

East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

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MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA
Mayor Michelle Wu, shown above working to remove some graffiti from a warehouse on Border Street.

Shown to the left, Mayor Wu speaks at a press conference, held on site following the removal.

Mayor Wu lauds efforts to erase graffiti

By Times-Free Press Staff

Mayor Michele Wu came to East Boston last Tuesday afternoon not only to personally remove graffiti from an abandoned warehouse on Border and Maverick Streets, but also to praise the Department of Public Works employees who have removed more than 400 instances of graffiti (also known as tagging) in East Boston alone

over the last two months. “Graffiti on private property is unwanted,” Wu said. “We need to take industrial steps to clean up graffiti vandalism that takes effort, time, and resources.” The mayor urged residents to report instances of vandalism by calling 311 or by using the mobile app. Joining Wu on her visit across the Mystic River

was Ward 1 Councilor Gabriella Coletta. “Solving 400 graffiti cases is no small feat,” said Coletta, who added that she is “proud of city workers for what they do.” Other department officials also joined Wu in getting out the message that there are more than 1,200 job openings in the city’s workforce and urged residents to view the jobs on the city website and apply.

Resiliency Summit addresses host of issues

By Times Free-Press Staff

More than 120 community residents and activists gathered at the Resiliency Summit that was organized by The Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) last Thursday evening at Spinelli’s in Central Square. The summit touched on 12 topics that dealt with Cybersecurity, Extreme Heat, Tree Canopy, Air Quality and Health, Housing, Pandemic Planning, Food Insecurity, Flood Prevention, Critical Infrastructure, Youth Roles, and Immigration.

Those attending picked a topic that they felt strongly about and then, and with 8-10 other people, convened in breakout groups to discuss what can be done to improve people’s lives and safety in East Boston.

Mayor Michelle Wu was in attendance and gave the keynote address for the event before the discussions started. The

mayor said she had made it a point to squeeze this event into her schedule before she headed back to her next meeting in Dorchester. She said her office was working to tie resilience, climate, equity, and other community needs together and that people could see this effort in her new cabinet.

Mayor Wu introduced her Director of the Green New Deal, Oscar Sell-



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON
Mayor Michelle Wu speaks at the Resiliency Summit last Thursday evening at Spinelli’s Banquet Hall.

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Mayor Michelle Wu and Phil Giffie, Executive Director of NOAH, discuss the Summit.

Italian American Cultural celebration set for Monday, Oct. 10 in East Boston

By Cary Shuman

The Italian American Alliance (IAA), led by CEO Dom Amara and President Jim DiStefano, will host the first annual Italian American Cultural Celebration on Monday, Oct. 10 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

at The Tall Ship East Boston, 1 East Pier Drive, Pier One, in East Boston.

The event will celebrate Italian-American culture and feature Italian food, fun activities for families, and musical entertainment.

A major sponsor of the

event is NIAF (National Italian America Foundation. Italia Unita is also a sponsor.

“It is our goal to promote and highlight our Italian legacy and the many contributions Italians have brought to this country,” said Dom Amara, IAA chief executive officer. “Our hardworking

See CELEBRATION Page 2

Vargas named new EB Main Streets Director

Miguel Vargas, who has been a fixture in East Boston as owner of Bajucol Boston, was appointed as the new executive director of East Boston Main Streets (EBMS). Vargas

replaces Gladys Oliveros who left as EBMS Director in April to work in Mayor Michelle Wu’s Administration. A native of Colombia, Vargas has longstanding

ties to the Eastie community. As owner of Bajucol Boston, Vargas has the experience needed to help business owners through-

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Food pantry dedicated in memory of former colleague Marzuq Muhammad

Special to the Times-Free Press

Trinity Financial and the Boston Housing Au-

thority last week joined members of the East Boston and Roxbury communities and the family of

Marzuq U.R. Muhammad who passed away in 2018 to celebrate the life of the former Trinity project

manager and dedicate the Food Pantry at Overlook Terrace at Orient Heights in his honor.

Muhammad had a decade-long career in real estate development and affordable housing and was project manager for Trinity Financial on the Overlook Terrace redevelopment with the Boston Housing Housing Authority and East Boston CDC.

See FOOD PANTRY Page 2



Officials join family and friends at the dedication of The Marzuq U.R. Muhammad Food Pantry at Overlook Terrace.

TRASH DELAY
Due to the Monday, Oct. 10th, Columbus Day Holiday, Trash will be delayed by one day.
Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

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offices will be closed on Columbus Day, Monday, October 10, 2022

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News in Brief

BPHC URGES CAUTION AS COVID-19 SPIKES IN LOCAL WASTEWATER

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is urging residents to take proper precautions against COVID-19 amid a significant spike in COVID-19 virus particles in local wastewater that suggests higher levels of community spread. Boston has not experienced levels this high since May. The concentration of COVID-19 RNA copies in local wastewater rose to 1,016 copies per mL over the past week, a 104.5% increase over the past 7 days. Boston’s COVID-19 metrics have risen steadily over the past few weeks

as people began to spend more time indoors and students, including college students, returned to school. Boston will likely see similarly elevated rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the coming weeks, data which often lags behind wastewater.

“This spike in our wastewater concentration is of great concern and another reminder that the pandemic is far from over,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “The key to protecting ourselves remains the same, and these tools are particularly important given this current trend: get vaccinated, get boosted, and wear masks indoors.

By protecting ourselves now, we can reduce the risk of infection as we spend more time indoors in the fall and winter.”

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are free and readily available to the public. This Saturday, BPHC is hosting a free, family-friendly COVID-19 vaccination and booster clinic at White Stadium in Franklin Park from 10am to 5pm. \$75 gift cards will be given out to those ages 18 and under who get vaccinated or boosted, as well as one caregiver who accompanies them and gets vaccinated or boosted, while supplies last. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Appointments for this Saturday’s clinic can be made by visiting bit.ly/

b2svaxbos.

For additional information on COVID-19 testing and vaccination resources in Boston, go to boston.gov/covid19.

BOSTON WARD 1 REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

The East Boston Republican Ward Committee is holding its bimonthly meeting Tuesday evening, Oct. 11 starting at 7 p. m. The meeting will be at Kelley Square Pub, at 84 Bennington Street (at the corner of Marion Street) in East Boston.

Registered Massachusetts Republicans and unenrolled voters are welcome and encouraged to attend especially with the general

election coming up soon.

For more info, please call the committee secretary at (617) 569-4075 or text (617) 755-7697. The committee e-mail addresses are ebrwc@yahoo.com and eastbostonrepublicanwardcomm@gmail.com.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Every year, National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15th to October 15th to recognize the immense contributions that Hispanic and Latino Americans bring to our city and country and celebrate their rich cultures and histories.

According to the 2020 Census, there are over 62 million Hispanic and Latino Americans here in

the United States. In Massachusetts they make up 12.8% of the state’s population, and in Boston they comprise 19.5% of the population.

Hispanic and Latino Americans contribute significantly to the City of Boston. Small businesses, laborers, teachers, police officers, restaurants and Elected Officials make up an indispensable part of our city’s workforce, keep our city and economy running, and have helped our city grow strong.

During this week’s Council meeting, the Council adopted a resolution celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month, paying tribute to the Hispanic and Latino community in Boston.

Vargas // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out the community. “Miguel’s years of community volunteering in Eastie will help continue East Boston Main Street’s tradition of being in the forefront of community engagement,” said Ida Candreva, EBMS Board President. EBMS is a nonprofit community improvement organization committed to fostering an inclusive community that supports the growth and well-being of the small business community and residents.

In Eastie, Main Streets started as a novel idea—to



Miguel Vargas.

take a stretch of Eastie’s business district along Meridian Street decimated in the 1970s by poor design, steel grates and unsightly signage and transform it into an attractive

commercial area with a uniformed look. Throughout the 1990s EBMS exploded onto the scene handing out grants to business owners on board with Main Streets’s vision of storefront improvements and a more welcoming business. Vargas can be reached at info@eastbostonmainstreets.org or stop by the East Boston Main Streets office at 154 Maverick St. For all upcoming East Boston Main Streets news plus visit eastbostonmainstreets.org or follow us on instagram @eastbostonmainst

Food Pantry // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He passed away in Atlanta, GA on May 20, 2018 at the age of 35.

"This was a person who took his assignments very seriously. This was a person that was always reflecting on how what he was doing could be even larger and more important. And he really got to be sort of a ray of sun and beauty when it came to talking about his family," said Patrick Lee, Principal and Co-Founder of Trinity Financial.

Overlook Terrace at Orient Heights comprises 331 units of public housing terraced into a steep hillside at the northern edge of East Boston’s Orient Heights neighborhood. The third and final phase of the revitalization effort to replace and modernize the original housing with state of the art, sustainable housing is underway and expected to be completed in early 2023.

