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Shown (Left to Right) Claire Paduano, Gregg Housh, Jule Manitz and John Walkey pose by the banner they erected protesting the substation.

Eversource Substation still being protested

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

In a fight that has spanned about a decade, activists are still making their voices heard, protesting the impending construction of an Eversource electric substation on Con- dor Street across from the American Legion Play- ground.

Just last week, members of Extinction Rebellion Boston (XR) and Green- Roots, two environmen-

tal justice groups, were stationed across from the construction site protest- ing the substation and erected a banner that reads ‘No Eastie Substation.’

As for the chief concern among those opposing the substation, it comes down to safety; many are wor- ried that the substation could be disastrous for the area due to potential flood- ing.

“At the most immedi-

ate level, this is a major public health concern be- cause of the fact that when substations flood – which this substation is sited in a flood plain area – ... they explode, which we have seen happen in Manhattan, and we have seen happen in California,” said Alex Chambers of XR.

Gregg Housh, an XR activist, echoed Cham- bers’ sentiment, called for the substation to be moved

elsewhere, and called con- struction at the current site a “travesty.”

“There’s plots literally a mile from here that the transmission lines are even closer to that are better for this that won’t flood by next year. Which I mean, I’m sorry, but with all the climate change that’s cur- rently going on right now, this thing is going to flood more often, not less of-

See SUBSTATION Page 6

Substation protest leads to arrests

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Just before 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, activists protesting Eversource’s electric substation blocked the entrance to the con- struction site at 400 Con- dor Street, leading to mul- tiple arrests.

According to a press release from Extinction Rebellion Boston (XR), a group that has vehemen- tly opposed the substa- tion, six of their activists were arrested early Tues- day morning during the demonstration.

At the time of this writ- ing, the Boston Police De- partment’s (BPD) Office of Media Relations could not provide any informa- tion on the arrests.

Jule Manitz, an XR Ac- tivist, indicated that she was none too pleased with

See ARRESTS Page 6

Save the Harbor seeks applications Better Beaches grant program

Special to the Times-Free Press

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Depart- ment of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are now seeking Better Beaches Program grant proposals from organizations to sup- port free beach events and activities in East Boston this summer.

Last year, Save the Har- bor awarded \$27,000 in

Better Beaches grants to East Boston organizations like East Boston YMCA, Piers Park Sailing Cen- ter, Harborkeepers, Tri- angle, Inc, NOAH, and the Boston Circus Guild. This money was used to put on the Maritime Festival, Va- mos a la Playa cultural cel- ebration, the Safety Around Water Celebration, Beach:

See GRANT Page 2

Eastie Farm has plenty of programs for residents

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During the Harbor View Neighborhood Associa- tion’s (HVNA) meeting on Monday, Jan. 9, rep- resentatives of Eastie Farm presented learning oppor- tunities, sales, programs, and more that residents can participate in.

One of Eastie Farm’s most prominent initiatives is its Community Support- ed Agriculture (CSA) pro- gram. The CSA is essen- tially a farm share, where residents sign up and pay a

rate for fresh produce from local farms.

“Every week during the growing season, you get seasonal, beautiful produce at a rate that would be half the cost if you bought it from anywhere else, and we buy our produce from other Massachusetts farm- ers who are local, who we know,” said Eastie Farm’s Heather O’Brien.

Another significant as- pect of the CSA is that it is not budget-discrimina- tory in that residents all over East Boston can enjoy

fresh produce weekly.

“People can pay for the CSA in whatever way suits their budget. The CSA is the same whether you pay us \$1 million, you pay us \$5 a month because that is all you can afford, you pay us with your SNAP (Sup- plemental Nutrition Assis- tance Program) card,” said O’Brien.

In conjunction with SNAP, the state also offers the Healthy Incentives Pro- gram (HIP). The program gives users money back on their SNAP card for buy-

ing produce from local HIP vendors, and Eastie Farm happens to be a vendor.

“So essentially, there are people – if you have a SNAP card – you can get that [local produce] for free,” said O’Brien.

The CSA is not the only way to get some fresh pro- duce, as Eastie Farm also offers a free farmers mar- ket, where anyone can take home their choice of pro- duce at no cost.

“Everybody is welcome

See FARM Page 2



The Beach: Ability day in East Boston has mobility mats, beach wheelchairs, and kayaks for participants.

