



157 Chestnut St. 14 new construction condos for sale; 2 bed/2 full baths; 904sf-1,280 with private balconies. Garage parking roof deck Media room

163 Chestnut st 16 loft condos in a Gothic

Church; 2 bed/2 full baths 904sf-1,786sf; High ceilings

East Boston TIMES-FREE PRESS

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Tuesday, November 22, 2022

SALESIAN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB 16TH ANNUAL PASTA DINNER



Wu opens new city-operated senior center

Special to the Times-Free Press

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu, in partnership with Massport, announced the opening of a new cityowned senior center in East Boston, located at 7 Bayswater Street. Mayor Wu joined Massport, elected officials and community members involved with advocating for the new center at a ribbon cutting Wednesday, on the one year anniversary of her taking office as Mayor. The center will be operated by the Age Strong Commission and managed by the Property Management Department.

"This new, accessible senior center in East Boston will expand opportunities for our older adults to connect and build community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to all our City departments, local partners, and community members that have advocated for years to make today's opening a reality.'

The East Boston Senior Center, based on community input, will offer programs and services for older adults (Boston residents age 60+) starting December 1. The center will provide lunch on weekdays, as well as classes for wellness, entertainment,



Mayor Michelle Wu (center) is surrounded by senior center staff and elected officials as she cuts the ribbon to officially open the city-owned senior center in East Boston.

and more. Between now and December 1, the center will offer tours to interested community members, November 21-23 and 28-30, during regular hours, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

"This new senior center in East Boston will raise the bar for senior programming in Boston and is a great example of what can happen when the City partners with residents and entities like MassPort to serve a critical neighborhood need," said Chief of Human Services, José F. Massó. "We're excited to be able to offer programming that will resonate with all the diverse groups of older adults that make up East Boston."

"Socialization, connection, and community are vital to human wellbeing," said Emily K. Shea, Age Commissioner. Strong "Research shows that people who have friends and participate in activities are more healthy and live longer. The new center will provide a place for our older residents to connect with each other and engage in a richer, healthier life."

"This was a great collaborative effort between PFD, Age Strong, and Property Management," said Chief of Operations Dion Irish. "The renovation allows for additional and services while the new addition enhances accessi-

programming ty organizations. See SENIOR CENTER Page 3

Our office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24th and Friday, Nov. 25th

Madaro hard at work in 2022

As 2023 creeps closer, State Representative Adrian Madaro joined the monthly Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) meeting on Monday, November 14, to provide an overview of his work in 2022 to improve East Boston and the state.

Some of Eastie's biggest wins this year came in the budget, with \$75,000 going toward Maverick Landing housing support, \$50,000 for Eastie Farm, and \$40,000 for Crossroads Family Shelter.

"This year's budget, I was proud to help secure critical funding to support the essential work of some of our local community organizations," said Madaro.

Elsewhere in Eastie, Madaro helped secure funding for the third phase of Piers Park creation and the O'Donnell School playground.

He also secured funds to continue ferry service between East Boston and the North End, extending into next year.

'This is just the start, folks. The ultimate goal is an inter-harbor ferry network connecting East Boston, the North End, the Seaport, Charlestown, and really making use of what is our best natural resource in the city - our harbor," said Madaro.

While the work mentioned above only scratches the surface of Madaro's accomplishments this year on Beacon Hill, as he continued, it became clear that some of his best work in 2022 was building a better infrastructure to support those with mental health or substance abuse issues.

Along with the funding provided to the Crossroads Family Shelter that will help provide mental health and substance abuse recovery services for the homeless, Madaro also helped secure funds for other mental health initiatives.

These initiatives include \$75,000 for YouthConnect, a social-work program that serves families and kids that are historically under-

See MADARO Page 2

Massport helps feed neighbors this holiday season

Special to the Times-Free Press

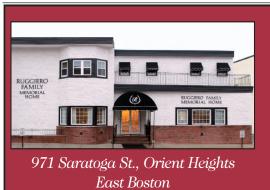
Authority (Massport) is again lending a hand to neighbors in East Boston, South Boston, Winthrop and Worcester through their annual food drive to help feed families this holiday season. Massport employees donated over 40 boxes filled with hundreds of non-perishable food items including cereals, canned soups, canned vegetables, peanut butter and rice, and collected nearly \$400 dollars in gift card donations for the Authority's annual food drive that benefits several communi-

"With rising food costs driving hunger to unprec-

edented levels, it is more important than ever that we look out for our neighbors and provide comfort to those experiencing food insecurity this season," said Massport Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs Alaina Coppola. hope these donations are enjoyed by the many families that receive support from their community organizations. We thank our employees for their continued generosity."

See MASSPORT Page 3

Due to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday on Thurs., Nov. 24, trash will be delayed by one day on **Thursday & Friday** only. Thurs. pickups will be 11/25 and Fri. pickups wil be 11/26 **Mon-Weds pickups** will be on schedule Capitol Waste Services, Inc.



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Baker-Polito administration awards nearly \$12 million to 24 ecological restoration projects

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) has awarded through its Priority Projects Program approximately \$11.8 million in grant funding to 24 projects including the Belle Isle Marsh that will strengthen community preparedness for large storms, improve climate-ready infrastructure, and protect fish, wildlife, and river and wetland habitats. In December 2021, Governor Baker signed a \$4 billion federal COVID-19 relief spending bill utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). \$11.4 million of today's grants are being awarded utilizing ARPA funds, with the remainder of the funding

ational Budget. "Ecological restoration is essential for building a climate-ready Commonwealth that will restore and

coming from DER's Oper-

Massachusetts' enhance natural resources to address climate vulnerabilities while providing important access to recreational opportunities for residents," said Governor Charlie Bak-"Our Administration continues to invest in this work and support Massachusetts communities and ecosystems that will bring environmental benefits for generations to come."

"Through these projects, communities will be able to increase climate resilience, improve public safety, enhance habitat, and provide additional benefits to our residents, wildlife, and natural resources," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "We are grateful for the strong partnership between our Administration, municipalities, and other organizations to move these valuable restoration efforts forward."

The Priority Projects Program is one of the vehicles by which DER pursues restoration projects that provide significant social, environmental, and economic benefits to the state and local communities and support projects throughout the Commonwealth that advance DER's mission. Priority Projects underway include the restoration of tidal flow to degraded coastal habitats, removal of aging and unsafe dams, and restoration of freshwater wetlands in former cranberry farmlands. "It is imperative that

we continue to improve degraded habitats to benefit wildlife and enable communities across the Commonwealth to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Beth Card. "Providing funds for these projects is an example of the Administration's ongoing efforts to support the restoration of our rivers and waterways in order to promote healthy ecosystems and climate prepared-

"If you, or your friends

or family or any neighbors

that you know need a place

to eat a warm Thanksgiv-

ing dinner with all the fix-

ings on the holiday - or

just want to be in commu-

nity with people – come on

There will be restau-

Next, Eastie's Elves is

rant-style dine-in service,

as well as takeout and de-

also returning in-person

Friday, Dec. 9, from 6 p.m.

- 10 p.m. at the Hyatt Re-

gency Boston Harbor. Ad-

mission is an unwrapped

toy for a child in need and

gives you access to a fun

night of dinner, music, raf-

will also return - some-

thing the event has done

the last two years and spe-

cific details and locations

will be revealed on social

"Please stop by Eastie's

Overall, in what was a busy and seemingly successful 2022, Mada-

ro thanked residents who

helped his recent re-elec-

tion bid and shared his

excitement for the year to

"I'd just like to start off

by thanking my neighbors

in Eastie for re-electing me

last week as your state rep.

I love this job, and I am so

excited and motivated to

continue representing us on

Beacon Hill," said Madaro.

Please Recycle

Elves; it's an awesome way to kick off the holiday sea-

son," said Madaro.

Toy collection boxes

fles, and a cash bar.

down," said Madaro.

livery options.

"We are excited to support this group of projects, which bring numerous benefits to both people and nature," said Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Ron Amidon. "The results of this funding will be enjoyed into the future as they enable residents and visitors alike to step into nature with new recreational opportunities, improved water quality and habitat for wildlife, and resilience to the impacts of climate change."

"We are proud to support these projects and to continue to work with our dedicated partners to achieve our restoration goals," said DER Director Beth Lambert. "We are excited to see this work continue to advance and look forward to the many benefits it will bring to Massachusetts people and environment."

The following 22 projects were awarded grant funds through DER's Priority Projects Program through ARPA funds:

Belle Isle Marsh Preservation, East Boston

Award: Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, Inc.; \$50,000

• This award will support the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh for the implementation of their environmental preservation programs at Belle Isle Marsh Reservation in East Boston. Belle Isle Marsh is the largest remaining salt marsh in Boston Harbor and provides important wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and climate resilience benefits to the surrounding communities.

"As we work together to build a more resilient and climate-ready Commonwealth, I want to applaud the Baker-Polito Administration for working with us in the Legislature to combat climate change, improve water quality, enhance local habitats and meet critical environmental infrastructure needs," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (D-Westport). "Because of our enduring partnership, we have made incredible progress and this \$12 million award announcement is just another strong example of how we can invest to protect our communities, promote healthier ecosystems, while confronting the impacts of climate change head on."

