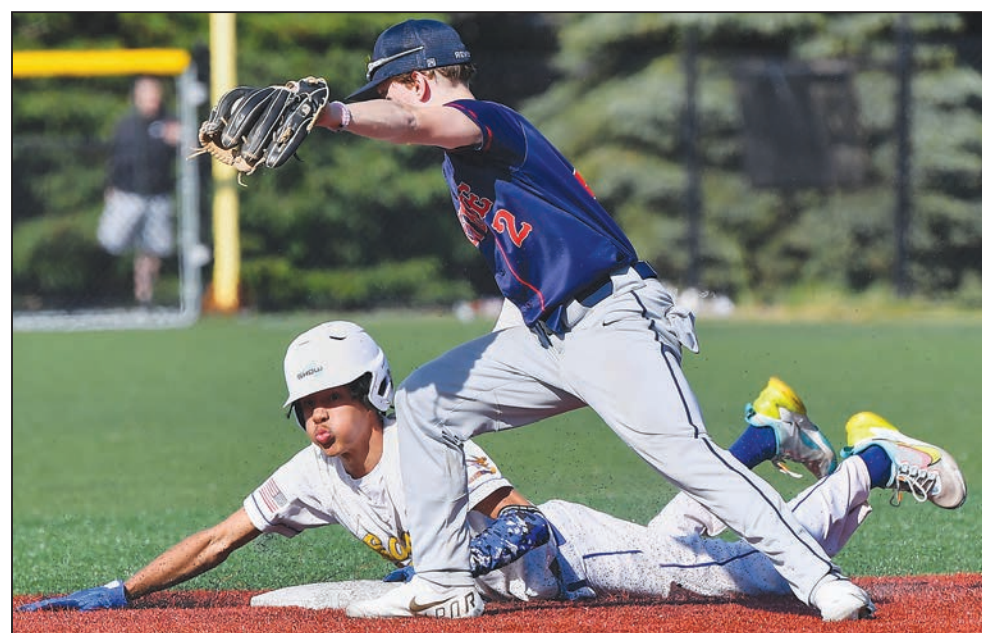


**SURE THING:** Shorstop Andry Marte is all by himself as he fields a throw that arrived well ahead of a Revere runner for an out.



**NOT ENOUGH:** Sammy Santiago rips a single that knocked in two runs that cut Revere's lead to 4-2 in the sixth inning. It wasn't enough, though, as Revere added a run in the seventh and held on for a 5-2 win.

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**I'M GOOD:** Luis Ortiz looks up after sliding safely into second base with his second stolen base of the game.

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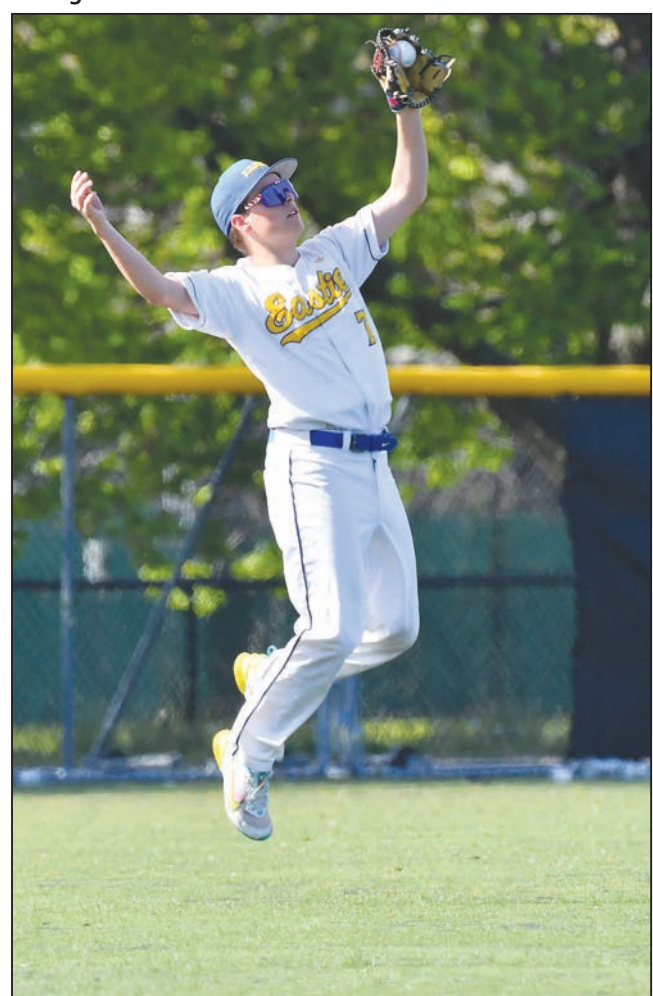
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**NEXT STOP THIRD:** Sammy Santiago races around second base and heads to third with a one-out triple in the second inning.