State Rep. Adrian Madaturo of East Boston said Muhammad was "someone whose light shined incredibly bright." The Democratic legislator was one of several speakers who spoke fondly of Muhammad and his impact on the community, as well as the transformational affect that the Orient Heights public housing redevelopment is already having as construction continues on Phase 3.

Trinity Financial’s Eva Erlich, Vice President of Development Manager, overseeing the revitalization of Overlook Terrace at Orient Heights, worked closely with Muhammad on this, and many other transformational projects during his time at Trinity.

“This dedication is a fitting tribute to the life that Marzuq led: a life committed to improving the lives of others through affordable housing, resources like

this food pantry, and being a role model in the communities where he lived and worked,” Erlich said. “His great work on Overlook Terrace and the contributions he made throughout his life - exemplary, accomplished and inspiring - will be forever remembered here and throughout the City of Boston.”

The newly dedicated Marzuq U.R. Muhammad Food Pantry is a community resource that for years has served people from the surrounding Orient Heights neighborhood and elsewhere in East Boston. It is a partnership with the Lovin’ Spoonfuls Inc. food rescue project.

"It's just really moving to be here today ... and being reminded how far this site has come. The food pantry is part of the tribute to Marzuq. But I think the entire project really stands as a tribute to him and his dedication," said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kate Bennett. "For me, Marzuq was always such a pleasure to interact with. He really was a gift to this site."

Muhammad’s family joined Trinity Financial team members Overlook residents and staff, Boston Housing Authority officials and representatives of the East Boston Community Development Corp. in honoring the life Marzuq, who was one of seven children.

"He was one who listened and paid attention. And he would use the gifts (he had) to apply common sense to what he learned. To do what makes sense, and what is good. Because when you know better you've got to do better," said A. Alif Muhammad, Marzuq’s father, who became a noted civil rights and social justice activist while he was a student athlete at Syracuse University in 1969. "We want to thank Marzuq for his positive influence on the next generation. And we want to thank you for this food pantry: to commemorate Marzuq, (and) to continue the struggle."

Wu commits to speeding up production of affordable housing in City of Boston

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that she will sign an executive order designed to speed up the production of affordable housing in the coming days. She made the announcement during her speech to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce at their annual Government Affairs Forum last week. This executive order is a response to the challenges facing Boston’s housing market in order to remove barriers and make the process for developing affordable housing easier across the city.

The current process to approve affordable housing can take as long as 337 days. This executive order aims to reduce that time in half.

"Building a Boston for everyone means ensuring that all of our residents and families have access to safe, affordable housing across our communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "By streamlining the timeline on affordable housing projects we’ll identify ways to make our processes more predictable for all projects to keep our city green and growing. I’m grateful to the Mayor’s Office of Housing and the BPDA for their leadership and look forward to accelerating our efforts for affordability across our neighborhoods."

“This executive order will require City departments to prioritize the review of affordable housing developments and create new processes that will streamline our work and the work of our development partners,” said

Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon. “We know that access to affordable housing helps stabilize the lives of those who receive it – giving them predictability in budgeting, and allowing them to put down roots in our neighborhoods. This prioritization is the right thing to do.”

The executive order consists of five components designed to increase the speed by which affordable housing projects are approved for development:

- Create a more efficient path for Article 80 development review and approval
- Study and address zoning challenges to affordable housing development
- Prioritize affordable housing in the development review processes
- Create a system to track affordable housing reviews and approvals
- Establish a governance structure to ensure effective implementation

The order directs the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to recommend changes to Article 80 of the Boston Zoning Code to establish an alternative path for the review of affordable housing developments. The new process will include community engagement and thorough agency review, but also establish clear and accelerated timelines. The order directs that any currently required review processes not take place if there was previous community engagement during the disposition of City- or BPDA-owned land that is proposed for affordable housing development.

“The BPDA is looking forward to creating a process that streamlines review and approval of affordable housing developments,” said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. “These projects are critical to boosting our city’s housing supply and making Boston more affordable – one of the BPDA’s top three priorities, along with resilience and equity.”

To eliminate barriers to affordable housing development, the BPDA will study and address zoning challenges to affordable housing development. Within 120 days, the BPDA will issue a report on potential Boston Zoning Code changes that would incentivize the creation of affordable housing while minimizing the need for variances or other permitting burdens for these projects.

The order directs the relevant agencies, boards, and commissions of City government to immediately give affordable developments priority status on any and all meeting schedules. It also directs these agencies to evaluate existing review requirements to identify those that can be done concurrently and those that are potentially unnecessary. These agencies include the following:

- Boston Planning and Development Agency
- Mayor’s Office of Housing
- Boston Civic Design Commission
- Boston Zoning Commission
- Inspectional Service Department
- Boston Landmarks

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Celebration // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Italian immigrants were a strong piece in building America to what it is today. I, along with our children and grandchildren appreciate our ancestor’s struggles. We took what was taught to us through education and the installation of values to help us continue to contribute to many areas. Today we showcase our talents with music, arts, and cuisine.”

Lisa Capogreco Capuccio, a long-time community leader and member of the event committee, expects a fun-filled celebration on the day that the Columbus Day Parade was traditionally held in East Boston for many years. The national holiday recognizes Christopher Columbus, the Italian explorer who discovered America in 1492.

“I felt we have to do something to celebrate Italian-American culture, and what better place than East Boston,” said Capuccio.

“We welcome everyone from East Boston and beyond to attend and enjoy this celebration.”

The event will showcase East Boston’s newest attraction, The Tall Ship, which boasts the most amazing views of the Boston Harbor/Skyline. Vendors will line up with Italian food. Children will be treated to special activities such as games (with prizes), a magician, face-painting, paper mâché building, and inter-active character performances with “Anna and Elsa.” Live musical entertainment will be provided by DJ Ross Zagami, Ray Cavicchio on the “Ca-

vi-Chord,” Cory Pesaturo, world champion accordionist, and Boston’s premier Acapella group, Street Magic.

There will also be a wide variety of Italian specialties: brick-oven pizza by Montilio’s; sausages and more by The Sausage Guy; arancini, coffee and espresso by Brelundi; cannolis by Roma Bakery; limoncello baked goods and limoncello tasting by Fabrizia; Italian pastries, and so much more. Also, there will be cash bars on the premises. A variety of non-food vendors will also be on-site.

Valet Parking is available. MBTA accessible on the Blue Line MBTA stop Maverick Station, one block down. Water Shuttle from Long Wharf directly to the Tall Ship (MBTA fares).

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To RSVP, please email Emma: emma@lydiaedwards.org

Campaign finance laws limit contributions to \$1,000 per person per calendar year. Campaign finance laws prohibit contributions from corporations and limit contributions from registered lobbyists to \$200 per year. Campaign contributions are not tax deductible.
Paid for by The Committee to Elect Lydia Edwards

Volunteers gather along Boston’s Waterfronts for day of service following Waterfront Summit

Special to the Times-Free Press

This month, volunteers from across the Boston area joined the Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive Waterfront — an alliance of more than 50 organizations throughout Boston focused on access, inclusivity, resilience, and economic vitality on Boston’s harbor, islands, and rivers — for the first ever Love your Waterfront Day of Service. Dozens of community members joined Coalition partner organizations at Moakley Park, City Natives, Nightingale Community Garden, and sites along the

Neponset River to clean up local parks, and support the essential role they play in promoting community wellness and public health. The day of service was held in tandem with the City of Boston’s Love Your Block Initiative. “Boston’s open spaces and waterfront parks are some of the city’s greatest public resources that can support the health, resilience and vitality of every neighborhood,” said Anthony Davis, Programming Advisor of the Coalition. “The Love Your Waterfront Day of Service was an opportunity to celebrate these valu-

able spaces, and support a more resilient, accessible, and inclusive future for our city’s parks.” The Day of Service followed a Waterfront Summit which was hosted by the Coalition at Roxbury Community College as part of City Awake’s Fierce Urgency of Now Festival. The Summit featured discussions with community leaders, experts, and advocates exploring the connection between public health, resilience, and inclusivity on Boston’s waterfront, and how the city can shape public spaces that benefit and engage all communities.



From left, moderator Latifa Turner Ziyad, Director of Community Engagement and Resilience for the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, leads panelists Sara McCammond, Executive Director of Harborfront Neighborhood Alliance; John Walkey, Director of Waterfront & Climate Justice Initiatives at GreenRoots; Rebecca Block, City Awake Advisory Board; and Alison Badrigian, Director of Projects and Planning for the Esplanade Association, in a discussion on resiliency at the Waterfront.



From left, moderator James Hills, Host of Java with Jimmy, leads panelists Eana Meng, Director of Small Steps Project; Jenn Meakem, Community Engagement Specialist at Boston Harbor Now; Dr. Jon Santiago, State Representative, 9th Suffolk; and Rev. Willie Bodrick, President & CEO of The American City Coalition, in a discussion on inclusion at the waterfront.