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EBNHC opens applications for Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its third cohort of residents to join its Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Residency Program. This residency program aims to expand the pool of primary care providers who are well-prepared and committed to serving underserved populations.

EBNHC was one of five health care organizations in the Commonwealth selected to participate in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) State-wide Investments Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program in 2021. Since then, the program has shown to be invaluable in the training of new Family Nurse Practitioners.

The residency is a highly structured year of intensive clinical training that provides mentorship in a high-performance model of care. Training includes primary care sessions with a preceptor in a community health center setting, specialty rotations, didactic sessions, and quality improvement training. By the end of the program, residents will have gained the competence, mastery and confidence needed to be a NP primary care provider that serves culturally diverse and clinically complex patients.

“We are thrilled to continue our Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Program,” said Jackie Fantes, MD, FAAFP Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “Our goal is to bridge the gap between academia and practice for new FNP’s so that they feel competent and confident to hit the

ground running as they enter the fast-paced world of health care. We want every patient to have a provider who empowers their decision making and respects their language, culture, race or ethnicity, and health care preferences.”

The goal of the FNP training program is to ensure every new provider is prepared, supported, and satisfied with their career in primary care. “When I started at EBNHC 14 years ago as a new NP, the support, training and mentorship I received shaped me as a clinician and has

driven me to want to do the same for the next generation of providers,” said Residency Program Director Katherine O’Brien, MSN, FNP-C. “This individualized residency, with an abundance of hands-on teaching, feedback and clinical mentoring, does just that.”

Based at EBNHC sites in the South End, East Boston and Winthrop, the program will run from September 2023 to August 2024. The residency is a full-time, 12-month salaried position. Three slots are available. New Family Nurse Practitioners gradu-

ating in May 2023 or within the previous 18 months are encouraged to apply. Bilingual candidates preferred. Visit Family Nurse Practitioner Residency: Overview — EBNHC 2022 for more information and an online application.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community health center in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston’s South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, please visit www.ebnhc.org.

News in Brief

Gove Street Citizens Association Agenda

The next Gove Street Citizens Association meeting is Monday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Register for this meeting: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

All speakers will be available to answer questions from the community.

Announcements (5 min)

PLAN: East Boston Re-unión Comunitaria en Español (Spanish-language meeting); martes, 24 de enero, 6:30 PM (Tues, Jan 24, 6:30 PM)

Chapter 91 Public Notice for 605 Chelsea Street Environmental Justice notice from Piers Park Phase III team

Community Updates (10 min)

East Boston updates from Nathalia Benitez-Perez, our neighborhood liaison with City Hall

BPD updates from Sgt. Cintolo

VOTE: 76 Frankfort Street (15min)

Our next meeting after this one will be on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30p on Zoom.

AGENCIES ANNOUNCE NEW ROUND OF HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL EDUCATION FAIR FUNDING

The State Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Banks (DOB) and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR), announced additional funding for the 2022-2023 Financial Ed-

ucation Innovation Fund Grant. This grant opportunity provides financial assistance for Massachusetts high schools hosting financial education fairs during the 2022-2023 school year.

Known as Credit for Life fairs, these workshops offer fun and unique experiences for students to learn about personal finance topics before they graduate. Massachusetts public or charter high schools and special education programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) are eligible to apply.

Schools that were already awarded a grant for the 2022-2023 school year are not eligible to receive additional funding.

Applications are open until Friday, February 17th. Schools can learn more and apply here.

This marks the 11th round of the grant since its inception in 2015 and the second round for the 2022-2023 school year. In December, the agencies awarded a total of \$115,400 to 39 schools to create new or expand pre-existing financial education fairs, which will serve around 9,000 students according to the grantees’ estimates.

Since 2015, over 40,000 Massachusetts students have attended Credit for Life Fairs. The Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant was established as an ongoing effort to strengthen access to financial literacy throughout Massachusetts. This financial education program is funded by the Division of Banks through a settlement over alleged unlawful lending practices.

Farm// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at that. Nobody needs to show an ID; nobody needs to prove anything – you don’t even have to live in East Boston,” said O’Brien.

Along with the CSA and free farmers market, Eastie Farm also offers a seedling sale, in which they work with a sober house in Dorchester to bring in all sorts of seedlings not grown in the Eastie Farm greenhouse.

“The seedling sale is a great opportunity to order your plants from Eastie Farm ... For the first week in May, we have like a pick-up for four days for people who have ordered their seedlings to come and get them ... and then we have like a sale the week-

end before Mother’s Day – people can come and buy whatever they want,” said O’Brien.