**HIP HOP:** Left fielder Jason DaSilva had to leap to field a base hit to left field after the ball took a high hop off the Memorial Park turf.

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# EBHS Boys Track Team City Champs; Girls team finishes fourth

By John Lynds

The East Boston High School boys track team came out on top during the City League Championship held at White Stadium on May 17 and were crowned City Champs after beating 10 other teams.

As reigning champs the Jets kept their streak alive during last week's meet and have now been City Champs every year since 2017.

EBHS Track Coach John Parziale said he was proud of the boys team for another champion year.

"It was great," said Coach Parziale. "We had some great performances from Mike Portillo who was our discus and shot put gold medalist and silver medalist in the javelin—overall it was just a great effort by all the boys and a big day for the team. We scored a ton of points with 147 a lot of points to score during the meet."

As defending champs, Parziale said a lot of the players from last year were still on the team and put in a tremendous amount of work this year to defend their title.

Parziale said the girls team also put up a great effort with track star Diana Melgar giving a great performance during the meet. She was 1st place in the triple jump, 2nd place in the 400m low hurdles as well as the 100m high hurdles.

"The girls had a great year despite having a lower number of players than last year," said Parziale. "We finished fourth overall out of 10 teams, which wasn't bad for us. Diana Melgar was our star on the girl's side and had a great season. It was really a nice group of girls and they worked hard. It went

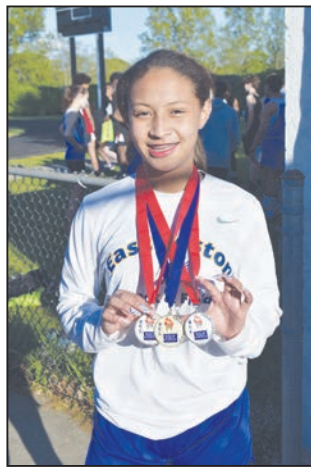
from freezing cold days in March to the hot days in May but they all trained hard."

All in all Parziale said both the boys and girls teams are, "just a great group of kids".

"It's a positive thing for the school and the city coming out of the pandemic," he said, mentioning the canceled season in 2020. "It's been a good run for the boys who have been City Champs every year since 2017 despite that one year of no sports."



The EBHS track team get together for a team photo at the conclusion of the city league track championship at White Stadium on Tuesday, May 17.



Diana Melgar finished 1st place triple jump, 2nd place in both the 400m low hurdles and 100m high hurdles



Captains Ariel Agular, Mike Portillo and Joshua Delacruz.



Gabriel Silva was 1st in the high jump, Jalen Jones was 3rd and Jonathan Kenner was 4th.



Gabe Silva with his medals.



Edgar Orellana finished 3rd in the javelin and Michael Portillo was 2nd in the javelin.



Mike Portillo was 2nd, Edgar Orellana 3rd and Nico Maraio 5th in the javelin.



Jashua Delacruz was 2nd, Gabe Silva 1st and Jeremy Ramos was 4th in the 110 high hurdles.



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Gabriel Silva was 1st in the high jump, Jalen Jones 3rd and Jonathan Kenner 4th.



# Rep. Madaro, House passes legislation to foster greater fairness and equity in cannabis industry

By John Lynds

Last week, Rep. Adrian Madaro and Massachusetts House passed legislation that encourages and facilitates participation in the cannabis industry from communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana criminalization by creating a Social Equity Trust Fund.

The Madaro-sponsored bill, An Act relative to equity in the cannabis industry (H. 4791), passed the House 153-2 after a similar version of this legislation passed in the State Senate. The legislation moves back to the Senate for further consideration.