Resiliency // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ers-Garcia, who began work just last August. Neighborhood favorite, Nathalia Benitez, the Mayor’s Neighborhood Coordinator, was on hand to meet and greet as well. Ward 1 Councilor Gabriela Coletta also stopped in and remained behind to meet with constituents. Coletta said this work to pull the neighborhood together, especially on waterfront and climate issues, was essential. Gloribel Rivas, State Rep. Adrian Madaro’s Chief of Staff, said the representative was in support, but was in Italy with family on a long-awaited vacation. Latifa Ziyad, the Resiliency Coordinator at NOAH for the last 18

months, took the lead in the community efforts along the way that resulted in many listening sessions, with the Social Centers, the Health Center, food and social service agencies, and the East Boston Climate group among the most frequent participants. In their previous summit in 2020, NOAH had undertaken more than 300 surveys throughout East Boston. “Since East Boston is so vulnerable, we worked across all East Boston neighborhoods to learn if and how people understood climate issues and to whom they turned for reliable information on climate issues, especially in the event of an emergen-

cy,” NOAH Executive Director Philip Giffie said. “A major outcome was the agreed-upon need for more emergency preparedness planning and building a non-partisan Resiliency Network,” he added. While the need for Emergency Preparedness is still very much a focus, Ziyad found that in today’s challenging COVID world, other issues topped residents’ list of priorities, including food insecurity and food collaborations, COVID information networking and health and social service collaborations, and air quality. “We believe that resiliency has to be built first with respectful listening to what people are say-

ing about their needs and priorities,” said Ziyad. “Everyone across the community is interested in preparing for an event, but other issues, such as affordable housing, immigration, youth vulnerabilities, flooding, air pollution, food insecurity, and the like need to be acknowledged first.” She said that more than 15 people came up to her afterwards and asked about next steps and how to get involved. Giffie said some of those next steps include gathering interested people and agencies for a Resiliency Network and diving into some planning for the highly vulnerable Liberty Plaza/Central Sq. environs. He also said the



Members work in their breakout groups during the summit.

City’s Chief of Emergency Management, Shumeane Benford, agreed to help work on an East Boston Emergency Preparedness Summit in the coming months. To get involved, reach Latifa Ziyad at 617.418.8241. The next steps include gathering people for a Resiliency Network and preparing in the coming months for an

Emergency Preparedness Summit. NOAH along with East Boston Neighborhood Health Centers and Blue Cross Blue Shield helped to fiscally sponsor the full days event(s). However the event planners consisted of no fewer than 22 organizational and academic leaders, many of whom co-facilitated the issue tables.

Housing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Commission

- Boston Parks Commission
- Public Improvement Commission
- Boston Transportation Department

“We greatly appreciate Mayor Wu’s outstanding leadership to increase affordable housing options in the City of Boston,” said Aaron Gornstein, President and CEO of Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH). “This new executive order will make an enormous difference in expediting new affordable housing proposals, enhancing coordination among key city agencies, and reducing overall costs. We look forward to working closely with the Mayor and her leadership team on implementing these measures so that we can help more low income households as quickly as possible.” “In the face of an unprecedented crisis in housing, it is very meaningful that Mayor Wu is taking actions to implement a review process for affordable housing development that emphasizes expedited and coordinated review while balancing accountability and community engagement,” said Leslie Reid, CEO Madison Park Development Corporation. “This proposed ordinance is a critical tool to ensure that we can continue the


important work of fostering vibrant, healthy neighborhoods that support well-being for all.” The order also requires the City of Boston form an Affordable Housing Development Review Advisory Committee to evaluate the actions being taken to prioritize and lessen the time associated with the development review and permitting of affordable housing developments. This committee will have representatives from City agencies that are critical to the review process and external organizations that are knowledgeable of the review and permitting process. During this review, the City will look to identify ways to make the approvals processes more predictable for all development projects moving forward. The City will establish the committee within 90 days following the Mayor signing The order builds on Mayor Wu’s initiatives to address Boston’s housing affordability, including investing \$380 million in housing affordability through the City’s Operating budget, the Capital budget, and federal recovery funds, filing a Home Rule Petition relative to real estate transfer fees and senior property tax relief, signing an Executive Order relative to affirmatively furthering fair housing, convening a

Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee to inform

future legislative proposals, hiring the City’s first Chief

of Planning, and announcing the results of the City-

wide land audit.



Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: East Boston

Wednesday, October 19
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/PLANEastBostonNR
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 092 5565

Description:


Please join us for a community meeting to preview draft recommendations for Neighborhood Residential areas. This event is part of PLAN: East Boston, a long-range neighborhood-wide planning initiative that, when complete, will update neighborhood zoning, establish neighborhood design guidelines, and propose new capital improvements to public space, including near- and long-term improvements to the neighborhood’s transportation network.

At this time, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. Spanish translation services will be available.

For more information, visit the project website bostonplans.org/planeastboston or email Jason.Ruggiero@Boston.gov.

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[BostonPlans.org](https://bostonplans.org)

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

East Boston

Times-Free Press

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TAKE A FOREST BATH

When we saw a headline about a “forest bath” in an on-line publication the other day, we initially took its meaning literally.

But the article was not about physically bathing in the woods. Rather, it pointed out that there have been some studies which have suggested that spending time in heavily-treed areas can decrease blood pressure and stress and boost overall mood, particularly if there is a stream or lake nearby. Exercising in the woods also has similar unique benefits (which made us recall some of our cross-country runs.)

The article further noted that the sounds and smells of the forest, as well as the chemicals released by trees, can have a calming effect. (Though we assume this does not include the growling of a bear...)

After we read the article, we realized that a “forest bath” simply is a new-agey term for taking a hike in the woods.

Here in New England, the change to the fall season provides us with the ultimate opportunity to take a nice hike. Summer’s humidity is gone and the cool, crisp air is perfect for taking a long walk amidst the splendor of the foliage season.

Although our most-memorable hikes have been in the mountains of northern New England, we don’t have to travel that far to enjoy a forest bath. The nearby Blue Hills, Arnold Arboretum, state parks, and parks under the auspices of the Trustees of Reservations provide many nearby opportunities to enjoy the solitude of nature with our friends and family members.

So whether you call it a hike -- or a forest bath -- we encourage all of our readers to get outside in the coming weeks.

SUNDAYS AREN’T FUN ANYMORE

Some years back, amid the Patriots’ long string of success, we wrote that New England fans should enjoy the ride, because it inevitably would come to an end.

We’ve been Pats’ fans since the 1960s, so unlike younger fans, we’ve known many more years of failure than success, which gave us a much-greater appreciation for the Pats’ amazing and unprecedented run of Super Bowl appearances and league titles from 2001-2019.

Societies have worshiped their athletic heroes dating back to the ancient Greeks. In the modern age, sports have served as a form of entertainment that uniquely brings people together, where we can forget ours and the world’s problems, even if it’s for just a few hours each week. In addition, success on the athletic field (or track or arena) is the ultimate meritocracy -- unlike just about every other aspect of our society -- which is why cheaters in sports are so reviled.

The Patriots’ success became part of the local culture, with fans -- and even non-fans -- partaking of game-day parties and tailgating that helped us endure the long fall and winter seasons. Studies have shown that sharing the experience of a successful sports team with friends brings noticeable psychological benefits that last for a couple of days -- and New England fans had almost 20 years of joy.

But New England no longer is the center of the pro football universe. We’re now the ones on the outside looking in, as was the case for so many others for two decades. When the hometown newspaper writes that your 1-3 team can take comfort in the positives after another loss -- well, you know that it’s going to be a long season.

We were listening to the 1960s station on our Sirius XM radio in our car the other day when we heard one of our favorite tunes, Sundays Will Never be the Same by Spanky and the Gang. The lyrics are about a lost love and how their Sundays together were special, but they seem appropriate for New England Patriots fans these days:

Now I wake up Sunday morning
Sunday’s just another day
Sunny afternoons that made me feel so warm inside
Have turned as cold and gray as ashes
As I feel the embers die
Sunday will never be the same

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



Forum

GUEST OP-ED

The consequences of sea level rise are ominous for Boston

BY John Vitagliano

Hurricane’s Ida’s devastating impacts on Florida’s seacoast communities provide a stark warning to Boston which is similarly vulnerable to the combined impacts of storm surges and sea level rise which is universally predicted as inevitable.

Sea level rise is due largely from accelerated melting of the Greenland and Antarctic glaciers and ice sheets from global warming, and to a lesser but significant degree from ocean waters’ expanding volumes due to warming temperatures.

The consequences of sea level rise are ominous for Boston. Currently accepted scientific data indicate that by the year 2050 New England coastal communities will experience an average sea level rise of three to six feet. This would be a catastrophe for East Boston, a peninsula bordered by Boston Harbor and the Chelsea Creek, with a possible flooded area of over 300 acres. Charlestown, the North End and Seaport District would also be severely impacted as would Winthrop and Chelsea. Logan Airport, due to its massive filling of once-open Boston Harbor, has removed 2,000 acres of inner harbor that once served as a buffer between tidal surges and East Boston and Winthrop.