While Eastie Farm offers ample opportunities to secure local fruits and vegetables, the organization also has several experiential learning programs.

“By experiential learning, I mean that they’re not in the classroom – they’re out in the world – getting their hands dirty and learning about their environment as they experience it,” said Joel Seidner, Eastie Farm’s Climate Resilience Project Manager.

One of these learning opportunities is the Junior Farmers, a summer program where kids learn to

take care of plants, cook with fresh produce and learn more about the environment. Climate NATURE is another program where Eastie Farm visits schools and supplements students’ education.

For older students in High School, Eastie Farm offers the Youth Climate Corps, a fellowship where students can get involved with their environment in several ways, such as tending to urban farms, teaching younger kids, and more.

Whether it is getting some fresh fruits and vegetables or learning, Eastie Farm has multiple avenues for residents to become more in tune with the envi-

ronment.

“We have a lot of things for everybody, and people don’t have to sign up for the CSA forever; they don’t have to order a ton of seedlings ... but we would love it if whatever you need as far as plants and growing you reached out to Eastie Farm,” said O’Brien.

“[We would love it] if you needed help or you wanted to volunteer; you think of us first because we are happy to answer any questions at any time.”

For more information on everything Eastie Farm has to offer, you can visit <https://eastiefarm.com>.

Grant// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ability accessible beach day, and more.

In 2022, Save the Harbor’s Better Beaches Program invested more than \$250,000 in the program, supporting 62 organizations in nine waterfront communities from Nahant to Nantasket. In turn, those organizations ran over 180 events.

This year, Better Beaches state funding has increased. Save the Harbor we will be awarding more than \$300,000 in 2023 Better Beaches grants for even more events free to the public.

If you or your organization has a great idea for a free beach event or program, just follow this link.

“I’m just so delighted that the Better Beaches grant exists,” said Magdalena Ayed, Founder and Executive Director of the Harborkeepers, a Better Beaches grantee. “This grant allows us to provide a platform to learn about what’s happening on the ocean and how we as the Community can be advocates to improve it. It’s a fantastic opportunity.”

The Better Beaches program puts resources in the hands of local beach lovers, supporting and empowering them to execute events for their communities. The impact is clear — Save the Harbor has brought millions of community members to the region’s beaches with over 1,000 free events since 2008.

Grant applicants can come from any community as long as their idea centers one of our region’s public beaches. Better Beaches funds will be awarded to organizations, programs, individuals, and creatives who empower, amplify and invest in community members of color, people with disabilities, people who’s first language is not English and members of the Queer community. The event must be free and open to the public, be executed in Summer 2023, and comply with DCR’s restrictions on what’s allowed on the beaches.

“Vamos a la Playa is our gathering organized by the Veronica Robles Cultural Center to bring our community to this beautiful space by the water,” said Veronica Robles, a Better Beaches grantee. “We want to make sure that everybody enjoys the summer with mindful activities. Thank you for DCR and the Better Beaches grant and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for the opportunity and for supporting this event.”

A Trike Called Funk, a Better Beaches grantee, used their funds to perform at events on multiple beaches and host their own event series, Bike to the Beach and Boogie. “None of this would have been possible had it not been for the support of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Better Beaches initiative,” said A.a.ron Myers, Co-Founder of A Trike Called Funk. “We are happy to amplify Save the Harbor and celebrate what they’re doing to bring people together and to appreciate, but also become stewards of, these beautiful blue and green spaces in and around Boston.”

Information about the events and programs that were supported last year can be found in Save the Harbor’s 2023 Impact Report, which is available at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/publications>.

You can apply for a Better Beaches grant at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/better-beaches>. You will be notified of the result of your application in April. If you have any questions about the Better Beaches Program, please contact Maya Smith atsmith@savetheharbor.org.

Funds to support the program come from the

Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Baker/Polito Administration, and from the Harpoon Shamrock Splash, which will take place on March 12th, 2023. To register for the Splash, visit<https://savetheharbor.securesweet.com/default.asp>.

Save the Harbor’s success would not be possible without our program partners and event sponsors, including Arctic Chill, FMC Ice Sports, Bay State Cruise Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, The Blue Sky Collaborative, Boston & Maine Webcams, The Boston Foundation, BostonHarbor.com, Boston Properties, Coast Cannabis, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Comcast, Cronin Group, Constellation Generation, Comcast Foundation, the Daily Catch, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Eastern Salt Company, Inc, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Harpoon, IR+M Charitable Fund, JetBlue, John Hancock Financial Services, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Massport, P&G Gillette, Mix 104.1, National Grid, and The Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation.