"I am thrilled to see several critical ecological restoration projects on the Cape and Islands receive funding through the Department of Fish and Game's Priority Projects Program," said State Senator Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "The Cape and Islands" natural environment will benefit immensely from these grant monies which will be used to restore wetlands, grasslands, stream systems, salt marshes, and tidal areas in order to support habitat for animals and plants, increase climate resilience, and improve water quality."

Madaro // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

served. As well as a whopping \$3 Million to increase the amount of diversified substance-use treatment providers in communities

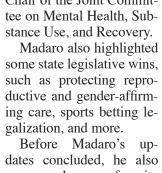
Madaro was also integral in state-wide mental health care reform in his work, providing what he calls "The most comprehensive reforms to mental health law in decades in Massachusetts."

Earlier this year, his legislation emphasized protecting and strengthening children's mental health by expanding support in schools and increasing access to mental health care for all residents throughout Massachusetts.

"There's no family, and there's no part of Massachusetts that isn't impacted by mental health and or substance abuse disorder issues," said Madaro, who also serves as the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery.

dates concluded, he also announced some favorite community events that are returning and are rapidly approaching.

munity Thanksgiving Day Dinner will return in person for the first time in two years. The dinner will take place on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24) from 11 a.m. - 1p.m. at the Salesian Boys and Girls Club.



First, the annual Com-



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Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20 The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that on **Wednesday**, **November 30**, **2022**, **at 6:30 p.m**. a public meeting of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (**aka PIERPAC**) will be held remotely via Zoom in accordance with the extension of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 to permit virtual

A Link to the meeting with instructions for remote participation shall be posted on the organization's website (ebpierpac.org) on or before November 28, 2022. It is the intention of the Committee to discuss in open meeting the following matter(s):

REGULAR MEETING

a. Attendance 6:30 pm
 b. Approval of Minutes May 17, 2022 & October 18, 2022 6:35 pm

New Business a. 6:45 pm - Phase II construction update and review (w/public

comment)
b. 7:00 pm - Nick Black, Trustees of Reservations, Phase III Update and review (w/public comment)
c. 7:30 pm - Review of proposed operating budget 2023
d. 7:45 pm - Scheduling of Annual Meeting for December 2022
e. 7:50 pm - Nomination of Officers for 2023

a. 8:00 pm - Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM) Agreement (continued discussion)

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, the Board, upon a motion duly made and seconded, may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L. 30A.s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED AND WELCOMED TO ATTEND – English to Spanish Translation available on request via Zoom

A copy of this notice and instructions for remote participation will also been posted on the organization's website at: www.EBPierPAC.org and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 3 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.

East Boston Chamber New and Notes

in joining the Chamber

On Tuesday November 15, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce collaborated with Reference Real Estate for a Ribbon Cutting to welcome Reference Real Estate to the East Boston Business community.

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce offered the East Boston symbolic Key to the City as a token of appreciation for their investment in our community and for joining the East Boston business community. Attendees included Seth Williams, Malika Bensalah, Kimberly McDuffee, Meghan Santoro, Tom Conley, Jessica Belanger, and others.

Congratulations to Reference Real Estate on the opening of their business located on 61 Boardman St. in East Boston. Their website: www.sellinboston.com.

those

please email at contact@ eastbostonchamber.com. For more information visit our website www.eastbostonchamber.com.

Español Nota de Prensa East Boston Chamber of Commerce 18 de noviembre de 2022

Veronica Robles/Shirley Fabbo 617-308-2314/617-590-

Cámara de Comercio de East Boston Contactos: Veronica

Robles, Presidenta y Shirley Fabbo, Vicepresidenta El martes 15

noviembre, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston colaboró con Reference Real Estate para un corte de cinta para dar la bienvenida a Reference Real Estate a la comunidad empresarial de East Boston.

La Cámara de Comerinterested cio de East Boston ofreció la llave simbólica de la ciudad de East Boston como muestra de agradecimiento por su inversión en nuestra comunidad y por unirse a la comunidad empresarial de East Boston. Los asistentes incluyeron a Seth Williams, Malika Bensalah, Kimberly Mc-Duffee, Meghan Santoro, Tom Conley, Jessica Belanger y otros.

Felicitaciones a Reference Real Estate por la apertura de su negocio ubicado en 61 Boardman St. en East Boston. Su sitio www.sellinboston.

Para aquellos interesados en unirse a la Cámara, envíe un correo electrónico a contact@eastbostonchamber.com. Para obtener más información, visite nuestro sitio web www. eastbostonchamber.com.

BPHC encourages precautions ahead of Thanksgiving holiday

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) today advised residents to stay vigilant to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses such as flu

and RSV when celebrating Thanksgiving, as gathering indoors and travel increases the likelihood of transmission. Levels of COVID-19 vi-

rus in local wastewater are now at 404 RNA copies per mL, which is a 3.3%

increase over the past 7 days and a 17.5% increase over the past 14 days. (Data through November 18). In addition.

the 7-day total of new COVID-19 hospital admissions has increased by 44.1% over the past seven days and have held stable, increasing by 21.6%, over the last two weeks. (Data as of November 17). Boston's hospitals are straining to meet the influx of flu and RSV pediatric pa-

tients, and an increase in COVID-19 cases could put even more pressure on our health care system, which is why BPHC urges residents to take appropriate precau-

"As many people travel and spend time with family, we can reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory illnesses, like COVID-19, flu, and RSV," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of

the Boston Public Health Commission. "Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, getting a flu shot, wearing a well-fitted mask while traveling and testing for COVID-19 before gathering are important ways to

protect yourself and your

dents to test for COVID-19

family and friends during this holiday season." BPHC encourages resi-

before gathering, stay home if you are sick or test positive for COVID-19, wear masks indoors and while traveling for added protection, keep windows open to promote proper air filtration, and spend as much time out-

Proper hygiene practices like washing hands often, regularly disinfecting shared surfaces, and covering your mouth when coughing and sneezing are also effective for reducing the spread of COVID-19, RSV, and the flu.

doors as possible.

If you plan on getting a PCR test, make sure to do so by Tuesday, November 22, to ensure you can get your results back in time. COVID-19 vaccines,

boosters and testing, as well as flu shots, are widely available throughout Boston. BPHC offers free, walk-in COVID-19 and flu services at multiple locations in the city. If you or anyone in your family tests positive for COVID-19 or flu, ask your doctor about getting treatment. Treatments for COVID-19 and flu are available for adults and children and can save

For more information about where to find a COVID-19 vaccination or testing clinic near you, visit boston.gov/covid19.

Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20 The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, In

Por la presente se notifica que el miércoles 30 de noviembre de 2022, a las 6:30 p.m., se llevará a cabo una reunión pública del Comité Asesor del Proyecto East Boston, Inc., (también conocido como PIERPAC) de forma remota a través de Zoom de acuerdo con la extensión del Capítulo 22 de las Leyes de 2022 para permitir audiencias virtuales. Se publicará un enlace a la reunión con instrucciones para la participación remota en el sitio web de la organización (ebpierpac.org) a más tardar el 28 de noviembre de 2022.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

El Comité tiene la intención de examinar en sesión pública la(s) cuestión(es) siguiente(s) REGULAR MEETING

a. Asistencia 6:30 pm b. Aprobación del Acta 17 de mayo de 2022 y 18 de octubre de 2022 6:35

a. 6:45 pm - Actualización y revisión de la construcción de la Fase II (con comentario público)
 b. 7:00 pm - Nick Black, Fideicomisarios de Reservas, Fase III Actualización y revisión (con comentario público)
 c. 7:30 pm - Revisión del presupuesto operativo propuesto para

a. 8:00 pm - Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM) Agreement (continued discussion)

Al concluir su reunión ordinaria de trabajo y antes de levantar la sesión, la Junta, previa moción debidamente hecha y secundada, puede celebrar una Sesión Ejecutiva de conformidad con G. L. 30A.s.21 al concluir la cual, la Junta no reanudará su reunión pública.

SE INVITA AL PÚBLICO Y BIENVENIDO A ASISTIR Traducción de inglés a español disponible bajo petición a través de Zoom

Una copia de este aviso e instrucciones para la participación remota también se publicarán en el sitio web de la organización en: www.EBPierPAC.org y también se ha archivado en la División de Regulaciones del Secretario del Commonwealth por correo postal de primera clase al menos 3 dias antes de la fecha programada de la reunión.

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc. By: Louise Montanino, President

Wu announces historic investments in programs for low- and middle-income homebuyers

Special to the Times-Free Press

Building on her commitment to creating affordable housing in Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu announced a significant investment in creating homeownership opportunities. The Mayor has directed \$60 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to be allocated to the development of income-restricted housing for eligible Boston residents and financial assistance programs to help residents in buying homes. The City will make 150 parcels of land available to developers to build income-restricted homeownership opportunities and will be providing grants that will deliver lower mortgage interest rates and up to \$50,000 in direct assistance, including down payment and closing cost assistance, to income-eligible first-time homebuyers. Funding will also be used to launch a homeownership program for qualified Boston Housing Authority

residents. The proposed investments in homeownership are part of the Mayor's commitment to address housing affordability and stability through the operating budget, the Capital budget, and federal recovery funds to build and acquire new affordable units, upgrade public housing, expand housing stability services, and expand a voucher program.