“This legislation continues to build upon the House’s deliberate efforts to ensure equity in the cannabis industry, particularly for communities which have disproportionately suffered from the burden of racism in enforcing drug policies,”

said Madaro. “I’m proud to have voted in favor of these important provisions to improve equity and access to the cannabis industry, including a fairer host community agreement process, a social equity trust fund, and clear permitting for social consumption, as well as an expedited expungement process for those affected by outdated laws”.

Madaro, who once served on the Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy when the state’s marijuana laws were being hashed out, said the highlight of the bill is the establishment of a state Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund. This fund will make grants and loans available to social equity program participants and economic empowerment priority applicants. Madaro said this will fill the gap left by the unavailability of banking services in the industry and facilitating participa-

tion in the cannabis industry of entrepreneurs from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement.

Social equity businesses are marijuana establishments primarily owned by individuals eligible for the social equity program or whose ownership qualifies it as an economic empowerment priority applicant.

Twenty percent of the revenue collected from the sale of marijuana and marijuana products must be transferred to the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund which will be administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, in consultation with a newly created Cannabis Social Equity Advisory Board.

“This legislation continues to build on the efforts we have made in the cannabis industry to ensure equitable access for all

Massachusetts residents, particularly those who have been disadvantaged by marijuana prohibition and enforcement,” said House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy, Rep. Daniel Donahue (D-Worcester). “I want to thank Speaker Mariano for his steadfast commitment to ensure social equity applicants have access to the capital they need to be successful, while also removing barriers to their entry into the market. This bill lays out a clear and fair approach to expungement for prior marijuana convictions that ensures the best interest of justice is served by providing a real and effective avenue for many to put their past behind them.”

Madaro added that the bill also strengthens the host community agreement process and clarifies procedures for permitting social consumption sites.

Since the passage of

the cannabis legalization law in 2017, the Cannabis Control Commission has asked the Legislature for further clarity on the agency’s authority to review host community agreements, which are executed between a marijuana establishment and their hosting municipality.

“This legislation authorizes the Commission to review host community agreements, and if determined lawful, to approve them,” said Madaro. “The legislation also authorizes the Commission to prioritize social equity program businesses and economic empowerment priority applicants for expedited review.”

The legislation also clarifies the scope of host community agreements and adds new criteria, such as no host community agreement can include a community impact fee that is beyond the businesses fifth year of operation and

no host community agreement can include a promise to make a future monetary payment, in-kind contribution or charitable contribution.

Also, the new legislation may once and for all open the door for cannabis-style cafes like the ones that exist in Amsterdam. The social consumption policy, which would allow the sale of marijuana and marijuana products for consumption on the premises where sold, is authorized by existing law. However, this legislation amends it to ensure proper procedures are taken regarding local initiative petitions. Under this legislation, as an alternative to local initiative petitions, a city or town may also allow for social consumption sites through the passage of a by-law or ordinance.

## Suffolk Downs// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

small batch pharmaceutical drugs in the same space as their corporate headquarters. In addition, 100 Salt Street has ground floor retail and restaurant space. Amaya, a 475-unit apartment building, is the first of several residential buildings planned for Suffolk Downs. The building will feature 34,000 square-feet of amenities, 24,000 retail square-feet of ground floor retail and a mix of unit types ranging from micro studios to two-bedrooms.

100 Salt Street, designed by Elkus Manfredi Architects will be completed by the end of 2023, with tenants moving in throughout 2024. Amaya, designed by ICON Architecture, will wrap up construction in the second quarter of 2024 with res-

idents moving in at that time.

This new, mixed-use district will attract employers of growing industries and create a truly dynamic live and work environment for the residents of Revere and East Boston. The redevelopment at Suffolk Downs is projected to bring 22,000 new, permanent jobs through laboratory, manufacturing, and retail space and over 18,000 new construction jobs over the next two decades. Through an unprecedented Project Labor Agreement (PLA) that will ensure this project will be union-built, a \$2 million fund was created to specifically prepare local residents to join the future workforce at Suffolk Downs and set forth several critical equity and

inclusion provisions that will bring more women and people of color into the trades.

“The groundbreaking at Suffolk Downs marks an exciting new chapter for economic development in Revere,” said Mayor Brian Arrigo. “Suffolk Downs will create a new commercial cluster that connects the residents of Revere to the jobs of the future; we are thrilled to finally be an active participant in the booming life-sciences ecosystem.”