There is a brilliant proposal that would protect all of Boston Harbor, its adjoining communities, the seaport facilities and Logan Airport. A brilliant city planner, Antonio DiMambro, has proposed an award-winning project, praised by noted oceanographer John Englander, that would not only protect the entire harbor and it’s neighborhoods from sea level rise but also protect its maritime dependent economic base. Mr. DiMambro has described his brainchild as “Boston’s Safety Belt”, a series of connected barriers linking Deer Island, Long Island, and Squantum into a bulwark across the harbor, with 15 foot gates that would rotate closed to protect the harbor and city from storm surges. The outer harbor would effectively become an encircled pond, shielding Boston and its harbor from storm surges and sea level rise. Winthrop’s inner harbor from Point Shirley to Court Road would also be

Parking cut proposed for 135 Bremen St. project

By Adam Swift

A proposed 94-unit condominium complex at 135 Bremen Street is looking to cut its on-site parking by more than half.

Developers were before the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) at its regular meeting last week to discuss the proposed amendment to the project, which would eliminate an underground parking level and cut the number of parking spaces from 110 to 47. The project was initially approved by the city back in 2014.

Matt Eckel, the attorney for the developer, said the elimination of parking is necessary because the parking level would be within six inches of a Blue Line tunnel at one point.

“The substantial change we are proposing to do is to eliminate the below-grade parking,” said Eckel. “We are seeking to eliminate the lowest level of parking and redistribute some of the lower level of parking to the ground level.”

The changes would also include some changes to the groundfloor layout, including reducing the size of the proposed commercial space from 8,000 to 5,000 square feet and moving the bicycle storage room to the front of the building. Developers would also be able to close one of the curb cut lanes and reduce the size of the drive aisle on the property.

The reduction in the curb cut will also lead to increased plantings around the face of the building, according to architect Linda Neshamkin.

“The parking is now proposed to all be on the first floor for a total of 47 cars as opposed to the previous 107,” Neshamkin said.

The unit count for the building would remain at 94 condominium units.

Neighborhood resident Stewart Landers asked if the developers have done any assessment of potential buyers to see if they would be willing to purchase condo units with no parking spaces.

“Obviously, there is not enough street parking around for another 60 cars,” said Landers.

Eckel noted that the project has been in the works for a number of years, and that developers have looked at a number of different options for rental and condo units during that time.

“With this location being so close to MBTA stations, there is a market -- we are confident,” said Eckel. “We have looked at it many different ways over many different time periods and we do believe there is a market with it being so close to public transportation here for these units.”

Several residents raised concerns about the size of the project, and asked if the developer had considered decreasing the number of units, especially given the reduction in parking.

There were also concerns raised that the reduction in parking would have a negative impact on parking and traffic in the

protected, as well as the Bayswater Street neighborhood of East Boston.

Such an undertaking would not be inexpensive in the short term but would be critical in the long term as protection for the incalculably valuable seaport assets and irreplaceable neighborhoods of Boston. I believe that Massport, created by the legislature in 1956 to be the steward and protector of Boston Harbor assets, including Logan Airport which would be severely impacted by sea level rise to the point of closure, must play a vital role in the underwriting of an effective sea level rise protective system. In 2012 Boston narrowly escaped the massive destruction from Superstorm Sandy, endured by New Jersey and New York, by six hours because the storm struck at low tide instead of high tide. The safety of East Boston, all Boston neighborhoods, and Winthrop as well as the security of the region’s air transportation and maritime infrastructure should not be dependent on a chance tidal occurrence.

A moveable sea barrier system for Boston Harbor would not be precedent setting. Not surprisingly the Dutch have been leading the way in creating and operating real world moveable sea barrier systems. For example, one which has been operating successfully is the Maeslantkering Barrier on the Nieuwe Waterweg, protecting the major cities of Rotterdam and Antwerp from the ravages of storm surge and sea level rise.

Boston is not the only American coastal city facing the inevitability and consequences of sea level rise. Just recently New York and New Jersey have begun reviewing, on the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy’s destruction, a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect their communities from sea level rise and storm surge devastation by constructing a huge gate system consisting of 12 movable sea barriers across New York Harbor. Estimated cost of the New York sea barrier proposal is \$52 Billion. While the Boston Harbor proposal would not approach that level

John Vitagliano is a former Massport Board Member and former member of the Boston Transportation Commissioner.

neighborhood.

“It is literally irrational (to think that) not half the residents will have cars,” said Bessie King, who suggested that the developer lower the number of units or come up with some other concessions on the project.

Carlos Munoz noted that the plans have always shown the underground parking jutting close to the Blue Line tunnel and questioned why it took so long to propose eliminating the underground parking.

“There was obviously knowledge that the Blue Line tunnel is adjacent to the site and below it,” said Eckel. “The original plan did call for the two levels of parking, but as happens with these projects, as the plans progressed and as there was additional outreach with the MBTA and analysis things changed.”

Karen Sullivan raised the idea of placing deed restrictions on the units so residents would not be able to apply for on-street parking permits. Eckel noted the developer would look into it, but that there were legal questions surrounding deed restrictions on condominium units.

In other GSCA business at the meeting, police officer Tom Domenico noted that crime has been down in the District 7 area over the past few weeks, but that there have been some citations issued for drunk and disorderly conduct in Maverick Square.

There was also a construction update on the Loftel project at 155 Porter St. Demolition and clean out of the area is expected to start this month, with structural prep and underground utility work getting underway in December. The completion of internal framing, dry-wall, and finish is expected by April of 2024.

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Boston area organizers gather for Shared Gifting Circle

By Shane Rogers

It was a warm and sunny day at the end of June on the Boston waterfront. As the morning breeze blew in from the harbor, community organizers from around the Greater Boston area were descending downtown to meet in person for the first time. The Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston Cohort, a cohort organized by the Grassroots Fund with support from the Barr Foundation, had met virtually a few times before, all in preparation for the shared gifting circle that was about to take place.

“Being in this vibe just gives me inspiration, not only for what I want to do in our own organization, but for what I want to do personally as a professional,” says Chai Hossaini of Revere Youth in Action, a

group based in the Shirley Ave. neighborhood of Revere that’s dedicated to protecting and promoting the educational, cultural, and socio-political rights of Revere youth.

The Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston Cohort is made up of 12 members from seven groups around Greater Boston. The groups were selected after an extensive community research process, including interviews and referrals from partners and folks living in the community, to identify groups and organizers working on the ground in their communities and at the intersection of Environmental Justice. The dozen organizers identified were then asked to join the Grassroots Fund and Barr Foundation in a new venture where they were to be tasked with



The organizers taking part in the Grassroots Fund Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston cohort.

working together to collectively decide how to distribute \$180,000 in funding amongst themselves and the work they hoped to accomplish over the next year, no strings attached. All the groups were also guaranteed up to \$5,000 in grants for their time.

“The Barr Foundation climate program has a commitment to building a diverse and inclusive climate movement and in particular, we want to be supporting organizations that are working with communities that are most impacted by the climate crisis such as working class communities, immigrant communities, Afro descendant communities,” says Kalila Barnett, Climate Resilience Program Officer of the Barr Foundation. “We also know that it’s important to reduce the barriers that small grassroots organizations have around getting access to funding that they need.”

For many of the organizers this was the first time meeting each other in person, although the handful of virtual meetings before gave them some comfort and familiarity. As they settled in for the day after an all-too-brief hour of mingling, laughs, and “oh you know so-and-so!” the mood turned to the reason for their gathering. All seven

groups had prepared a presentation about their community work along with a monetary ask to fund it. Not surprisingly, the hopes and dreams outlined were not only inspiring, but also familiar as the organizers saw more concretely the connections between the work they all hoped to accomplish in their own communities.

“Being here feels really powerful and there’s that warm fuzzy feeling because you’re here with people who are doing the same work as you in different communities, you’re here with people who understand you,” says Kathy Henriquez of Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE), an organization that develops abundant leaders who support social transformation and shifting political power. “Structurally we’re used to having to always ask and over explain ourselves to try to make sure that our voices are being heard and when we’re in a group with people who understand and are doing the same thing, that barrier is down and you feel like you can be yourself and just say what you want to say, what you have to say, without having to like over explain.”

As the day-long meeting began to come to a close, the organizers finished up

their presentations and began a conversation about final decisions regarding funding. While expressing discomfort at times, as most of the organizers had not been part of a situation where they were given the freedom to make funding decisions, the discussion encompassed many of the difficult intricacies and nuances that are tied up with funding, ultimately leading to a final decision all organizers felt comfortable with.