"Housing is the foundation of a healthy, thriving City," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "In Boston this is an urgent issue that impacts every neighborhood, every generation, every demographic. We are moving as fast as possible with every single lever that the City has, making land available in partnership with community developers and making the financing possible with increased down payment assistance to ensure every resident has access to affordable homeownership opportunities."

"This announcement is a big win for creating homeownership opportunities in our communities while simultaneously improving neighborhoods through the activation of vacant lots," said Councilor Brian Worrell. "This initiative is an important investment in addressing our housing shortage and allowing families to realize the dream of homeownership."

"Investments that both new affordable create homes and provide meaningful financial assistance will allow more families to buy in Boston," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "In the upcoming months, we will be working hard with our partners to make sure that Boston residents learn of, and act on, these important opportunities."

In June, the Boston

Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) announced the completion of the Public Land for Public Good: Citywide Land Audit of all city-owned property. This report was the culmination of an effort to comprehensively inventory all City-owned properties, identify vacant and underutilized properties, and set in motion accelerated efforts to best utilize these properties to serve Boston's communities, particularly through the development of affordable housing. Of those parcels, 150 were designated as suitable for the development of housing. In early 2023, the City will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to developers for the first 70 parcels to create homes for residents to own.

funds will be used to subsidize the construction of the housing units, making the new homes affordable to moderate-income house-

"The BPDA is working diligently to expand affordable homeownership opportunities for all Bostonians, as a way to bolster equity and inclusion in our housing market," said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. "The results of the land audit, in combination with the Mayor's directive to streamline the BPDA's approval process for affordable housing, will get us there."

In addition to building new homes, the Mayor's Office of Housing will fund three financial assistance programs that will aid households looking to purchase a home in Boston. The Boston Home Center (BHC) First Time Homebuyer program, the Saving Toward Affordable Sustainable Homeownership (STASH) program, and the ONE+Boston program.

Income-qualified buyers will be eligible for downpayment and closing cost assistance of up to 5% of the purchase price, not to exceed \$50,000 through the BHC first-time homebuyer assistance program. The City's down-payment assistance can be matched with the State's 5% down-payment program, allowing homeowners to receive a grant of up to 10% of the purchase price of a home.

Down-payment assistance can be used with the ONE+Boston program which provides discounts on interest rates for firsttime homebuyers. With the ONE+Boston program, qualified Boston residents who earn between 81% and 100% AMI will receive a half percent (0.5%) discount rate off the reduced interest rate offered through the ONE Mortgage product (currently about 6.625%). Boston residents who earn below 80% AMI will receive up to one percent (1%) off of the current ONE Mortgage rate. The downpayment assistance combined with the discounted mortgage rates through the ONE+Boston program will greatly increase the buying options for qualified residents.

This targeted funding will also enhance the STASH program. The STASH program is the firstin-the-nation matched-savings program for first-generation homebuyers who are earning below the area median income and are buying in the City of Boston. The program, designed and managed by the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) provides first-generation homebuyers with education and counseling on purchasing a home. In addition, first-generation buyers that complete the program and save \$2,000 towards a home purchase are eligible to receive a 10-1 match if they buy a home in Boston.

"The additional funding for the STASH program and the ONE+Boston program will be necessary in allowing many firsttime and first-generation homebuyers to continue their plans of buying in Boston, even as the market becomes increasingly difficult," said Symone Crawford, Executive Director, Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, MAHA. "During this time of historically high-interest rates and low inventory, our graduates have had to postpone their home-buying search or look farther away from the city. Mayor Wu's investment is critical in keeping our homebuyers

in Boston."

assist

Boston's

To

public housing residents and voucher participants in purchasing their first homes, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) has created a new program in partnership with the City of Boston. BHA's First Home Program is providing eligible BHA residents with enhanced down payment assistance of up to \$75,000 for a home purchased within the City of Boston. This program is available to all qualifying BHA public housing and Section 8 residents who purchase a home within the City of Boston. BHA has a goal to reach 100 households through this program. Section 8 voucher participants can use their housing subsidy towards their mortgage payments through the Section 8 (HCV) to Homeownership Program, a program the BHA is expanding through this initiative. BHA applicants will receive home buying counseling support from the new BHA Homeownership advisor. BHA residents can learn more about the program at bostonhousing.org/

firsthome. "We have families that really want to purchase their own home, and can support a mortgage, but need to get over the hurdle of upfront down-payment

costs," said Kate Bennett, Administrator and CEO at the BHA. "Providing homeownership opportunities to BHA public housing and Section 8 residents is a huge win-it means long term stability and opportunity for families here in

Boston." Boston has an overall homeownership rate of 35 percent, considerably less than the statewide homeownership rate of 62 percent. Homeownership rates differ significantly by race and ethnicity, as 44 percent of Boston's white households are homeowners, compared to 31 percent of Black or African American households, 30 percent of Asian or Pacific Islander households, and 17 percent of Hispanic or Latinx

households. These investments in homeownership build on Mayor Wu's initiatives to address Boston's housing affordability, including 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 and signing an Executive Order to streamline the approval process for affordable housing.

Massport// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year, Massport provided all food donations to five community programs: Crossroads Family Center in East Boston, East Boston Community Soup Kitchen, South Boston Community Health Center Food Pantry, Winthrop

Community Food Pantry and Veterans Inc. Food Pantry in Worcester. These organizations serve hundreds of local residents each month and provide critical assistance and support year-round.

Senior Center// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bility with respect to its ex-

isting urban setting." Formerly serving as the East Boston Barnes Branch of the Boston Public Library, the construction of the new center site officially started in September 2020 and was led by the City's Public Facilities Department. New additions and renovation of the site were initially delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain issues. This project, with a focus on accessibility for older adults, consisted of over 20 external partners, including the architect, Fennick McCredie Architecture (FMA), and general contractor, GVW Construction (GVW). Additionally, Lifespan Design was brought on as a consultant for their expertise in senior center features, which was noted in the RFP.

The new center consists of two levels, with modern, accessibility features for older adults including an elevator (upgraded from a lift), wave/sensor door openings instead of push buttons, tables that wheelchairs can easily roll up to, bright lighting, a hearing loop system (hearing aids can connect to), and stairs with step-grippers. The center's restrooms are large enough to include a care partner, wheelchair, or walker and include dual grab bars and toilet seats of different heights to accommodate older adults of varied heights. Light switches are installed at a lower height and electrical outlets higher to accommodate older adults as they bend. Outside of the center, there is a walking path in the back-

yard to cue folks with mem-

ory loss as well as raised

garden beds, so older adults can participate in gardening either from a wheelchair or

A portion of the ARPA

without steep bending. "The opening of this vital civic space for our seniors comes after decades of advocacy from many individuals," said City Councilor Gabriela Coletta. "I am so grateful to the community members, former and current elected officials, and Massport for making this dream a reality. The center will be a hub of activity and bring people together for years to come.'

"Supporting our seniors is one of the most important things we can do as a community and a city, thank you, Mayor Michelle Wu, the Age Strong Commission, Public Facilities, members of the East Boston Community, and MassPort for your work in bringing a new Senior Center to East Boston," said State Senator Lydia Edwards.

"I'm excited to see the long-awaited dream of the East Boston Senior Center finally realized," said Representative Adrian Madaro. "This is something that I have advocated for throughout my time in office. Our seniors are the bedrock of our community, and this new state of the art center will provide East Boston's elders with a dedicated space to gather, participate in enriching activities, and access supports and resources. Thank you to the city's Age Strong team and Mayor Wu for helping us get the Senior Center across the finish line!"

The City committed \$6.5 million in the capital budget for the design and construction of the new center. In partnership with the City of Boston to improve the

quality of life for residents, Massport contributed significant funding for the creation and operation of this center.

"Massport is pleased to partner with the City of Boston and support the new East Boston senior center, which will deliver important services and programming," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "We are glad to see the community's hard work and dedication over the years coming together in this terrific new asset for East Boston."

The new center will be led by Age Strong's Lina Tramelli and Luz Leal, both bilingual in English and Spanish, to serve East Boston's diverse community of older adults. Visit www.boston.gov/ebsc call 617-461-3131 for more information.



Among the helpers at the Crossroads Family Center are Audrey Nagle and Alaina Coppola, Massport; Sandra Nijjar, Founder/President & Executive Director, East Boston Soup Kitchen.



BUYER 1 Xu, Huidi Sachdeo, Amit Ozkurt, Melissa Roundtree, Ian Gillette, Pauline C Lajaunie, Pierre 76 Webster Street LLC Alvisuriz, Marcos B Edson, Kandi J Fantasia, Jennifer

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East Boston

Times-Free Press

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley PUBLISHER: Debra DiGregorio EDITOR:: Cary Shuman

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, tracing its roots back 400 years to the Pilgrims and Indigenous People, long before there was even a thought of a United States of America. Thanksgiving is the ultimate family-centered holi-

day. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, religiosity, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances. It is the only day on the calendar when we have no

obligation other than to spend the day with those who mean the most to us. It asks nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing all the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal. Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to

remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II thanks to Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Even amidst this time of turbulence in our own country, we all can agree that Thanksgiving makes us aware of how much we have to be thankful for. Despite our present trials and tribulations, Americans are remarkably fortunate to be in a country such as ours.