“Today, we celebrate the power of teamwork and a new chapter for Suffolk Downs. Together with the communities of Revere and East Boston, we are creating a new, inclusive and equitable neighborhood from the ground up,” said Thomas

N. O’Brien, founding partner and managing director of The HYM Investment Group. “Suffolk Downs is setting a new standard for sustainable development, job creation, affordable housing and public open spaces.”

“We are proud to be a part of this momentous occasion,” said Jonathan Moy from Cathexis.

“We look forward to deepening our roots within the burgeoning Greater Boston community and becoming a part of the transformative Suffolk Downs redevelopment,” noted Jeffrey Kanne, President and CEO of National. “Projects of this scale, vision, and complexity can only be realized with excellent and knowledgeable partners in place. We are thrilled to be strength-

ening our partnership with The HYM Investment Group while creating good jobs and working to produce attractive returns for our institutional clients.”

The Suffolk Downs project team is committed to ensuring those who live, work, and play at the redeveloped Suffolk Downs site have access to high-quality, accessible transportation options. There will be significant improvements to the MBTA Blue Line and bus stations and a cohesive internal network of bike paths and walking trails that will connect all of the activities that the new neighborhood has to offer. Residents and visitors will also have access to 40-acres of new open spaces and parks that in-

tegrate beautiful on-site wetlands and complement the neighborhood’s natural assets of Belle Isle Marsh, Revere Beach and Constitution Beach.

Resiliency and sustainability design principles have been on the forefront of the master design plan for Suffolk Downs. With our partners at CBT, Stoss, Beals + Thomas, VHB and Arup, the site was recently awarded the AIA’s 2022 Regional & Urban Design Award. Suffolk Downs exceeds the current energy code and LEED requirements in alignment with the City of Boston’s goals to achieve net zero development by 2050.

To learn more about Suffolk Downs please visit: [www.atsuffolkdowns.com](http://www.atsuffolkdowns.com).

## Drew// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion since 2009 was a man that approached helping Eastie’s most vulnerable population with empathy, compassion and an unparalleled ability for being the voice of thousands of marginalized citizens both here and across the state.

Last week it was announced that President and CEO of ABCD John Drew, longtime fighter for the low-income and underserved, will step down from his top role at ABCD on June 30, 2022 after over five decades of service to the agency.

The 85-year-old Drew has served in leadership positions at the renowned antipoverty/community action organization since 1971. The Charlestown native has been ABCD President/CEO since 2009.

“I have had a long run supporting ABCD and its many all-important programs, as well as playing a role in significant national, state and local initiatives to combat poverty and provide opportunities for those who are low-income and disadvantaged to get on the escalator to a better life,” said Drew. “I came in when ABCD was a start-up – something new – an organization dedicated to combating poverty during tumultuous times.”

Drew noted that his work for decades alongside former President/CEO Bob Coard, former longtime APAC Director and Eastie legend John White as well as other dedicated community,

corporate and political leaders has made his journey all the more special.

“I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with these committed trailblazers and hundreds of others over the years to make a difference for those in need,” he said.

ABCD was a start-up in the fight against poverty in America, taking off in 1962 with a \$1.9 million grant from the Ford Foundation and help from other funding sources. When Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964, ABCD was designated as Boston’s official antipoverty agency. Suddenly grass-roots community-based ABCD centers were serving every neighborhood, kids were signing up for summer jobs, seniors were becoming Foster Grandparents. Fuel assistance, job-training, Head Start, childcare sprang up.

Since the 1960s, ABCD has built institutions including the community health center movement; the Women, Infants & Children program; Roxbury Multi-Service Center; Urban College of Boston and many more. It spearheaded community participation, leadership building, and community engagement. In 1973, ABCD and three other community action agencies filed a successful class action lawsuit to prevent President Nixon from abolishing the Office of Economic Opportunity.

“ABCD was a leader in a revolution for poor people,” said Drew. “And we never stopped growing.”

Today ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income people annually with programs and services providing help and support for individuals, families, seniors, those with disabilities – whoever is in need.

“John Drew’s work as the President and CEO of ABCD – Boston’s leading anti-poverty organization – has touched the lives of countless children and families, including many here in East Boston,” said Rep. Adrian Madaro. “I wish him a happy retirement and thank him for all of his work on behalf of our community.”

Sen. Lydia Edwards added, “John Drew has literally dedicated his life to advocating for thousands of people. His leadership has expanded and grown ABCD and as a former Councilor and current Senator I regularly see and hear about the impact ABCD has on our lives. Thank you John for all your work.”