“The conversation is really about the equitableness in the work that we do and not just having funding to spread around,” contributed Jamal Gooding of People Affecting Community Change (PACC), a provider of tangible resources, to assist the socially disadvantaged in reconnecting with their communities by providing hands-on outreach, empowerment and volunteer opportunities, during that final conversation.

Since the in-person meeting, the Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston Cohort has continued to meet monthly, virtually to keep in touch, share updates, and coordinate work that aligns among their groups. As this was the first year of the shared gifting circle, the organizers also helped to evaluate the success

and challenges of the cohort in order to adapt next year’s strategy to continue to meet the needs of the community.

“We are so inspired by the work taking place in Boston among these community organizers and are pleased that this model was able to lower barriers for them to access funding for their important community work,” says Sarah Huang, co-director of the Grassroots Fund. “As we continue with this process, we are in a constant state of learning and evaluating to improve and grow how funders are able to meet the needs of the grassroots wherever they are.”


The organizations participating in the Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston Cohort are:

- Dorchester Not 4 Sale
- Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE)
- Brockton Interfaith Community
- Revere Youth in Action
- Lynn United for Change
- People Affecting Community Change (PACC)
- New England United 4 Justice (NEU4J)



Eny Lovo and Kathy Henriquez of Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE) and organizers of the Grassroots Fund Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston cohort.

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TREE EASTIE AND HVNA GIVE SHADE ON NEPTUNE CIRCLE

Courtesy photos

Tree Eastie and Harbor View Neighbor Association (HVNA) planted 11 trees at Neptune Circle as part of its efforts to increase the tree canopy across East Boston on September 25 and two trees at Brooke Charter School on September 26 with the third grade class.

The 11 trees will be a combination of small, flowering dogwood trees and some larger trees.

Because of the narrow area they will be planted in, Masterson said the group chose trees with roots that grow down to avoid damaging the sidewalks.

“Any trees that we put in for the city that are street trees we take care of,” said Tree Eastie’s Bill Masterson.



Planting trees was a family affair.



Shown above, the planting with the third grade class at Brooke Charter under the direction of Bill Masterson.

Shown to the right, volunteers plant trees on Neptune Circle.



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Rep. Livingstone spearheading clean-water effort to replace lead pipes across state

By Dan Murphy

As lead pipes continue to be the cause of tainted water throughout Boston and the rest of the Commonwealth, Rep. Jay Livingstone of the 8th Suffolk is helping to spearhead the effort to tackle this pernicious problem.

Livingstone filed legislation over the summer to address the issue, and to create a grant program for municipalities in need of assistance to distribute funds to their residents. This compelled both the House and the Senate to take action on the issue. In July, the Massachusetts House and Senate sent to Gov. Charlie Baker “H.5065, An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth,” which, according to Rep. Livingstone, included a \$20 million funding authorization and language to create a new lead service-line replacement program within the treasurer’s Clean Water Trust that would distribute funds to municipalities for residents in areas of need.

In “Clean water should be a fundamental human right” - his Sept. 22 op ed piece for Commonwealth Magazine - Rep. Livingstone wrote: “This language originated in an amendment I filed that was adopted by the House when we took up the bill in May 2022 and the conference committee, led by Rep. Danielle Gregorie and Sen. Will Brownberger, included the language in the final conference report. It was signed into law by Governor Baker in August and will create the first state-funded replacement program. I appreciate Speaker Mariano and Senate President Spilka and the rest of the legislature recognizing this serious issue and embracing this solution.”

Massachusetts reportedly has 220,000 lead-pipe service lines connecting homes and buildings to water mains, and according to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission’s Lead Service Map (found online at <https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/map-room/lead-service-map>), more than 3,900 addresses using lead-service pipes citywide

(Lead services indicated on this map were reported based on visual inspections performed at the water meter during installation of new water meters under the Commission’s Automatic Meter Reading program, according to BWSC.)

The Environmental Protection Agency has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero, since toxic metals can be harmful to humans even at low levels. But despite this ambitious goal, a 2016 American Water Works Association survey estimated that Massachusetts had more lead service lines than all but 10 states.

“The only permanent and 100 [percent] effective solution to address this issue is the replacement of lead services lines, which costs, on average, between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per line,” wrote Rep. Livingstone. “This steep price makes it difficult for many homeowners to afford a replacement, although the state has begun taking concrete measures to mitigate this harm. Luckily, there are more resources than ever to help people make this change.”

Boston is among the municipalities in the Commonwealth that offers interest-free loans to those who want to replace their lead service-lines.

Moreover, the state’s Department of Environmental Protection announced the Massachusetts State Revolving Fund 2023 Intended Use Plan on July 1.

“This revolving fund offers affordable loan options to cities and towns to improve water supply infrastructure and drinking water safety, while addressing issues such as watershed management priorities, stormwater management, and green infrastructure,” wrote Rep. Livingstone. “The Clean Water Trust, also based on federal funding, is offering grants to municipalities to figure out how many lead service lines exist within their borders.”



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Sports

EAST BOSTON HIGH VOLLEYBALL ON A ROLL WITH FOURTH STRAIGHT WIN



Alexmayri Peguero takes to the sky as she lines up a spike.



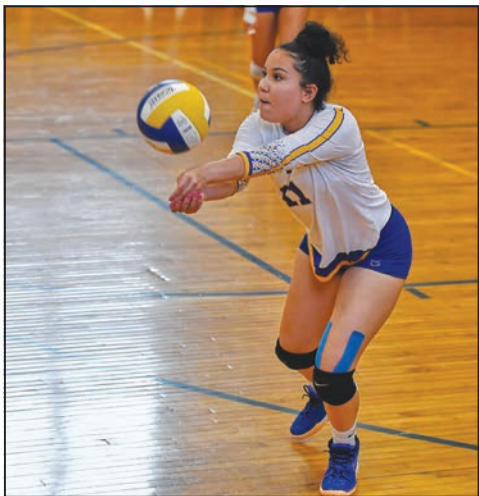
Salome Arango (6) and Alexmayri Peguero (11, right) make sure of a return shot.



Emily Cruz is poised to put the ball back over the net.

Photos by Bob Marra

The East Boston volleyball team won its fourth straight game and improved their record to 5-4 with 3-0 win over Tech Boston Friday at East Boston High. The win pushed the Jets above the all-important .500 threshold as they fight for a spot in the MIAA Division 3 post-season tournament.



Alexmayri Peguero with a return.



Libero Liliana Vargas with the save.



Cindy Alfaro (16) and Liliana Vargas (partially hidden) dive to the floor to save the ball.



Jaden Pacitta goes low to make a save.



Cindy Alfaro (16) with good form on a return.

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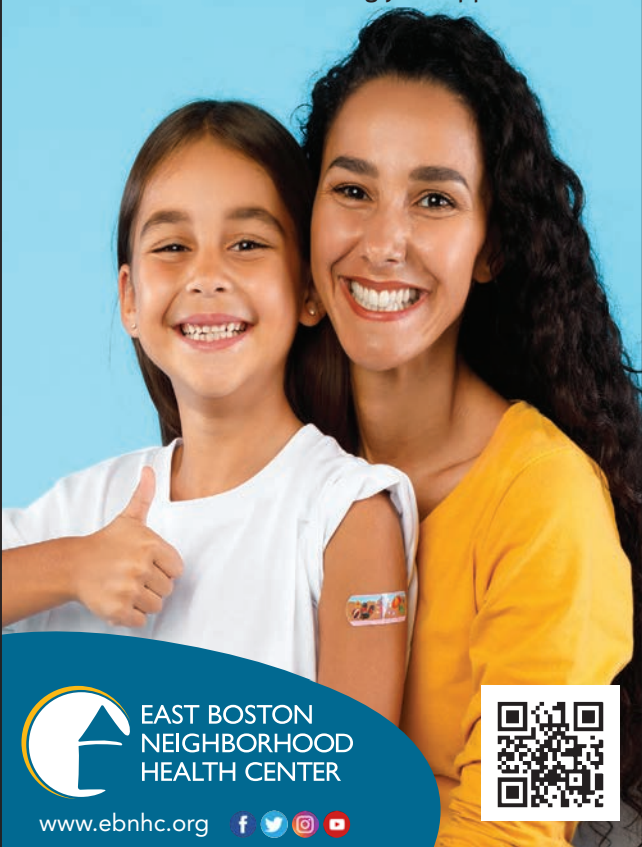
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OBITUARIES

Bridget Manganelli

She will always be remembered and loved

Family and friends attended visiting hours on October 2 and a funeral on October 3 in Vazza's "Beechwood" Funeral Home, 262 Beach St., Revere for Bridget M. (Giovino) Manganelli who died on Wednesday, September 28

at the Massachusetts General Hospital following a brief illness. She was 90 years old. A Funeral Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere, was immediately followed by interment in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Bridget was a native of East Boston, where she was born to her late parents Patrick and Rose (Rinaldi) Giovino. She was raised and educated in East Boston and was a graduate of East Boston

High School, Class of 1949. Bridget married her husband, Ralph and they remained in East Boston's "Eagle Hill Section."