Thanksgiving serves as a rare day for relaxation, reflection, and, inevitably (at least for some of us) a post-dinner nap while watching a football game or an early night of sleep. In a time when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful --Thanksgiving.

THANK YOU, NANCY PELOSI

The announcement last week by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she will be stepping down from her leadership role in the Democratic caucus (although she will remain as a member of the House) marks an end to one of the most remarkable political careers in American

Nancy Pelosi first was elected to the House in 1987 in a special election after raising five children as a stay-athome mom (which in itself is a remarkable feat!).

She soon rose to a leadership role among her Democratic colleagues for a simple reason: Nancy Pelosi was a lot smarter -- and more politically-savvy -- than any

Her tenure as the first woman Speaker of the House in 2007 was groundbreaking and has paved the way for women to be accepted in the very upper-echelons of our government.

More than any other person, she was responsible for ensuring that the Affordable Care Act -- also known as Obamacare -- passed the House in 2010, a measure that has provided affordable health insurance for millions of Americans.

Despite being the object of what can only be described as hatred by her political opponents, Nancy Pelosi persevered with a determination that far outshone her political rivals and that made her the most successful and consequential Speaker of the House since the departure of Tip O'Neil in 1987.

Compared to both her Republican and Democratic counterparts of the recent past (think of lummoxes like Dennis Hastert, John Boehner, Jim Wright, and soon-tobe Speaker Kevin McCarthy), Nancy Pelosi has been a giant in American politics.

The vitriol engendered by her political opponents finally struck Pelosi personally when her husband of almost 60 years, Paul Pelosi, was attacked by a hammer-wielding assailant who broke into their home three

However, as she has throughout her entire life, Nancy Pelosi continues to move forward.

Despite all of her remarkable political accomplishments, the one moment that always will stand out for us is when she was caught on film in a bunker while the Trump-inspired rioters were rampaging through the Capitol on January 6

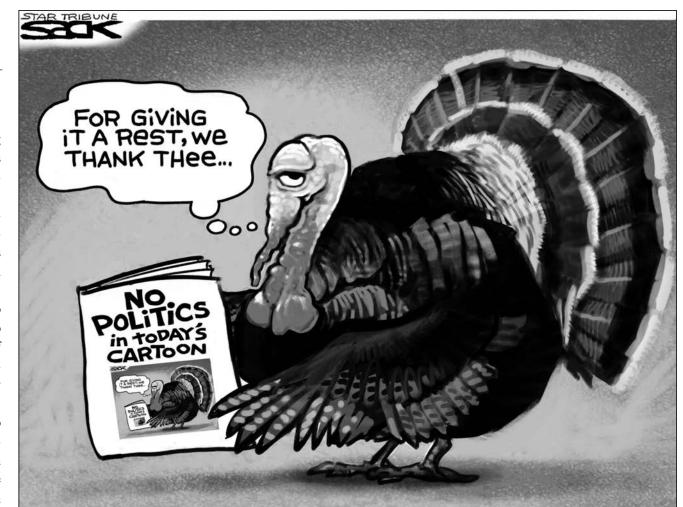
"I hope he (Trump) comes," the 80 year-old grandmother told her staff. "I want to punch him out.... I've been waiting for this...I'm gonna punch him out, and

I'm gonna go to jail, and I'm gonna be happy." That epitomizes Nancy Pelosi -- a tough and dedicated public servant who has devoted almost half of her 82

years in exemplary service to our country.



Forum



ABCC kicks off "Operation Safe Holidays"

To ensure safety for the citizens of Massachusetts, the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) will be conducting alcohol enforcement operations at bars in major Massachusetts cities from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Eve.

The primary objective will be to prevent impaired driving and other alcohol-related harm during the holiday season, which is known for heavy alcohol consumption. The ABCC will focus enforcement efforts at bars identified as the last to sell alcohol to a convicted drunk

"We want to make sure that everyone gets to enjoy the holidays with family and friends while at the same time avoiding tragedy and staying safe," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, who oversees the ABCC. "Vigilant enforcement and deterring bar owners from over-serving prevents problems before they happen and helps keep people safe."

The program is run in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Impaired Driving Crackdown, from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Eve, and is funded through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security -Highway Safety Division. "The RMV supports

this enforcement work as safety on the roads is critical. Impairment impacts your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. With December being National Drunk and Drugged Impaired Driving month, we encourage everyone attending holiday parties and social gatherings to have a plan for a designated driver or a rideshare service to bring them home. Be responsible and make the right decision to keep family, friends and other drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists safe this holiday season," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie."

The ABCC will also be working with local police departments that have identified high-risk locations in their communi-

Alcohol is involved in 40 percent of traffic crash fatalities resulting in 17,013 fatalities and injuring an estimated 275,000 people annually. Data indicates that well over 50% of impaired driving arrests originate at bars.

LETTER to the Editor

ILLEGAL PASSING STOPPED SCHOOL **BUS PROBLEM**

To the Editor Motorists are illegally passing stopped school buses at epidemic levels. 41.8 million violations throughout a 180day school year, in fact. According to the 2022 survey conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, America's motoring public are illegally passing school buses at "epidemic levels." Four Massachusetts children were struck by motorists who failed to stop for the bus in 2014, 2021 & 2022. Violations are increasing at an alarmingly rapid rate and motorists are not only endangering the lives of children, they are getting away with it. It's the law

to stop for a school bus

on both sides of the road when the red lights are flashing. When the yellow lights flash, drivers need to slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights and the extended stop sign indicate the school bus has stopped to let students on or off. This is one of the first rules of the road we learn in driving school. Children are taught and should be able to expect that cars will stop for them so they can safely get on or off the bus and also cross the street. This is my child's first year taking the bus. I had no idea motorists were ignoring this law until I saw it for myself. I did some research and realized that unless you are driving a school bus, or actively involved in combating the problem, people have no idea how bad the situation is.

I also discovered there

are multiple bills "concerning the safety of school children embarking and disembarking school buses" that can be found on MAlegislature.gov and that for 11 years, the Massachusetts State Legislature has failed to pass a

bill that will authorize the use of a camera system to capture live video imaging of vehicles illegally passing the school bus and would therefore enforce the law by issuing a citation in the mail. I've been

See LETTER Page 5

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Your opinions, please

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editor@eastietimes.com.

Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

Boston Schools Fund PEAK Grants recipients announced

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston Public Schools and the Boston Schools Fund, a non-profit organization that seeks to advance educational equity in Boston by providing access to high-quality schools, are proud to announce this year's recipients of the Boston Schools Fund PEAK (Partnering with Educators to Accelerate Knowledge) Grants at the Rafael Hernán-Dual Language K-8 School in Roxbury. PEAK Grants will provide schools with funding to focus on two important goals: improving student outcomes and increasing the use of high-quality instructional materials with integrity.

The first cohort of schools to receive PEAK Grants for the 2022-23 school year will include the Adams Elementary School in East Boston, the Sumner Elementary School in Roslindale, and the Rafael Hernandez Dual Language School in Roxbury. These PEAK Schools, including the Conservatory Lab Charter School in Dorchester, will receive a combined \$420,000 in funding over



socialized during the event.

this school year and receive technical assistance and coaching from national expert partners. The PEAK Grants (Partnering with Educators to Accelerate Knowledge) will invest over \$2.3 M to improve school quality in up to 12 Boston Schools over the next three years with targeted support of high-quality instruction and aligned professional learning. The funds, of up to \$100,000 per year, will be split between vetted technical assistance providers and direct funding for schools.

"It is truly an honor to have so many dedicated partners throughout our in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

community," said Superintendent Mary Skipper. "Like I always say, it takes a village to build up Boston Public Schools and I want to thank all of our partners, especially BSF, for understanding the importance of community and philanthropic involvement. It will take all of us to make BPS a better place for our students and I am proud to see the sheer amount of support we have here in Boston."

Reaching 1,586 students in its first cohort, BSF plans to grow the PEAK Grants program to at least two new cohorts of 3-4 additional schools



Will Austin, Joanna McKeigue Cruz, Jessica Tang, School Committee Member Lorena Lopera, Superintendent Mary Skipper, Carolina Brito, Lisa Jackon, Meghan Welch, and Nicole

BSF and Boston Public Schools will partner in monitoring progress, and evaluating key outcome indicators for students and schools in the program.

"We've been following the research and data closely for years, and we know what is at stake," said Boston Schools Fund CEO, Will Austin. "When schools utilize high-quality instructional materials - and educators are supported and trusted - student academic outcomes improve."