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta said Drew has brought an empathic and compassionate approach to serving the community during his tenure as CEO of ABCD.

“In his time he has understood that systemic inequities often dictate life circumstances and centered the humanity of others in his work,” she said. “We are grateful for his

many years of providing resources to our most vulnerable and wish him well during his retirement.”

ABCD announced that Sharon Scott-Chandler, Esq. will take over the President and CEO post.

Drew said his successor, currently ABCD Executive Vice President/COO, has been approved by the 50-member ABCD Board of Directors to take the reins upon his retirement.

“Sharon has the experience, expertise and commitment to take ABCD to the next level,” said Drew. “I am proud and privileged to pass the baton to her, the first African-American woman to lead this extraordinary organization.”

Chair of ABCD Board of Directors Sean Daughtry said Drew was always a tireless advocate, champion and warrior for all those needing a hand up in our city, state and nation.

“John is determined, tenacious and relentless in pursuing goals that give people in need opportunities to build a better life for themselves and their children, and live with dignity,” he said. “His leadership at ABCD has been a force for good for all concerned and he leaves the organization stronger than ever.”

While Director of ABCD Government and Industrial Relations Bob Elias added, “I have worked side by side with John Drew for decades, always inspired by his

drive, his commitment, his vision for the future and ability to mobilize forces to make a difference for those in need. He’s a creative thinker and passionate leader who is also an entrepreneur, savvy about leveraging economics to meet human needs. During difficult times, ABCD has prospered under John’s unwavering leadership. We will miss him.”

A national leader in the community action and non-profit sectors for decades, Drew is the founder of several national and Massachusetts-based non-profit organizations. As the Northeast region board member of the National Community Action Foundation, he has spearheaded national policy impacting low-income people and communities.

He also oversaw expansion of Head Start programs, particularly early Head Start, and initiated several new youth programs, including WorkSMART, a year-round paid work and learning experience for disadvantaged youth, and YEA! Youth Engaged in Action, a summer program for low-income 13-year-olds who are too old for camp and too young for traditional summer jobs programs.

During his tenure, Drew acquired significant real estate property for ABCD and initiated renovation and high technology updates to produce state-of-the-art facilities that enhanced program

stability for Head Start, neighborhood programs, ABCD’s two alternative high schools, Urban College and more. His efforts supported neighborhood development and strengthened non-profit programs, expanding services and opportunities for low-income residents.

In 2011, ABCD expanded to also serve the Mystic Valley region, receiving federal Community Services Block Grant and other funding designated for that area and successfully providing vital services and programs.

Drew’s passion for the underserved stems in part from his experiences living in public housing following a back injury and, in the early days of the anti-poverty movement, sending his two young children to Head Start.

“Head Start turned our lives around,” he said. “From day one it has been a beacon of light for struggling families.”

Drew studied at Bentley College in his mid-30s and went on to complete his MBA at Suffolk University. After being licensed as a Certified Public Accountant, he worked as an auditor for Peat Marwick and was assigned to audit ABCD. He soon joined the organization’s finance team and the rest is history. Before long he was serving as second-in-command at ABCD and in 2009 was named President/CEO.



## OBITUARIES

### Ann Faugno

Parishioner and choir member of Our Lady of Assumption Church



Ann M. (Zirpolo) Faugno of East Boston, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 22 at 94 years of age.

Ann was a parishioner and choir member of Our Lady of Assumption Church

The beloved wife of the late Gennaro Faugno, she was the devoted mother of Marie Palladino and her late husband, Billy of East Boston; dear sister of Richard Zirpolo and his wife, Wanda of Nahant and the late Michael Zirpolo and his late wife, Trudy, and Joe Zirpolo and his late wife, June; cherished grandmother of Christina and her husband, Ron Atkinson and Billy Palladino and adored great-grandmother of Danielle and Ashley.

Family and friends will honor Ann's life by

### Giuseppina "Josephine"

Santosuosso  
Of East Boston



Giuseppina "Josephine" Santosuosso of East Boston passed away peacefully on Friday, May 20 at 89 years of age.