In addition, Save the Harbor recognizes the Metropolitan Beaches Commission Co-Chairs Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn, and Representative Adrian Madaro of East Boston and the legislative and community members of the Commission as well as Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano for their support for our beaches and our communities. We also thank the Baker-Polito Administration, the Massachusetts Legislature, Save the Harbor’s partners at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the YMCA of Greater Boston, and the hundreds of people who take part in the Shamrock Splash for their support.

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Malios, Costantino S	Sweet, Jesse	36 Saint Edward Rd #2	\$410,000
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Jacobo, Cristian R	Fraker, Ford J	158 Cottage St #4F	\$620,000
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255 Maverick St	Maverick Street LLC	255 Maverick St	\$2,050,000
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Wu announces launch of \$10 million cultural investment grant program

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC) announced the launch of the City of Boston’s Cultural Investment Grant, a \$10 million multi-year investment in transformative growth opportunities for an equitable arts sector in Boston. The Cultural Investment Grant is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as part of the City of Boston’s recovery efforts. The grant responds to the overlapping, devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural sector and on communities of color across Boston.

“This unprecedented City investment will help growing arts and cultural organizations strengthen their roots in our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This program will elevate and scale arts and culture organizations, particularly in underserved communities, and make transformative, new investments that will deepen the connection to arts for all our residents.”

The grant will direct funds to build capacity for arts and cultural organizations working in partnership with communities in Boston most impacted by the pandemic, partic-

ularly communities of color. Grant amounts will be between \$600,000 and \$3 million. Distributed over four years, the grants will provide investments in the cultural sector that will give organizations a path to thrive and sustain in Boston, create long term opportunities for all of Boston’s communities to have access to the arts, and strengthen the local arts ecosystem with new and unprecedented investments.

Boston-based arts and cultural organizations that have both budgets under \$3 million and 501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsorship can apply. Priority will be given to organizations located within or working with communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations will also be evaluated on their demonstrated commitment to equity, the representation of the communities with which they work in their visions, missions, and programming, and their active partnerships within their communities.

The funding structure of the Cultural Investment Grant is divided into three tiers to include a range of arts and cultural organizations for which these funds will be transforma-

tive. The amount of funding allocated to each tier is informed by an organization’s operating budget:

- At least three grassroots organizations with operating budgets under \$500,000 will each receive up to \$600,000 over four years.
- Up to two organizations with operating budgets between \$500,000 and \$2 million will each receive \$1 million over four years.
- Up to two organizations with budgets between \$2 million and \$3 million will each receive \$3 million over four years.

“Creativity is vital to a healthy, equitable, and thriving community, and investing in increased access to the arts and creative expression throughout the city is crucial,” said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. “We hope this transformative funding enables cultural organizations to anchor themselves in their communities and build sustainable futures for lasting impact.”

“This grant opportunity will amplify and empower grassroots organizations, creatives, and cultural leaders who continuously keep Boston’s rich, diverse history front and center,” said Mariange-

ly Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. “This is the first step in creating sustainable solutions for celebrating and preserving local arts and culture.”

“This grant for Boston’s arts and culture organizations is both a pivotal moment and a necessary direction for our city,” said Catherine Morris, Director of Arts and Culture at the Boston Foundation and Founder and Artistic Director of BAMS Fest. “Our local organizations are not only the backbone of our neighborhoods but are vital lifelines to ensuring that programs are accessible, available and affordable; and that the next generation of cultural workers, artists, leaders and the like have pathways to economic freedom, space, career development, and creative autonomy. We, at the Boston Foundation hope that this type of grant opportunity inspires people to see the value and contribution that local organizations provide, and invest in the people within the arts and culture ecosystem, so that it remains sustainable, strong, and deeply connected.”

“It is wonderful to start this year with an announcement like this,”

said Elsa Mosquera, Principal and Co-Founder of Agora Cultural Architects. “This is an absolutely extraordinary initiative because it acknowledges the transformative value that arts and cultural organizations have in their communities. This type of support represents an enormous opportunity for these organizations to have the economic stability they need to carry out their mission in an organized way, with well-paid cultural resources, while simultaneously amplifying the work they carry out in their communities.”