Each school's initial focus this year is in service of improving student outcomes as determined by benchmark their success in both their school-specific programmatic goals and other metrics such as MCAS, MAP testing, and enrollment data. Partners strategically work with school leaders and teachers to build their capacity to effectively use high-quality instructional materials over time. The PEAK Grant for the Hernandez School is made possible through the Boston Schools Fund's partnership with the Canizales

lum and will implement advantage curriculum for students from kindergarten through second grade. In addition to BSF, initial funding for the PEAK Grant program is being provided by Thomas H. Lee Partners, Plymouth Rock Assurance, Someone Else's Child Foundation, and the Mabel Louise Riley Foun-

"Community support is crucial to the success of our students," said Boston School Committee Chair-

See GRANTS Page 9

Suffolk Downs to host Holiday Happenings event

Looking for a family-friendly way to kick off the holiday season? On Saturday, December 3 from 10am to 1pm The HYM Investment Group LLC, "HYM", will host its 2nd annual "Holiday Happenings" event at Suffolk Downs. "Holiday Happenings" will feature all kinds of holiday fun including free photos with Santa, holiday crafts with Essem Art Studio, and cookies, cannoli and hot cocoa from Uncle Joey's

The event is free to all and open to the public. Attendees who are able to are encouraged to bring unwrapped toys to the event, which will be donated to the Eastie Elves and the Revere Police Department toy drive. Due to the generosity of last year's attendees, over 250 toys were collected in 2021 and distributed to lo-

cal families in need. "We look forward to being joined by many local families again at this year's 'Holiday Happenings'," said Thomas N. O'Brien, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of HYM. "The holidays are a time to spend with family and communi-



All the children enjoy having their picture taken with Santa

Suffolk Downs can play a part in that time."

Those interested in attending are encouraged to register online. More information about Holiday Happenings and all upcoming events can be found on the Suffolk

channels. Suffolk Downs is located adjacent to the MBTA Beachmont and Suffolk Downs Blue Line stations. Free parking is available on site in Lot #3 at 525 McClellan Highway in East Boston.

The HYM Investment

opment company that is leading the development of more than 20 million square feet of real estate throughout Greater Boston. The company creates mixed-use communities that strive to push the needle on sustainability, creativity, and technology for a more productive and resilient future.

The team has an unparalleled knowledge of the development process that allows the company to bring complex projects to market through community input and support. Through experience, relationship building, and transparency with all stakeholders, HYM is able to deliver projects on-time and on budget in order to bring a material return for its investors.

With a team made up of 50% women and 30% people of color, HYM is committed to building projects that prioritize inclusion and embrace Greater Boston's rich diversity. From projects like Suffolk Downs to Bulfinch Crossing, the team is leading the industry on creating some of the most thriving neighborhoods in the region. www.hyminvestments.com

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the club serves, parents as

they guide their children,

SALESIAN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB 16TH ANNUAL PASTA DINNER

Photos and story by Marianne Salza

The Salesian Boys & Girls Club held the 16th Annual Pasta Dinner of the community gath-Fundraiser – the first inhouse pasta dinner since 2020 - on November 18. More than 250 members



Gianna Troville, Elizabeth and Marra Yepes, and Dwayne Simmons.

Emily Sacco, 9-years-old, serving pasta to her dad, Chris



ered for supper and raffles

David Castro Cen, a Salesian Boys & Girls Club member, with Geraldine and Bryan Castro Cen.



Joe Steffano and Mike Triant preparing pasta with the help of Chase, Christian, and Callie Triant, and Eli Tennan.



Mike Triant, Boys & Girls Club Executive Director, Councilor Gigi Coletta, and Anita Belmonte, Salesian Boys & Girls Club Director of Development.



Councilor Gigi Coletta, Father Bill Keane, Anna Marie Fiore, and Anna Maria Firicano.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club board members.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club staff and volunteer servers



The Machado Family and friends



Salesian Boys & Girls Club staff

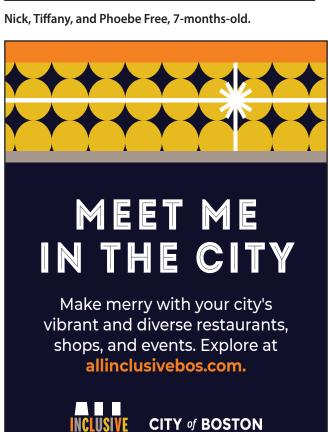
Fight the Flu! Get your flu shot and help stop the spread.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is offering the flu vaccine to everyone six months and older. Call 617-568-4500 to schedule an appointment or



www.ebnhc.org 👍 🕥 🌀 👨

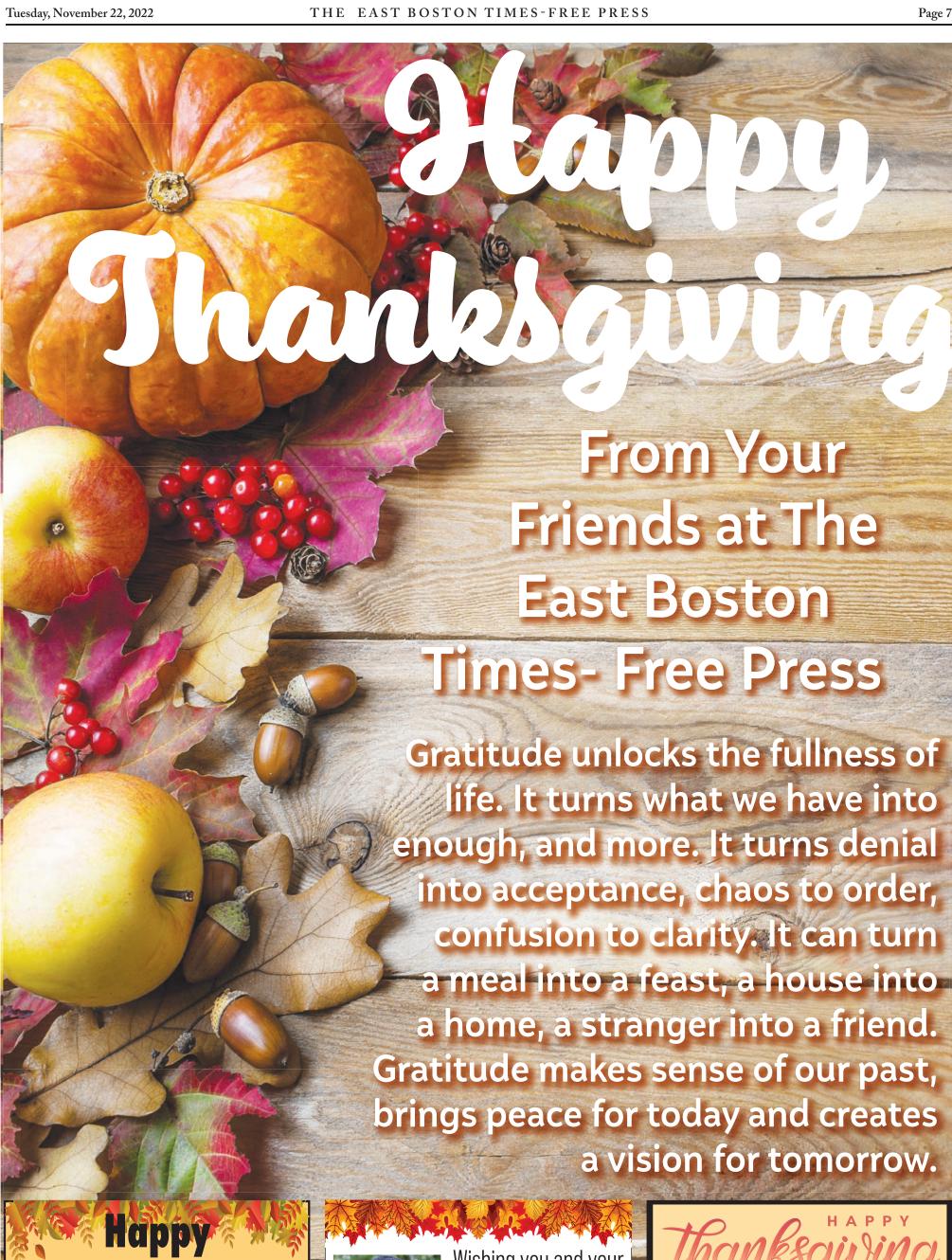






Melissa Triant and Sinitia Orellana.





Thanksgiving
From the staff of...

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Wishing you and your families a bountiful Thanksgiving and happy and healthy holiday season

Lydia Edwards STATE SENATOR







East Boston

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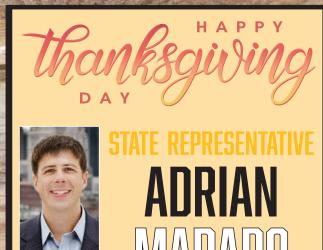
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The Jets will hit the ground running on Thanksgiving morning and hope to make it 14 in a row with another win over Southie.

East Boston and South Boston meet Thanksgiving Day at White Stadium

The 104th game between the East Boston High School and South Boston High School football teams takes place Thursday morning at White Stadium. Kick-off time is 9:30 a.m. sharp.