The beloved wife of the late Anthony Santosuosso, she was the devoted mother of Carmella Mattera and her husband, Michael, Phyllis Camarca-Christiana and her husband, Ecedro Christian, Joseph Santosuosso and the late Anthony Santosuosso and his surviving wife, Mary; cherished grandmother of Michael, John and Daniel Mattera and the late Anthony Santosuosso Jr. and adored great-grandmother of Anthony Cali, Jennelle, Olivia, Michael III, Cole and Matthew Mattera. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

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

971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, today, Wednesday, May 25 from 4 to 8 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston for a Funeral Mass celebrating Josephine's life at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Josephine being laid to rest with her loving son, Anthony at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. To leave an online condolence, please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. C. 190B, §5-304  
Docket No. SU22P1056GD

Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300

In the matter of: Danny Chavez Of: Boston, MA  
RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Denny Chavez of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Danny Chavez is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/30/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the

written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: May 16, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate

5/25/22  
EB

and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

5/25/22

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

LETTERS OF AUTHORITY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. SU22P0880EA  
Estate of: Evelyn L. Ficociello

Date of Death: 02/21/2022

To: Maria McLoughlin  
6 Edgewood Road  
Middleton, MA 01949

You have been appointed and qualified as Personal Representative in Unsupervised administration of this estate on May 05, 2022.

These letters are proof of your authority to act pursuant to G.L. c. 190B, except for the following restrictions if any:

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

5/25/22  
EB

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory

5/25/22  
EB

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division  
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. SU22P0880EA  
Estate of: Evelyn L. Ficociello

Date of Death: 02/21/2022

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Maria McLoughlin of Middleton, MA

Maria McLoughlin of Middleton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory

5/25/22  
EB

### Alexander White

Retired Verizon Technician



Alexander White of Reading, formerly of East Boston, passed away on Tuesday, May 17.

Alexander was a graduate of Malden Catholic High School, Class of 1987. He was a retired technician for Verizon and a member of IBEW 2222.

He was the loving son of Angela (Tirone) White, John White and his wife.

Diane, dear brother of Chad, Jimmy and Christopher White; cherished grandson of maternal grandmother,

Catherine Tirone-Siciliano, her husband, Joseph and the late Joseph D. Tirone and paternal grandparents,

Clara White and the late James "Whizzer" White and loving companion of Sharon Daher. He is also survived by many cherished aunts, uncles, nieces,

nephews, cousins and many special friends.

Services were held at Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Sunday, May 22. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Parish, Wakefield on Monday, May 23.

Alexander was laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. May he rest in peace. To leave an online condolence, please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

### Carol Ann Coscia

Of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston



Carol Ann (Curti) Coscia of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away on May 19.

The beloved wife of Richard Coscia, she was the devoted mother of Maria Coscia, Michelle Repstien and her husband, Mike and Richard Coscia; dear sister of Gail McIntyre and Sandra Marshall and adored nana of Angela and Nicholas. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Carol's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston on Tuesday, May 24 before leaving in procession to St. John the Evangelist Church, 320 Winthrop Street, Winthrop for a mass celebrat-

ing Carol's life. Services concluded with Carol being laid to rest at the mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Glioblastoma Foundation, PO Box 62066, Durham NC 27715. To leave an online condolence visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.

Includes photo.No word Limit.

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Cambridge, MA 02139-1732  
617-349-4396

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Hartford, CT 06106-1561  
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
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Augusta, ME 04333  
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One Ashburton Place, Room 601  
Boston, MA 02108-1599  
617-994-6000

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Providence, RI 02903-3768  
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135 State Street, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301  
802-828-2480

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2 Chenell Drive  
Concord, NH 03301-9053  
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New Haven, CT 06510  
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## Letter // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

isting community, serves as a model for sustainable development, and also contributes fiscally to the health center. Why not build a development that is 75% mixed income and only 25% "unaffordable" instead of the other way around? I fear that what we have accepted as the norm is destroying the very fabric of this community.

Due to the timing of this development (coming after numerous oversized luxury complexes were pushed through the zoning process over the objection of community groups) and the size of this project, it is serving as a lightning rod and is mobilizing numerous community groups in opposition.

EBNHC has long had a stellar reputation, and building a development with so much opposition from the community stands to tarnish this irreparably. This does not need to be the case. This development could be done in true partnership with the community and serve as a model for the nation and the city. People would be excited to see it happen instead of protesting it at every step.