“Boston needs to invest in organizations and artists that have been working to provide high quality and culturally responsive programming the BIPOC community for a long time, like Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC), which serves more than 200 Latinx artists in the city and provides them with a venue and paid opportunities to showcase their talent,” said Veronica Robles, Executive Director of Veronica Robles Cultural Center. “We are very excited about the transformative investment in Boston’s cultural sector through this \$10 million multi-year funding opportunity.”

“Across the City of Boston in the last few years, creativity and culture have been instrumental in strengthening bonds and providing connection and healing,” said Cynthia Woo, Director of Pao Arts Center. “Art is embedded everywhere in our lives, in places we may not expect or take for granted. The arts have the power to bring people together for important conversations and to share joyful experiences. You’ll find arts, culture, and creativity as crucial components of programs at community centers, in religious spaces, and in public spaces and parks. The City’s new investment in communities of color is a much needed start to supporting work that has been vital to the wellbeing of our neighborhoods, including Pao Arts Center’s own Chinatown neighborhood, as we move forward to visioning a Boston that is not merely surviving, but thriving.”

Interested organizations are invited to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) by February 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

Vertuccio Smith & Vazza relocating to 262 Beach Street, Revere

The following statement came from the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza Funeral Home.

“To all our families, friends, & residents of Revere, East Boston, & surrounding areas of the North Shore, we would like to announce that after 37 years of caring for thousands of families at our Broadway location, on January 31, 2023. We will be officially relocating, to our new location at 262 Beach St., Revere. On September 30th, 2022, we proudly purchased the Vazza “Beechwood” Funeral Home - DiPietro & Vazza, Inc. A name that has served families for 102 years. We feel bless-

ed that with all of the interest, The Vazza Family chose us to carry on their century old business & family name. We will become Vertuccio Smith & Vazza “Beechwood” Home for Funerals. We will continue to honor the Vazza name & continue our commitment the same way, that we always have. We also look forward to having both Louis Vazza & Jessica Vazza Ferragamo alongside of us, as we come together as one.

Our reputation has always been our biggest asset. For many years people always wanted us to have a larger facility, now our facility is the largest funeral home in the area.

We will be making many beautiful upgrades to allow our families to have the most elegant facility, to honor their loved one.

All though this announcement is bitter-sweet, as we say goodbye to our home, we are forever grateful for all of you for placing your constant faith and trust in us to care for your loved one. We will continue to do what we are best known for.

Thank you for your friendship and continued support.

God bless you all,
Faithfully your friends at Vertuccio Smith & Vazza.”

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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 two 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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SO FAR, WE'VE DODGED THE ENERGY BULLET

The winter season can be viewed in two ways.

Meteorological winter is considered to be the three months of December, January, and February. Astronomical winter runs from December 22, the date of the winter solstice, to March 21, the date of the vernal or spring equinox.

So, ever the optimists that we are, we'll take the former version of the winter season, which means that as of this week, we've crossed the midpoint of this winter.

With the war in Ukraine disrupting world energy supplies, government policy-makers and energy experts across the globe analyzed the approaching winter season with trepidation. A harsh winter had the potential to leave Europe with severe energy shortages and America with sky-high prices for oil and natural gas, with some even predicting rolling blackouts in New England in the event of a cold winter because of a lack of energy supplies to power our electrical grid.

However, the winter of 2022-23 has been exceptionally mild in the Northern Hemisphere, reducing world demand for energy. Here in New England, other than a brief cold snap at Christmas-time, we have been fortunate to have experienced a warmer-than-normal weather pattern that has extended from the beginning of November through all of January.

A colder-than-normal winter could have had a devastating impact on the pocketbooks of New Englanders. The inability to construct a natural gas pipeline from the Marcellus Shale in nearby Pennsylvania (which is estimated to have the second-largest natural gas reserves in the world), coupled with the outdated Jones Act (which essentially means that we cannot transport liquefied natural gas via ship from our own Gulf of Mexico), has left us vulnerable to the wild swings of the global energy market and an unnecessary reliance on dirtier-burning oil.

There has been a large, negative impact to the environment because of our shortsightedness in assuring access to our domestic natural gas supplies here in the U.S.: We have had to use so much oil to power our electric grid -- which normally relies on natural gas -- that we have negated many of the gains of recent years in reducing our carbon emissions. Coupled with the increase in the use of coal for electricity generation in Europe (which they have used to replace their natural gas shortfalls because of the cutoff of supply by the Russians), the climate has been made far dirtier this year.