The East Boston Jets, led by John Parziale (13th season) are 1-8. The lone win came on November 4 when the Jets beat Minuteman 48-18 at a home game. The South Boston

Thur, Nov. 13, 1919

Wed, Nov. 6, 1924

Wed, Nov. 23, 1927

Knights, led by Germaine Sattiawhite (6th season) are 0-8.

Last year, the Thanksgiving game was played at Fenway Park on Nov 23. The Jets pummeled the Knights 50-0 and ended at 8-2. The rivalry began in 1903 but over the years, there have been games cancelled or missed for various reasons. Thanksgiving game in 2020 was cancelled due

The East Boston and South Boston High School Football Rivalry 1903 – 2022

to the Covid 19 pandemic but made up on April 23, 2001. The Jets won 36-0. The SB Knights last won Thanksgiving Day game in 2008 by a score of 34-6. The Jets have a 13 year win streak on the line as they prepare for the game. Overall, East Boston leads the series at 54-42. All are welcome to come out and cheer on both teams.



The Jets take the field during a previous game.

Thu, Nov. 25, 1965

Sat, Nov. 21, 1903	SB 30; EB 0	Locust Street playground,
		Dorchester
Thu, Nov. 12, 1914	EB 12; SB 6	Wood Island Park, East Boston
Thu, Nov. 25, 1915	SB 7; EB 0	McNary Playground,
	,	South Boston
November, 1916	No game	
November ?, 1917	SB 18; EB 6	
Mon, Nov. 25, 1918	SB 19; EB 7	M Street Park, South Boston

November ?, 1920 EB 14; SB 13 Tue, Nov. 8, 1921 EB 21; SB 0 November, 1922 No game, snow November, 1923

EB 14; SB 6 Tied 0-0 Wed, Nov. 25, 1925 EB 16; SB 9 Mon, Nov. 22, 1926

EB 75; SB 0

Wed, Nov. 28, 1928 Thu, Nov. 26, 1929 SB 13; EB 0 November 24, 1930 SB 9; EB 6 SB 7; EB 6 Tue, Nov. 25, 1931 Tue, Nov. 22, 1932 Tied 0-0 Mon, Nov. 27, 1933 Tied 0-0

Tue, Nov. 27, 1934 Tue, Nov. 26, 1935 SB 13; EB 7 Tue, Nov. 24, 1936 No game due to snow storm Wed, Nov. 24, 1937 SB 12; EB 0 Mon, Nov. 21, 1938 SB 30; EB 14 Tue, Nov. 28, 1939 EB 6; SB 2

EB 9; SB 0 Fenway Park SB 26; EB 7 Fenway Park Braves Field SB 7; EB 6 Braves Field Fens Stadium Fenway Park Fenway Fenway EB 6; SB 0 Fenway Fenway Park

at East Boston Braves Field Brookline High School field University Heights, Newton

Braves Field Braves Field Braves Field

Fri, Nov. 22, 1940	SB 12; EB 6	Beehive
Wed, Nov. 19, 1941	SB 6; EB 0	Braves Field
1942	No game due to rain	
1943	No game due to rain	
Thu, Nov. 23, 1944	SB 33; EB 0	Braves Field
Sat, Nov. 24, 1945	SB 14; EB 6	Braves Field
Thu, Nov. 28, 1946	Tied 12-12	Fenway Park
Thu, Nov. 26, 1947	EB 19; SB 0	Fenway Park
Thu, Nov. 25, 1948	EB 28; SB 0	Fenway Park
Thu, Nov. 24, 1949	EB 7; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 23, 1950	EB 13; SB 12	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 22, 1951	EB 7; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 1952	SB 13; EB 7	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 1953	SB 26; EB 0	White Stadium
Sat, Nov. 27, 1954	EB 0; SB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 24, 1955	SB 6; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 23, 1956	EB 14; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov, 28, 1957	SB 32; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 1958	SB 36; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 26, 1959	SB 16; EB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 24, 1960	SB 48; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 23, 1961	SB 30; EB 0	White Stadium
Sat, Nov. 24, 1962	SB 42; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 28, 1963	SB 28; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 1964	SB 14; EB 0	White Stadium

SB 28; EB 12

See RIVALRY Page 9

White Stadium

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Prince Pasta	<i>3/ -</i> 4.00
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Best Yet Bread Crumbs	2/\$3.00
Pepperidge Farm Layer Cakes	
McCains French Fries	
Mama Rosies Pasta	\$ 4.99
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Tide Liquid Pods	
Red Pack Tomatoes	
Best Yet Bread Crumbs2/\$3.00	Fr
Pepperidge Farm Layer Cakes)
McCains French Fries	BA 8"
Mama Rosies Pasta	Oui
Kelloggs Egg French Toast Sticks 2/\$5.00	Oui
Dannon Light & Fit Yogurt 10/\$7.00	DE
Axelrod Sour Cream 16 oz	Bes
	Rus
Bakery	Oui
Cinnamon Rolls 6 pk	PR
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Margherita Hot Cappicola	GR
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Produce	Fol
Natures Finest Red Bliss Potatoes	~
5 lb bag	3
Fresh & Crisp Broccoli Crowns	



Sun: 7:30am-7pm Not responsible for typographical errors. We have the right to limit quantities.

CELEBRATING HUMAN HEALING

PLEASE

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own

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

American

Academy of Orthopaedic

Louella and the Librarian

Story & Photo by Marianne Salza

Lifelong East Boston resident, Christine Ricci-McNamee, developed a love of reading from her mother, Elena. She fondly remembers her first experience walking around the corner together from her home to visit the Orient Heights Branch Library. The shy, 6-year-old girl was fascinated.

"My mom was an avid reader. She used to always bring home books and read them to me," Mc-Namee reminisced. "She took me to get my first library card. They were paper and you signed your name on them."

Now McNamee has written a children's book inspired by those jaunty trips to the library with her mother. "Louella and the Librarian," the story of an 8-year-old girl's first time at the library, was published November 1 by Leaning Rock Press, and

illustrated by Patrick Regan

In "Louella and the Librarian," Louella meets diverse friends of all abilities; and discovers art, cooking, and the world through books. She meets Margie the librarian, who brings Louella on a tour of the charming space furnished with chairs and shelves perfect for Louella's petite frame.

McNamee based Margie on librarian, Mary La-Follette, who she bonded with growing up during her visits to the library every other day with her mother. Mary was a jolly woman from Charlestown who hosted story times, and arts and crafts for children.

"She used to make homemade bookmarks for each season, and put decorations on the windows," recalled McNamee. "She used to save books in the back for patrons. She worked in the library for

over 50 years."

McNamee remembers affectionately watching LaFollette repair book spines and jackets at her wooden desk. She worked as LaFollette's library aid in high school and into college.

"She had plants on her desk, and a jar of glue to mend books," described McNamee. "She made an impression on me. I loved the library. It was fun. They would have holiday parties. At Christmastime, Mary would have cookies and punch. Everybody would get together."

"Louella and the Librarian" is dedicated to LaFollette, a mother of two children.

"Her daughter was honored and excited," said McNamee. "She remembered me when I was a kid."

McNamee has been writing poetry and short stories since she was 8-years-old. Growing up,

McNamee liked reading mystery books, like "Nancy Drew;" and works by authors, Judy Blume and Beverly Cleary. She recalled reading 60 books one particular year for a summer reading club that her mother had enrolled her in. McNamee saved the proudly-earned certificate in an album.

"Louella and the Li-

brarian" is McNamee's third book, and can be purchased on Amazon (where it is selling numerously in France, Poland, Germany, and Canada). "Louella and the Librarian" can also be found at Robin's Nest, and the Winthrop Book Depot & Café, 11 Somerset Avenue, Winthrop, where McNamee will be holding a book signing on Saturday, December 3, 11am-12pm.

McNamee is currently working on a sequel to her second book, "Logan and the Lost Luggage," also illustrated by Patrick Regan, and anticipated to be



Christine Ricci-McNamee, author of "Louella and the Librar-

published in the spring of 2023. "Logan and the Lost Luggage" is a finalist of The Independent Author Network's Book of the Year Award, an interna-

tional competition.

Readers can contact Christine Ricci-McNamee through Instagram at eastie_author.

Grants // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

person Jeri Robinson. "Partners like BSF help us to make an indelible mark on our community and have such a positive impact on the lives of countless children. On behalf of the entire BPS family, I cannot stress enough how grateful we are to BSF and how we look forward to our continued partnership."

Since its founding in 2015, the Boston Schools Fund (BSF) has invested

\$20 million in grant funding, impacting 50 Boston schools and 20,000 Boston children. PEAK Grants are BSF's second generation of grants aimed at improving school quality for historically underserved students, including Black and Brown students, English Learners, and students with disabilities.

"Educators and students need the support of our community to thrive," said President Jessica Tang of the Boston Teachers Union. "Grants like these help our schools to provide the learning and growth opportunities our students need and deserve, so they can attend schools they are proud and excited to be a part of."

To date, BSF's grant support for Boston Public Schools has totaled just under \$4M over seven years since BSF's founding in 2015.