In addition to lack of affordable housing, East Boston suffers from high asthma and other respi-

ratory ailments due to the pollution from the airport, tunnel and other access roads. By creating a sustainable, reasonably sized development, you could have a positive impact rather than a negative one on the health of East Boston. Solar panels, eclectic vehicle charging, increased green space, and community gardens, would all contribute positively to the health of our community.

Lastly, it is my opinion that if you decrease the density and stagger the height so that it is lower closer to the Greenway and existing structures, and increases as it moves towards the overpass, you may receive less resistance from the community.

This development could be a win-win rather than messy protracted fight. Prioritizing wellness over profit is in line with the mission of the health center. I urge EBNHC to listen to the voices of the community and change the scale and focus of the project.

**Rick Cresta**

(As a resident of the Gumball Factory I am a direct abutter to this project. Although I am a member of several community groups, I am writing only as an individual.)

## 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](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)

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# Three Eastie community-based organizations among recipients of American Rescue Plan Act funds

By John Lynds

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) has awarded three East Boston community-based organizations that are working to address social determinants of health with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Eastie Farm, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen (EBCSK) and the East Boston Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) were among 34 organizations citywide to share in \$1.5 million in ARPA funding. The ARPA funds will support Eastie Farm, the EBCSK and NOAH's general operation costs to offset losses from the pandemic and stabilize these critical organizations and resources. Each Eastie organization will receive a grant between \$20,000 and \$50,000 from the ARPA funding that was approved by the Boston City Council in 2021.

"Many community-based organizations suffered financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, yet the need for their services grew during the past two years," said Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the BPHC Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "BPHC is proud to support organizations that are meeting the urgent needs of their communities and advancing our shared mission to build a healthier Boston."

BPHC awarded funding to community-based organizations working on a wide range of issues that impact Bostonians' health and wellness, such as food access and security, and safe and affordable housing, and other social determinants of health. Social determinants of health influence access to resources and opportunities and impact people's health.

Eastie Farm Found-

er and Director Kannan Thiruvengadam said the farm has worked without a break since the beginning of the pandemic to provide food relief to families in Eastie and elsewhere.

"We have also kept our operations going," said Thiruvengadam. "COVID affected our operations and programming, as it did many other organizations, immensely. Everything from seedling sales to raised bed construction was stretched out from what could have been a few days, to several months, leading to increased expenses both in terms of supplies and staff time. This increase in cost was unfunded and created a hole in our budget. Some of the consequences are not easily measurable, such as staff burnout. Even so, this support from BPHC is a relief, and we appreciate it as it allows us to look forward and continue to bring benefits to

our community."

NOAH's Executive Director Phil Giffie said this funding helps NOAH to continue to serve people still feeling the effects of the pandemic.

"It also helps us to assist with both personal or communal needs relevant to building the community back up from socio-economic, as well as climate related challenges," said Giffie.

NOAH's Director of Community Building Environment and Resilience

Latifa Ziyad added that when she got word NOAH received the grant it was proof positive the BPHC is there to help.

"This is just the type of fluid, fast acting resource that lets us respond to challenges in real-time without a hiccup," she said.

EBCSK Founder and Director Sandra Nijjar said Eastie Farm, NOAH and the soup kitchen are all doing incredibly noble work in the community and deserving of this

award from BPHC.

"We at EBCSK have had the blessing to collaborate with both Eastie Farm and NOAH and support each other, particularly during this coronavirus crisis," said Nijjar. "I, along with our EBCSK board members and leadership team, would like to congratulate and wish both of these two amazing organizations even more success in the future as we all move forward."

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# MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR COUNTRY

**Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 AM**

**13 Lovell St, Mary  
Ellen Welch Greenway**

**Please join the Massachusetts Port Authority for a World War II Memorial Dedication**


**The dedication will honor the citizens of East Boston who served their country at home and abroad during World War II**




*Never forget the sacrifices of our men and women at abroad and at home. Today we honor their memory...*

**Lydia Edwards**  
*State Senator*

**This Memorial Day...**



We thank you for your sacrifices so that we might all continue to live in freedom.

Though you are gone from us, you will never be forgotten.

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins & the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

**Remembering Memorial Day**

**CHANNEL FISH**

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**HAVE A HEALTHY & SAFE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**

*State Representative*

**ADRIAN MADARO**

*"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."*

*— Franklin D. Roosevelt*



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