The warm winter thus far has been a good news/bad news situation: Our energy supplies have been sufficient to keep us warm at manageable (though still-high) prices, but it has come at a great cost to the environment.

And beyond the immediate aspect of this winter, that we are having such a mild winter in the first place is just further evidence that climate change is here to stay.

THE HUSBAND ALWAYS IS THE PRIME SUSPECT

The disappearance of a Cohasset mother of three who has been missing since January 1, once again has highlighted the tragic, but undeniable, reality that a woman in the United States is more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than by a random stranger or anyone else in her life.

We realize that her husband, who presently is under arrest for misleading police in their investigation into her disappearance, is presumed innocent until proven guilty. However, we would note that the circumstantial evidence at this point that has been reported in the press points overwhelmingly to her cold-blooded murder by a man with a sociopathic personality.

(The husband is awaiting sentencing in federal district court on felony charges stemming from his theft of artwork from a college roommate's family and subsequent forging of that artwork that duped buyers. In addition, according to news reports, he also allegedly bilked his father out of a substantial sum of money and then, when his father cut him out of his will, took items from his father's estate.)

A woman is beaten every nine seconds in the U.S., totaling more than five million incidents of domestic violence among U.S. women aged 18 and older every year, resulting in nearly 1300 deaths and two million injuries, in communities both rich and poor.

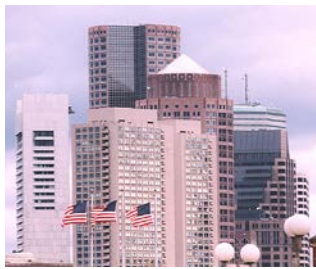
To put it another way, more than three women are killed by their husbands/boyfriends (or ex-es) every single day in America.

This incident also has highlighted that domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic levels. It was another incident in 1978 in Cohasset, the small and extremely wealthy community on the South Shore, when a woman was shot by her husband, who in turn shot their three young children (all of whom survived) before turning the gun on himself, that led to the law that allows a victim of domestic violence to obtain a restraining order (commonly-known as a 209A order) to keep her abuser away from her.

This sad incident further highlights that women are most at risk to violence during separation from their intimate partner -- and that was the case for the Cohasset woman, who had bought a home in Washington, D.C., where she had taken a job and planned to move with her three boys, while the husband awaits a lengthy federal prison sentence for his financial crimes.

We will reiterate that the husband is presumed innocent until proven guilty in this matter.

However, regardless of how this sad and tragic incident plays out, it has shone the spotlight on the scourge of domestic violence -- now known as Intimate Partner Violence -- that still pervades our culture despite decades of awareness and changes in the law at the state and federal levels.



Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Renting or buying, which is best for you?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

A retired minister and his wife had never owned a house. They had spent all their married lives living in housing provided by churches. At age 65 they bought a house and financed it for 15 years. They had been frugal and had saved a good down payment. They paid for the house by age 80. The value of the house increased over the years and at age 83 they sold the house and received a very nice check. The money from the sale was enough to help them fund their next ten years in a nice assisted living apartment. While taking on a mortgage at 65 appeared crazy to some it afforded them financial security further down the road.

Many years ago, I bought a modest new house that cost \$151,000. I barely scraped together the nearly \$30,000 down payment. The house was financed for 15 years. I began the laborious journey of writing a monthly check to the bank. After about eight years, I needed money to pay medical bills and was able to borrow \$30,000 against my

equity. It was nice that I had the equity because at that time I really needed the cash. Looking back, I would never do that again because it made the actual cost of my house increase to \$181,000. For a couple of years, I had two payments to make to the bank. A couple of years later my wife passed. If I had needed to borrow \$10,000 against my house, I could have done so to pay for funeral expenses. Fortunately, we had both taken out small insurance policies that covered that cost. Eventually I refinanced and consolidated the mortgages. By the grace of God I still paid for the house in 15 years.

I don't like monthly payments or paying rent. For most of us, at some point in our lives there will be a monthly payment of some kind. I've lived in apartments on several occasions and even houses furnished to me by congregations I served. I didn't care for either one. I'm not saying I wouldn't do it again but my preference is to live in a place that is actually mine for as long as possible.