Letter // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

researching this "bus stoparm camera" program and learned that technology companies can provide the cameras and implement the program with no up-front cost to the state. Some are also finding that this type of video monitoring not only enforces the law but also reduces the number of repeat offenses by 98%. (STREETS-BLOG 9/13/22). "At least 24 states have school bus stop-arm camera laws," says the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Technology exists, our lawmakers are aware of the problem, they can amend existing laws to work around any obstacle and yet they continue to kick this can down the road. I've heard privacy is a concern. Since when does the privacy of someone endangering children's lives outweigh pro-

tecting them? I've been told that it takes a long time to pass a bill. While the clock is ticking, kids are getting hit by cars and drivers are getting worse. How many kids need to get hurt or killed before anything is done?

Why isn't there a mas-

sive "Stop for the bus" or "Don't hit a kid" awareness campaign from the state? Is "minding the plows" more important than our children? Bus companies welcome the technology. Mark Healey, owner of Healey Bus Company says, "Keeping the kids safe is our number one priority. Every day we talk to our drivers about safety, we provide safety education classes regularly and we are doing everything that we are supposed to be doing to keep the children safe, but we need the public to do their

part too." This mom is doing her part. I am making some noise and talking to anyone who will listen. I also started an online petition urging the MA Legislature to pass the School Bus Stop-Arm Camera bill into law. This is a no-brainer folks - put the cameras on the outside of the buses, issue citations and reduce the number of repeat violations - all with no upfront costs to the state and taxpayers - to

save kid's lives.

To support this initiative, please visit https://www.change.org/stop-schoolbuspassing

To voice your support, call the leader in your district and urge them to pass the School Bus Stop-Arm Camera law. Their information can be found on https://malegislature.gov/

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Legislators/Leadership

Maria Scheri

Rivalry // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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Thu, Nov. 24, 1966	SB 30; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 23, 1967	SB 14; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 28, 1968	EB 6; SB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 1969	Tied 0-0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 26, 1970	SB 8; EB 0	White Stadium
Sat, Nov. 27, 1971	SB 6; EB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 23, 1972	SB 22; EB 12	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 22, 1973	SB 16; EB 0	White Stadium
November, 1974	No game	.,,
Sat, Nov. 25, 1975	SB 22; EB 0	Boston University
Thu, Nov. 25, 1976	SB 12; EB 7	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 24, 1977	EB 22; SB 8	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 23, 1978	EB 46; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 22, 1979	EB 30; SB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 1980	EB 26; SB 14	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 26, 1981	EB 8; SB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 25, 1982	EB 14; SB 12	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 24, 1983	EB 18; SB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 22, 1984	EB 23; SB 0	White Stadium
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Fri, Nov. 22, 1990	SB 16; EB 15	White Stadium
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Thu, Nov. 22, 2007	EB 26; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 2008	SB 34; EB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 26, 2009	EB 42; SB 8	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 25, 2010	EB 28; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 24, 2011	EB 12; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 22, 2012	EB 22; SB 14	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 28, 2013	EB 50; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 27, 2014	EB 24; SB 6	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 26, 2015	EB 41; SB 8	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 24, 2016	EB 59; SB 12	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 23, 2017	EB 16; SB 0	White Stadium
Thu, Nov. 22, 2018	EB 22; SB 6	Sartori Stadium
Thu, Nov. 28, 2019	EB 36; SB 14	White Stadium
Fri, April 23, 2021	EB 36; SB 0	Sartori Stadium
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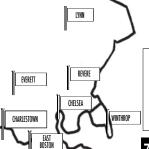
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SANTARPIOS ELECTION DAY LUNCH On Election Day Sen. Election Day lunch, and

SEN. EDWARDS HOLDS

Lydia Edwards continued was the first woman to the more than 50 year tradition of the Santarpios

host it.



The following officials were in attendance: US Senator Markey, US Rep. Katherine Clark, US Rep. Ayanna Pressley, AG Maura Healey now Governor-elect, Mayor Kim Driscoll now LG Elect, Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Mayor Michelle Wu, Suffolk DA Kevin Hayden, Sheriff Steve Tompkins, City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Councilor Ed Flynn, Councilor Gabriela Coletta, Rep. Jessica Giannino, Rep. Adrian Madaro, Rep. Jeff Turco, Rep. Dan Ryan, Suffolk County Register Of Deeds Stephen Murphy, Maura Doyle SJC Clerk.



Sen. Lydia Edwards greets the guests who came out to Santarpios for the Election Day lunch.

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As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive

polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS Dr. Galpin actually credits his own

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

American



Updates to MOR-EV Program announced

The Baker-Polito Administration is announcing several changes to the Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles Program (MOR-EV Program), which provides rebates for the purchase or lease of electric vehicles (EVs), in order to continue efforts to reduce air pollution and to increase access to clean transportation options across the Commonwealth. Light-duty battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) purchased or leased for at least 36 months now qualify for a rebate of \$3,500 for eligible applications received on or after November 10, 2022. Additionally, annual and lifetime vehicle caps for the number of fleet electric vehicles acquired with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 pounds or less have been eliminated. Eligible Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) with an all-electric range of 25 miles or greater will continue to receive rebates of \$1,500. These changes are being announced following Governor Charlie Baker signing An Act Relating to Economic Growth and Relief for the Commonwealth on Thursday, November 10, 2022, which provides \$50 million in funding for electric vehicle incentives.

"The Baker-Polito Administration has taken an aggressive approach to reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to improve air quality, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and achieve the state's emissions reduction goals," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Beth Card. "By making these significant changes to the MOR-EV Program, more people will be eligible to receive rebates that offset the cost of electric vehicles purchases, making them more affordable and further accelerating our efforts to decarbonize the transportation sector."

The MOR-EV Program aims to provide air pollution emission reductions for the Commonwealth by increasing the use of electric vehicles. Funded by DOER and

administered statewide by the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), the MOR-EV Program provides rebates for the purchase or lease of battery electric vehicles, fuel-cell electric vehicles, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Further changes to the MOR-EV Program are expected to be announced in the Spring of 2023. Since June 2014, the MOR-EV Program has issued more than \$54 million in rebates. incentivizing the purchase of more than 26,000 electric vehicles. Earlier this year, an independent report was commissioned that determined the program has been cost-effective while providing a number of recommendations for program design. For additional information regarding MOR-EV, including all eligibility details, please visit the program's webpage. Additional details regarding rebates for electric vehicles greater than 8,500 pounds GVWR can be found by visiting the MOR-EV Trucks Program The funding for the pro-

gram comes from the signing of An Act Relating to Economic Growth and Relief for the Commonwealth, which promotes economic development, strengthens health and human services, advances clean energy and resiliency, expands affordable housing production, and invests in Massachusetts communities, businesses, and workers. The legislation included funding for several proposals introduced by the Baker-Polito Administration in the FOR-WARD economic development bill that was filed in April and in multiple supplemental budget proposals, including the most recent proposal from August to close out Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). The bill is funded by a combination of state resources, including FY22 surplus revenue, and federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA-FRF). Several other changes to the MOR-EV program will need to be pursued after ad-

ditional plans are developed

for implementation.

Former missing in action service member to be honored with Hero Square

Private First Class Joseph J. Puopolo was honored with a heroes square in East Boston on Saturday, Nov 19. This ceremony officially named the corner of Bennington St and Putnam Street Joseph J. Puopolo Square.

Puopolo was born on February 2, 1932 and lived in East Boston Massachusetts. Puopolo was 17 years old when he enlisted in the United States Army. Puopolo had the rank of Private First Class. He died as a prisoner of war in February 1951 while serving in the Korean War.

Puopolo was a member of C Battery, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, 8th U.S. Army. He was reported missing in action on December 2, 1950, after his unit attempted to withdraw from Kunu-ri, North Korea, on November 30, 1950 following the Battle of Ch'ongch'on. In

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1953, four POWs who returned during Operation Big Switch reported Puopolo had been a prisoner of war and died on February 28, 1951 at Prisoner of War Camp #5.

Says Commissioner of Veterans Services Robert Santiago, "We are honored to have the opportunity to remember the life of Corporal Puopolo. Having been missing for more than 70 years, we are thankful that he is finally at rest here at home and his service is recognized by the East Boston community and the City he loved and called home."

recently confirmed by the Department of Defense on August 23, 2022. He was brought home to his family on October 18th and is resting in peace with his mother Anna Puopolo and younger brother Nicholas Puopolo in Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden, MA.

Puopolo's identity was

OBITUARIES

Carmella Lena Tiso

Member of the Anna Defronzo Senior Center

Carmella Lena "Millie" (Maiullo) Tiso of East Boston and Revere passed away on November 16.

Millie was a member of the Anna Defronzo Senior Center in East Boston.

The beloved wife of the late Benjamin Tiso, she was the devoted mother of Vera Murphy of Chelsea and Domenic Tiso of East Boston, dear sister of Mary of California and the late Lucy, Carmen and Jerry Mauillo; cherished grandmother of Christina Carnazzo of Chelsea, Jennifer Carnazzo of Revere and Robyn Carnazzo of Fitchburg; adored great grandmother of 11 great grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter. She is also survived by many loving cherished nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Millie's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East



Boston on Monday, November 21 and on Tuesday morning, November 22 before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church in East Boston for a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass. Services will conclude with Millie being laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. In lieu of flowers, me-

morial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham, MA 02452, 1-880-272-3900. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Helen Molbeck

Longtime East Boston Resident known for her big heart and generous spirit

Helen V. (Corcoran) Molbeck, 78, beloved sister and aunt, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on October 14.