Bridget was a proud mother of her only child, Rosemary. She proudly and gracefully raised her daughter and kept her home. She later became a Crossing

Guard for the City of Boston, where she happily crossed many children in the Streets in East Boston for over 28 years.

Bridget was also a very active woman, where she sat on the Commission of Elderly Affairs at Boston City Hall. She also helped many seniors over the years who needed guidance



and assistance for their needs. She was active in the East Boston Social Center and

Chelsea Senior Center. Bridget was a woman of strong faith and also attended mass regularly. Above all, she was all about her family. She cherished cooking for them and hosting many dinners and holidays. She will always be remembered and loved.

The devoted wife of 60 years to Ralph D. Manganelli of Chelsea, formerly of East Boston, she was the loving mother of Rosemary Bouchrif and her husband, Hassan of Chelsea, formerly of East

Boston; the cherished sister of the late Edward Giovino and his surviving wife, Patricia Giovino of Burlington, she is also lovingly survived by her sister in law, Virginia Leo of Peabody and her late husband, Nunzio Leo and by many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.vazzafunerals.com.

Raymond Grande

Self employed bricklayer

Raymond E. Grande of Peabody, formerly of East Boston, went peacefully home to the Lord on Monday, October 3 at 86 years of age.

Raymond was a self-employed bricklayer throughout his life and a member of the Progressive Club and the OHC Club.

The beloved husband of 42 years to Marie (Carino) Grande, he was the loving son of the late Stephen and Concetta (Mucci) Grande from Italy, devoted father of Krisinda Moretti and her husband, Jeffrey; dear brother of the late Joseph, Ollie, Stephen, Lindy, Flavia, Sophie, Aurora and Tina and cherished grandfather of Isabella and Vittoria. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Raymond's life by gathering at the Ruggiero



Family Memorial Home - North Shore Chapel, 10 Chestnut Street, Peabody, on Sunday, October 9 from 2 to 7 p.m. and again Monday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. A prayer service will be held in the Chapel at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Raymond being laid to rest at Puritan Lawn Cemetery, Peabody. May he rest in peace. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Rita Grillo

Of Stoneham, formerly of East Boston

Rita Grillo, 57, of Stoneham, originally from East Boston, passed away peacefully after a brief battle with cancer on Monday, October 3, 2022, surrounded by her loving family.

Rita was born in Italy on September 18th, 1965 and immigrated to the United States with her family at the age of two. She became the epitome of the American Dream, building her life and career through hard work and motivation. After 30 plus years in the import export industry, Rita leaves behind a great void as the prominent leader of the Alpi USA company, Boston location. Loving daughter to the late Matteo Grillo and Rosalia (Lambiase) Grillo. Dear sister of Maria "Pina" Falzone and husband Salvatore of E. Boston, Tina Mitrano and husband Giuseppe of Stoneham, Giovanna Chiulli and husband Umberto of E. Boston, Antonio Grillo and



wife Lucia of Stoneham, Frank Grillo and wife Diana of Saugus, the late Andrea Grillo and his wife Patricia of North Andover, Giulio Grillo and wife Deborah of Stoneham, the late Victor Grillo and wife Debbie of Revere, Patty Hanton and husband Robert of Saugus, Sonia Connolly and husband Christopher of Stoneham, and Serena Grillo of E. Boston. Also survived by her 23 loving nieces and nephews, 21 great nieces and nephews, many cousins and friends and her lovingly spoiled dog Riley and cat Frankie.

Lucinda Sullivan

She had deep faith, deep humility, great personal strength and a great self-deprecating sense of humor

Lucinda (Phelps) Sullivan of Dedham, Quincy and Hyannis, died peacefully after a brief illness on October 3, 2022. She was 81.

Lucinda (Lucy, Cinda, Cindy) had deep faith, deep humility, great personal strength, and a great self-deprecating sense of humor. She was raised in Princeton, New Jersey. After attending Sarah Lawrence College, she lived in Europe where she converted to the Roman Catholicism that was so central for her. She returned to Boston, earned a Masters Degree in teaching and fell in love with and married James (Jim) Buckley. He passed away soon after the birth of their son.

Though she tried mightily, an illness ultimately prevented her from raising her son. He had an open adoption and they always continued to see each other and be in frequent contact. She was devoted to him and his family.

Lucy was an avid bridge player. She loved literature, poetry, and French culture (she spoke fluent French). She proudly dressed eccentrically—never taking herself too seriously, and loved to tell jokes. She loved her family and many friends and activities with friends including the Red Hat Society and Recovery Learning Center in Quincy, chorus, and BINGO. While living in assisted living communities, she helped plan events and visited with patients in memory care. Through life's ups and downs, she remained optimistic and resilient.

Lucinda is survived by Justin Pasquariello and his wife, Vanessa Fazio of Winthrop and their children Rocco and Skye; sister Rosalie [Penny] (Bob) Thomas; niece Catharine (Jim) Pricco, nephews: James (Emily) Thomas and Brad (Betsy) Thomas; great-nephews: Will, Gray, Owen and George and great-niece Bailey. She was predeceased by her parents: Thomas William Phelps and Rosalie Greenleaf Bailey Phelps, her husband, James Coward Serle Buckley and husband, Don Sullivan,

and her brother, Thomas Phelps, Jr.

Her family would like to thank Beth Lynch for her many years of care and support and Fr. James Hickey for his friendship and kindness.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to greet the family during the visiting hours on Sunday in the McDonald Keohane Funeral Home, SOUTH WEYMOUTH at 809 Main Street (Rte 18 opp. So. Shore Hospital). Relatives and friends will gather in the funeral home at 8:15 a.m. on Monday prior to the Funeral Mass in Holy Family Church - Rockland at 9 a.m. Burial will be in Holy Family-Rockland on Thursday at 11 a.m. See www.Keohane.com for directions and online condolences.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Southeast Recovery Learning Community (southeastrlc.org) or the National Shrine of Divine Mercy (<https://www.shrineofdivinemercy.org/welcome>).

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Wu, BPHC announce new day spaces and expanded substance use services

Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced a number of investments and initiatives expanding access to substance use services and recovery supports throughout the City of Boston. The new investments, supported by \$6.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, will increase street outreach, expand work opportunities to individuals experiencing substance use, and make recovery and harm reduction services available to more residents throughout Boston’s neighborhoods.

This expanded access includes the establishment of two new low-threshold, daytime spaces offering harm reduction services and medical and treatment referrals, while maintaining reduced barriers to entry. The facilities will provide access to food, water, and bathrooms. Additionally, they will offer support groups and well-

ness activities. The new spaces will be managed by Whittier Street Community Health Center at their Tremont Street location in Roxbury and Victory Programs Inc., which will add harm reduction services to the Boston Living Center located in Back Bay.

“These steps move us closer to ensuring that every person impacted by substance use is connected to city services and has a path to a safe, stable recovery,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “These two new low-threshold daytime spaces will expand our comprehensive approach to supporting unsheltered individuals with substance use disorder and fill critical gaps in the continuum of care. I’m grateful to Whittier Street Community Health Center and Victory Programs for partnering with us to lower barriers and connect more residents with the care they need, where they are.”

In May, Mayor Wu announced the city would open two new daytime centers to bring more services to more communities. These new sites will support the City’s continued public health driven response to supporting unsheltered individuals experiencing substance use disorder.

“Whittier Street Community Health Center and Victory Programs have exceptional track records providing equity-focused care and a broad continuum of health care services, and their partnership is crucial to achieving our goal of providing a person-centered and compassionate response to substance use disorder,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission and Commissioner of Public Health. “Recovery cannot happen without comprehensive support systems and a strong community. The low-threshold day spaces and other investments announced today will make services accessible to more communities, allow us to be creative in our approaches and tailor our responses to truly meet the needs of the people of Boston.”

“We’re thrilled to be partnering with the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission to launch a day center at Whittier that will support members of our community. This Center is an extension of our mission, and we are uniquely positioned within the city to respond to the unyielding epidemic of untreated addiction and mental health among transient populations, as well as reach individuals needing any medical and social services to help improve their overall well-being,” said Frederica M. Williams, President & CEO of Whittier Street Health Center. “This is an incredibly important initiative for the city of Boston to undertake, and we are proud to partner with them on this.”

“Thanks to BPHC and the City of Boston, we’re able to expand our low-threshold program offerings. Victory Programs has long been committed to helping the most vulnerable citizens of our city,” said Sarah Porter, Executive Director of Victory Programs. “By offering judgment-free services in a safe and welcoming setting, we continue the Boston Living Center’s proud tradition of making community for those who need it most.”

Another initiative that expands services to neighborhoods across the city is the creation of Neighborhood Engagement Teams, which will engage individuals experiencing substance use and housing issues and refer them to services. The teams will also distribute education to businesses and collaborate to identify local needs and solutions. These teams will be led by Torchlight Recovery Group in Nubian Square and East Boston Community Health Center. Through the request for proposals, the Boston Public Health Commission sought organizations to support community engagement teams for up to three neighborhoods identified as high need. Eligible neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and East Boston as determined by three indicators, the CDC’s social vulnerability index, the number of Boston EMS responses to opioid overdoses, and the number of 311 requests related to unsheltered individuals.

“Torchlight has deep roots in the Nubian community and our engagement staff bring perspective and nuance to the work they do supporting businesses and connecting with individuals in need of services,” said Minister Randy Muhammad, Director of Torchlight Recovery Group. “We are

See SERVICES Page 14

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CHANGES MADE TO DEVELOPMENT

CHELSEA - There could soon be more affordable home ownership opportunities in Chelsea, thanks to a change in the proposed development of the former Salvation Army building on Broadway.

At last week’s City Council meeting, City Manager Thomas Ambrosino updated the council on the proposed change on the project being developed by the Traggorth Company. Initially presented as a mix of affordable rental and home ownership units, the development will now be 100 percent affordable and workforce home ownership units.

“In January of 2022, the city issued a request for proposals for this site in the hopes of spurring affordable housing and enlivening the Broadway corridor,” said Ambrosino. “The Traggorth Company is a respectable affordable and mixed-income housing developer that submitted a proposal to develop 28 units of affordable housing above ground retail space. The project was comprised of 10 affordable home ownership units and 18 affordable rental units.”

The proposal was approved by the City Council late last year.

Since that time, the city and Traggorth became aware of a new financing opportunity for affordable home ownership, creating

the ability to make all the units available for ownership.

Ambrosino said the developer will now utilize a state housing program to help finance the project.

“Equally important, this modification will actually accelerate the project, allowing the construction to commence one year earlier than could possibly be done with an affordable rental concept,” said the City Manager.

Traggorth and the city have finalized the land disposition agreement, and Traggorth will soon begin the permitting process before the city’s zoning and planning boards.

“Assuming the financing is available as expected, construction may begin as early as the fall of 2023,” said Ambrosino.

There was no need for the City Council to vote on the change, since the previous authorization from last year allowed for the negotiated change, according to Ambrosino.

The city purchased the property several years ago for \$1.3 million, and agreed to sell it for \$1,150,000 to Traggorth.

In other business, Ambrosino stated the city recently came to a contract agreement with the union representing the city’s public works employees, running from July 1 of the current year to June 30 of 2025.

“The most significant part of this negotiation with the city was the inclusion of the residency requirement and a new ben-

efit for maternity leave, which the City Council requested in the spring,” said Ambrosino.

RESIDENTS HEAR ABOUT RATS

EVERETT - “The rat problem is everywhere.”

That was the message that city councilors and residents heard from David Palumbo, the new Director of the Inspectional Services Department (ISD), at the City Council meeting on Monday night.

The recent outbreak of rats running wild on Beacon Street prompted councilors to seek some answers and possible solutions.

The first step in the rat battle, all agreed, is educating the public about the problem and the role that each citizen must play to combat it.

Palumbo said that his department is now compiling a pamphlet in several languages about the “Do’s and Don’ts” for residents. He said that the elimination of sources of food for rats is the first and best advice for residents.

In addition to garbage left out for collection only in bags, which are an open invitation for rats, food from bird feeders that falls on the ground is another easy food source for rats, as well as animal waste that is not picked up and put into a trash barrel.

Ward 2 Councilor Stephanie Martins made the observation that there are more coyotes in her district, which could be an indication of a large rat population. Martins

also noted, “Renters do not know that they can get added barrels from the city,” to safely store rubbish until collection day, although Councilor Irene Cardillo pointed out there is a cost to purchasing extra barrels.

Ward 3 Councilor Darren Costa noted that “education is huge,” to solving the problem. “If barrels are chewed through, throw them away,” he said, while reminding residents that rats can jump up to four feet.

“Be leery of using poison,” Palumbo said, “and talk to experts.”

Palumbo noted that residents should call 311 if they see a rat and the ISD will come out to take a look.

Recently, a neighborhood council in East Boston met with their ISD Department about their rat problem. They were told that new construction disturbs rats’ nests and causes the rats to be more active.

It also was pointed out that the recent drought has also forced rats to look for water sources and in some cases, they have been going into peoples’ homes.

Ward 6 Councilor Alfred Lattanzi perhaps had the best advice to residents and businesses: “Be proactive,” he said.

SENIOR MEALS DELIVERY

Rob Moreschi, the city’s Chief Procurement Officer, appeared before the council to explain the bidding process for the Senior Meals delivery program.

Councilor Stephanie Smith was concerned “how it is funded,” and whether the program is sustainable over the long term.

Moreschi noted that there are only two or three local food establishments that have bid on the contract, which calls for serving between 475 to 500 meals per day that must be prepared and delivered to seniors starting at 10:30 a.m. He said that many restaurants cannot handle that volume.

Erin Deveney, Mayor Carlo DeMaria’s Chief of Staff, noted that at first the program was funded by funds from The Cares Act, and now is using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Dale Palma, Director of the Senior Center, works

with seniors to put together the meal plan. He also has a working relationship with the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Mystic Valley Elder Services for the meals.

Recently, a survey was sent to the 575 seniors who currently are receiving the meals to gauge their interest in continuing to receive the meals, and only 271 who replied said they wish to continue with the program.

However, Deveney noted that when the ARPA funds that the city currently is utilizing are gone, the program could be discontinued.

Councilor Martins echoed Smith’s point about the funding, saying, “We need other sources of funding.”

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Leon, Omar	Vu, Bau	32 Swan Ave	\$995,000
Jia, Hulhun	Nardi, Hannah A	45 Lewis St #PH13	\$1,335,000
93 Cowper LLC	Trichilo Development LLC	93 Cowper St	\$825,000
Neufeld, Anna L	Yangdon, Tashi Y	100 Lexington St	\$675,100
Arsenault, Joshua	Moorehead, Michael D	114 Trenton St #2	\$370,000
120 St Andrew LLC	Nucci FT	120 Saint Andrew Rd	\$570,000
Medina, Andres R	161 Cottage Street Eb LL	161 Cottage St #7	\$489,999
Beniers, Jonathan G	161 Cottage Street Eb LL	161 Cottage St #2	\$560,500
Rego, Heidi E	Maverick St Inv Partners	205 Maverick St #309	\$819,900
Morano, Matthew	Morano, Gale S	329 Border St #3	\$384,000
Mattioni, Michael A	Randall, Nicholas M	410 Saratoga St #3	\$429,000
Vo, Yen	Billotti, Arthur C	426 Saratoga St	\$718,000





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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300
CITATION G.L. c. 210, ? 6
Docket No. SU22A0262AD

In the matter of: Valentina Londono
To: Jonathan Alvarez any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been presented to said court by: William Lopez-Lopez of Boston, MA
Sandra Elena Londono of Boston, MA
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to Valentina Lopez-Londono.
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.
An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to

persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: BOSTON ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 A.M.) ON: 11/14/2022
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 13, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
10/5/22, 10/12/22, 10/19/22
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
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

DOCKET NUMBER: SU22D0510DR
Naomi Vasquez Plaintiff
VS.
Jhonny Adalberto Del Aguila Defendant

To the above named 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 e 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. Steve J. Gutherz, P.C. 678 Massachusetts Ave. Suite 904 Cambridge, MA 02139, your answer, if any, on or before 12/8/2022. 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: August 12, 2022

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
10/05/22
EB

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. SU22P0752GD
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114
In the matter of: Yessica Velasquez Of: Boston, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Yessica Mejia of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Yessica Velasquez in

need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, 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 11/17/2022.
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 to file 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: October 03, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
10/5/22
EB

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division TRUST
CITATION
Docket No. SU94P2429
In the matter Of: Maria F. Dinunno

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Vincent DiNunno, Jr. of East Boston MA requesting Appointment of a Successor Trustee.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 10/25/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 15, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
10/5/22
EB

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon Street

Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU22P2064EA
Estate of: David Mark Lopilato
Date of Death: 08/01/2022

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michelle M. Lopilato of North Reading, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Michelle M. Lopilato of North Reading, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/03/2022.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 29, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo
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10/5/22
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CONGRESSMAN JIM MCGOVERN PARTICIPATES IN A CONFERENCE AT EBNHC

Photos by Cary Shuman

On Monday, October 3, Representative Jim McGovern, Congressman for the 2nd District of Massachusetts, visited East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) to hear about food insecurity needs reflected in the 2022 Boston’s Community Health Needs Assessment and to learn more about how EBNHC’s services are helping to promote nutritional equity for local communities.