The oldest of six children, she was known for her big heart and generous spirit. She was an avid reader who enjoyed her neighbors and community. She was an amazing aunt who loved spending time with her nieces and nephews be it playing games, sleepovers, going shopping, taking trips or just talking on the phone.

She was proud to be an operator for the telephone company and communication specialist for an engineering company for many years.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, John Corcoran, Helen and



David Dedrick, brother, David Dedrick and sister, Ann Marie Corcoran. She is survived by her siblings, Daniel Dedrick, Donna Dedrick Nam, Mary Dedrick, 12 nieces and nephews, and five grand nieces and nephews.

Helen was a beloved part of her family and will be greatly missed. Donations in her memory can be sent to Shriners Children's or St Jude Children's Research Hospitals.

James Bellissimo

Of East Boston

James V. Bellissimo in Tewksbury of East Boston, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on November 19 at 56 years of age after a long and courageous battle with Huntington Disease. The loving son of

James Bellissimo and the late Sandra (Cummings) Bellissimo, he was the devoted brother of Michelle and Joseph Bellissimo, cherished grandson of the late Jean and Aldo Eramo and James and Ida Bellissimo. He is also survived by his many adored cousins and friends.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to visiting hours on Monday, November 28 from 4 to 8 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:30 p.m. in the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street (Orient Heights) be grateful to them.



East Boston.

In honoring James and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Huntington Disease, Attn: SDSA. MA & RI Chapter P.O Box 95142, Newton, MA 02495.

A special thank you to the staff in unit E1 of Tewksbury Hospital. Their compassion, dedication to their jobs and love for Jimmy helped him through his long fight with HD. We will forever

Times Free Press, please call

781-485-0588

He will be greatly missed by everyone he

touched in his life On Tuesday, Novem-

Lawrence Michael Hancock

ber 15, Lawrence Michael "Mikey" Hancock passed away at 76 years old. Mikey was



a lifelong resident of East Boston, graduated from E.B.H.S. in

1964 and after high school enlisted in the Military. He served in Vietnam as a Marine Corporal, demolitions expert and received a purple heart. After the Military, Mikey joined the Union Brothers of Boilermakers Local 29. It was his family trade in which he worked for 31 years. His passion was cook-

ing, he was always making Sunday gravy for the family. Mikey also loved to keep active and enjoyed volunteering at his granddaughter's school events. A long-time friend of Bill W., he was an active member of the recovery community, always lending a hand to newcomers in recovery. He will be greatly missed by everyone he has touched in his life.

The loving husband of Karen A. Hancock for 58 years, he was the devoted father of Deanne L. Hancock, Michelle Hancock Seaman, Lawrence M. Hancock Jr. and the late Mark J. Hancock and cherished grandfather of



rence was the youngest

son of 10 children of Anna

and Reuben Hancock. He

is survived by sisters: Vi-

rigina Anderson of Pea-

body, Dorothy Rose of

Arlington and Judith Han-

cock of Winthrop and was

the caring uncle of many

nieces and nephews. Family and friends honored Lawrence's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston, on Sunday, November 20 and again Monday morning at 10 and a prayer service was held in our serenity chapel at 11:30 a.m. Services concluded with Lawrence being laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden with military honors.

He will be greatly missed by everyone he has touched in his life. May he rest in peace. To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

To place a memoriam in the

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Happy 33rd Birthday Robert Celona Jr. 11/24/89 - 9/29/18



For all you were to us in life And all the joy you brought, Your memory is with us In every single thought. The pain we felt at losing you Will never go away But knowing that you're in our heart Helps us through each day. When you were here we always That nothing could go wrong, But you're still our inspiration

And your memory keeps us strong. And though our heart is heavy It's also full of love,

And that's enough to comfort us While you're in Heaven above. Love, Nana, Papa, Dad Stella, Chanel & Baby Robert

Missing you this Thanksgiving

In Loving Memory 11th Year Anniversary

FRANCIS JOSEPH HURLEY

11/20/2011 - 11/20/2022

Today is the anniversary of the day that I lost you

And for a time it felt as though my life had ended too. But loss has taught me many things and now I face each day with hope & happy memories to help me on my way. And though I'm full of sadness

that you're no longer here. Your influence still guides me, and I still feel you near,

What we shared will never die, it lives within my heart Bringing strength and comfort while we are apart. Missed & Loved Everyday

Love Always, Susie, Sharon, Chris, Gianna, Mia, Lori & Stephen xoxoxo



Wu kicks off vicinity energy's electrification plans

Special to the Times-Free Press

Vicinity Energy, a decarbonization leader with the nation's largest portfolio of district energy systems, serving over 70 million square feet of building space across Boston and Cambridge, has officially kicked off its electrification plans with the deconstruction of a steam turbine at the Kendall Green Energy Cogeneration Facility. Vicinity will install an electric boiler in its place, marking a critical step in the company's Clean Energy Future commitment to reaching net zero carbon emissions across all its operations by

Boston's Mayor Michelle Wu commemorated the day at Vicinity's Kendall facility. Marking a crucial step toward a clean energy future for Boston and Cambridge, the deconstruction aligns with the Mayor's latest move to file a home rule petition to ban the use of fossil fuels for new buildings in

"It is remarkable to be able to say that Vicinity is the first energy company in the country to electrify its operations. That is a huge deal and one that will have ramifications for generations to come. For every gigantic natural gas boiler that's going to be decommissioned, for every new building that will use eSteamTM, those are jobs created right here for our residents and our communities," said Boston mayor Michelle Wu. "It is clear that the work of ensuring our planet remains livable is going to require all of us: every level of government, business, and community. We're very grateful that Vicinity's carbon-free eSteam product will power the leading industries we're already known for here in Greater Boston such as life sciences, healthcare, commercial real estate, and many

"With the installation of this electric boiler, we are enabling a seamless conversion to carbon-free eSteam for our customers, including innovative commercial building owners and developers like IQHQ," said Bill Di-Croce, president and chief executive officer of Vicinity Energy. "This is game-changing for our communities and a prime example of what happens when government, the business community, and the energy sector work together and embrace the re-

gion's Green New Deal." The electric boiler will enter service in 2024. At that time, the company will procure electricity from renewable, carbon-free energy sources

such as wind, solar, and hydro to generate eSteamTM, the first-ever carbon-free renewable energy product. IQHQ will be Vicinity's first customer to power the rapid decarbonization of its buildings in Boston's Fenway neighborhood: 109 Brookline and Fenway Center Phase 2 with carbon-free eS $team^{\scriptscriptstyle TM}\,.$

"Today, we are excited to be celebrating the installation of the electric boiler," said Jenny Whitson, director of sustainability & ESG at IQHQ. "By Vicinity taking this step to offer developers like us the opportunity to source electric steam generated by renewable energy, we are able to achieve our climate goals and carbon emission reduction targets for our projects."

Over the years, Vicinity has evolved as new, cleaner fuel sources have commercially become available. The company's predecessors burned coal to generate steam before migrating to oil, natural gas, and combined heat and power (CHP). Because district energy systems are agnostic to fuel type, they can quickly implement these new, more sustainable technologies and fuel sources. Electrification is the next crucial step to decarbonize

Boston and Cambridge



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu commemorated the deconstruction of natural gas infrastructure as part of the company's commitment to decarbonizing its systems and supporting the city's Green New Deal initiative.

at scale and ensure both municipalities meet their new energy standards and emission mandates.

The Kendall Green Energy Cogeneration Facility simultaneously produces thermal energy and electricity in one efficient process to serve approximately 75% of Vicinity's customers throughout the region. When the electric boilers begin service, all of these facilities will have access to carbon-free, re-

newable energy at once. "Here in Kendall Square, a place known for global innovation, we are proud of Vicinity's contribution to urban decarbonization with eSteam," said Beth O'Neill Maloney, executive director at the Kendall Square Association. "Vicinity's electrification plans will help contribute to the decarbonization of Cambridge and Boston without building-level changes. Vicinity is a global sustainability leader, charting a new path forward for district energy."

Vicinity is on track

to fully electrify its steam generation in Boston-Cambridge and introduce other technological advancements into its operations, including industrial-scale heat pumps and molten salt thermal energy storage. The company's other locations across the country will undergo sim-

Click here to read more about eSteamTM, district energy systems, and Vicinity's commitment to innovation and the environment.

ilar electrification process-

es in the coming years.

About Vicinity Energy Vicinity Energy is a clean energy company that owns and operates the nation's most extensive portfolio of district energy systems. Vicinity produces and distributes reliable, clean steam, hot water, and chilled water to over 230 million square feet of building space nationwide. Vicinity is committed to achieving net zero carbon across its portfolio by 2050. Vicinity continuously invests in its infrastructure and the latest technologies to accelerate the decarbonization of commercial and institutional buildings in city centers. To learn more, visit www.vicinityenergy. us or follow us on Linke-

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