During the conference, Rep. McGovern lauded EBNHC as a national model in the United States, crediting President

and CEO Gregory Wilmot, his administration, and staff for setting the standard to which other health centers should aspire.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) serves a diverse, low-income, immigrant population with over 70 percent of patients best served in a language other than English. Service area includes East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett, Chelsea, and Boston’s South End – among the communities hit hardest by the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across the nation, initiatives are underway aimed at mitigating the



From left: Calay Ip, Vice President, Neighborhood PACE, EBNHC; Kathy Field, Director of Health Promotion and Service Programs, EBNHC Community Resource and Wellness Center; Ernani DeAraujo, Vice President of Government Affairs, EBNHC; Greg Wilmot, CEO and President, EBNHC; Rep. Jim McGovern, Congressman for the 2nd District of Massachusetts; Julia Makavoya, Compliance Analyst, EBNHC; Dr. Jackie Fantes, Chief Medical Officer, EBNHC; Jim Sullivan, Food Services Manager, EBNHC; Takesha Hurd, Chief of Staff, EBNHC; Carolyn Gagnon, Director of Administration & Operations, Neighborhood PACE, EBNHC.



EBNHC President and CEO Gregory Wilmot presents a souvenir to Congressman Jim McGovern, thanking him for his visit Monday to the health center.



Congressman Jim McGovern (right) and Policy Director Caitlin R. Hodgkins are pictured at the conference Monday at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center.

mountain of need COVID created for many of these families, including the need for affordable food as prices soar, especially for nutritious fruits and vegetables.

Congressman Jim McGovern has spent decades leading the charge to end hunger in America, working at the local, state, and federal level to fight for change, build awareness, and push for legislation to address policy failures that have created food insecurity. Hearing from community organizations like East Boston Neighborhood Health Center informs understanding on the issue and supports advocacy to promote nutrition equity.

As part of an effort to alleviate food insecurity and maintain the health of its patients, EBNHC cooks and serves more than 2,500 nutritious meals weekly (132,700 per year) for older adults enrolled in

home-delivered meals programs through Senior Care Options (SCO) or Program of All Inclusive Care of

the Elderly (PACE) programs. The health center also serves an average of 275 families per week

through its Community Resource and Wellness Center food pantry.



Pictured after the conference on how EBNHC’s services are helping to promote nutritional equity for local communities are, (from left) East Boston Soup Kitchen Founder and Director Sandra Aleman-Nijjar, Project Bread President and CEO Erin McAleer, Congressman Jim McGovern, EBNHC President and CEO Gregory Wilmot, and EBNHC Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Jackie S. Fantes.

Looking for a Career with Purpose?

Bay Cove Human Services’ City Square Program Wants You!

If you’re an active, outgoing, friendly person ready to make a difference in the lives of neighbors looking to learn new skills right here in Charlestown, then Bay Cove’s City Square Employment Supports (CSES) program could be just the place to launch your exciting new career!

CSES is a social, education and employment preparation program designed to help people with intellectual disabilities. The City Square program in Charlestown is currently looking to hire Education and Employment Counselors to join their team. Individuals in these positions support people with the process of seeking employment—assisting them in their job search, putting together resumes, and applying and interviewing for jobs.

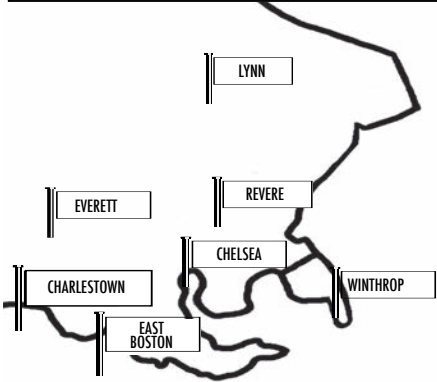
Counselors also support individuals in the program in learning “soft,” or social, skills that will help them successfully engage with their community and build relationships. Counselors assist program participants in accessing the Charlestown and Boston community, providing transportation and partaking in social activities like visiting local restaurants, parks, museums, and recreation areas. Counselors teach everyday tasks that help inspire independence—from taking public transportation, to going to the bank, to learning how to cook meals.

Bay Cove is offering **\$4,000 signing bonuses** for these exciting positions, competitive salaries (with applicants with valid drivers’ licenses having the opportunity to earn an additional \$1200/month above the position’s standard starting salary!), benefits and the opportunity for advancement. It’s an opportunity to get your start in human services, and jumpstart a career with real meaning and impact!

To learn more about opportunities at Bay Cove’s City Square program, visit baycovehumanservices.org/current-openings and search for the keyword EDUCATION. **We’re eager to meet you!**



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Massport will kick off East Boston YMCA Reach Out Breakfast as presenting sponsor

Staff Report

The East Boston YMCA announced that they have chosen the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) as the presenting sponsor for this year’s East Boston YMCA Annual Reach Out Breakfast. The event will take place on October 14 at 7 a.m. at the Hilton Boston Logan Airport hotel. The Reach Out Breakfast brings together over 300 community members annually to celebrate and raise money for the East Boston community.

“The East Boston Y is grateful for Massport’s continued support over the past decade plus,” said Executive Director of the East Boston YMCA Joe Gaeta. “We work closely with our partners to address the needs of the community through programs that promote improving health, and empowering

youth and families. We are excited to announce that Massport will be the presenting sponsor of this year’s Reach Out Breakfast and thank them for their consistent generosity. With the help from partners like Massport, we as a community can be here for everyone.”

Funds raised at the event will provide assistance to programs such as childcare, teen programs and water safety. Since the East Boston YMCA restored the Mario Umana Academy pool 5 years ago, they have ran a successful aquatics program and over 800 children in the East Boston community have learned how to swim. East Boston is made up of 90% shoreline so it is a priority of the neighborhood that the East Boston YMCA continues to financially support this program, allowing families the oppor-

tunity to participate in programs that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

“The East Boston YMCA serves as a support system to adults and children throughout the East Boston community,” said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. “The critical programs and services offered by the Y provide neighbors with healthy and enriching opportunities, and Massport is proud to support that.”

East Boston YMCA’s collaborative relationships with community partners like Massport help them empower over 5,000 community members throughout East Boston and surrounding communities. With a variety of programs and the support of volunteers, donors, staff and community partners, the East Boston YMCA



Members of the East Boston YMCA with staff.

is able to continue their mission of helping their neighbors build healthy lifestyles every day.

For more informa-

tion on how to support the Reach Out Breakfast contact Joseph Gaeta at jgaeta@ymcaboston.org or 617-418-8320. To pur-

chase tickets online please visit <https://ymcaboston.org/ReachOutBreakfast>.

Services // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

grateful to receive funding and work towards the goal of ensuring that everyone in Nubian Square can access resources and achieve wellness."

Additionally, funding will be provided to the following initiatives and organizations:

Low-threshold work programs, giving individuals experiencing substance use disorder the means of earning income and fostering a sense of self-efficacy.

- Addiction Recovery Resources, to stipend peers in return for collecting improperly discarded

syringes off the ground and pre-employment opportunities and wellness referrals.

- Newmarket Business Association, to offer a holistic program including pay per day work program with opportunity for employment, case management, and wellness referrals.

Recovery Community Organizations

- The Phoenix, to run wellness and community programming free of charge to anyone with 48 hours of abstinence from substances.

- Gavin Foundation, to fund the opening of a new residential program for women.

- NamaStay Sober, to provide wellness and meditation programming to people in recovery, as well as gym memberships.

- Resources for Recovery, to establish a referral site in the Hyde Park area, offering support groups and education to care givers of people experiencing SUD.

“The most urgent issues in this City are the opioid crisis and homelessness. I have seen firsthand how detrimental the COVID-19 pandemic has been to such individuals, and I knew

that I needed to allocate the ARPA federal funding to help combat such issues,” said Councilor Erin Murphy. “As the Council Chair of Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery, I strongly advocated to bring much-needed funding to public health nonprofits and recovery programs. These organizations build a pipeline to a community rooted in inclusivity and connection for those in recovery. They are a massive part of the solution but are limited by their funding.”

“We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has also deepened our behavioral health pandemic, and

I’m very proud that the Boston City Council authorized these funds in July to support a wide variety of organizations helping to meet that crisis in every corner of our city,” said Councilor Kenzie Bok.

The American Rescue Plan Act provides emergency funding to states and municipalities for the purpose of building a strong public health foundation and assisting the economy in bouncing back from COVID-19.

The investments announced today come at a time of great need for the City of Boston and its residents. The COVID-19 pan-

demie caused the discontinuation of treatment services and a rise in behavioral health conditions that resulted in greater incidence of substance use disorders. From 2020 to 2021, fatal opioid-related overdoses increased by 8.8% in Massachusetts. Similarly, Boston EMS responded to 9% more narcotics related incidents in 2021 compared to 2020. State data shows that through the early part of 2021 Black non-Hispanic men made up the largest increase in opioid overdose death rates, emphasizing the need for an equitable approach.

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