Renting a house or an apartment works for many

at different stages of life. Buying a house is tough because it is a major financial commitment. You normally have to come up with 20% of the price to pay down as well as have the income to make the payments. That's not always easy.

New houses in a nearby neighborhood are presently selling for \$400,000. Most of them are modest three to four-bedroom houses. Having enough money to make the down payment and monthly payments is a lot for any person or family.

However, rent is expensive. Depending on where you live you may be paying \$800 to \$3,000 a month for a small apartment. You don't have maintenance or property taxes but you'll also never see that money again. A friend of mine sold her house at age 70 and moved into an apartment complex for people over age 55. She pays rent but she says the landlord treats her well and is timely with upkeep. A landlord who is very untimely with upkeep is very frustrating.

There are pros and cons to owning and renting. Choosing depends on

your situation and personal preferences. A landlord can raise your rent and have rules pertaining to pets, painting, and more. However, it may be just exactly what you need. Typically, you don't want to sink your money into property if you are going to move in three or four years. You might come out ahead if you buy a fixer upper and have the time and money to improve the property. You don't want to make a bad buy. Buying property that you can't resell is a bad idea, unless you love it and plan to live there a long time.

Keep in mind that a big chunk of most American's wealth is in the house they own. If you pay for it and maintain it you can normally sell it to someone and recoup a lot of your money. You might even make a nice profit.

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

TSA highlights its top accomplishments of 2022

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recognized a year of accomplishments and progress in 2022, setting a new record in firearm interceptions by Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) at checkpoints, making significant strides to improve transportation security and screening an average of more than two million passengers daily at airports across the country.

TSA provided airport screening at or near pre-pandemic travel volumes despite multiple instances of challenging weather conditions; enhanced cybersecurity resilience of critical transportation infrastructure with performance-based security directives and continued to test and deploy new technologies that significantly improve security effectiveness, efficiency and the passenger experience throughout the transportation system. Additionally, TSA officers stopped more than 6,500 firearms at airport checkpoints.

"I am incredibly proud of our dedicated TSA employees who perform the critical task of securing our nation's transportation systems each day," said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. "We had a very successful year that ended with the enactment of the FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which included funding to bring TSA employee compensation to a level commensurate with other federal employees, in addition to funding to expand collective bargaining rights for our non-supervisory screening workforce. For years, our employees have not been paid fairly, and securing pay parity was necessary from an oper-

ational standpoint as we continue to see increasing travel volumes, and will also help our ability to recruit and hire new employees and retain the talent we have."

During 2022, TSA achieved the following highlights and accomplishments:

Our Security Operations

20 years of federalized security: TSA recognized the 20th year of checkpoint federalization as more than 400 airports nationwide reached this milestone anniversary.

Technology improvements: TSA improved security effectiveness and reduced physical contact by deploying 534 Credential Authentication Technology (CAT) units and adding 243 Computed Tomography (CT) X-ray scanners at airport checkpoints. The FY23 Omnibus Bill, which President Biden signed into law in December 2022, will enable technology deployments to continue across the agency's nearly 2,400 security checkpoint lanes to raise the bar on identity verification and security efficiency, accommodate future improvements in liquids screening and take initial steps for screening at speed.

Cybersecurity resilience efforts: TSA worked with industry partners to revise previous rail and pipeline Security Directives and issue performance-based pipeline Security Directives to enhance cybersecurity resilience for the nation's critical pipelines and rail systems. Performance-based criteria recognizes the diversity of organizations and systems that exist throughout the transportation sector and seeks to incorporate prac-

tices that strengthen those systems against attack.

Officers stopped a record number of firearms: TSOs prevented more than 6,542 firearms from entering the secure areas of airports in 2022; 88% of the firearms were loaded. TSA also announced several new measures to mitigate firearms threats including enhanced screening for passengers in possession of a firearm at a TSA checkpoint and loss of TSA PreCheck® eligibility for up to five years. In December 2022, TSA also increased the maximum civil penalty for a firearms violation to nearly \$15,000.

Federal Air Marshal Service 60th Anniversary: In March 2022, TSA recognized its Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) for 60 years of protecting domestic and international flights and providing a visible security presence for surface transportation modes. The FAMS was initially founded as part of the Federal Aviation Administration in 1962 in response to increased international airline hijacking incidents, and transitioned to TSA after its establishment following the 9/11 attacks.

Expanded canine teams: TSA trained and deployed more than 1,000

See TSA Page 8

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Massachusetts drought status has improved over most of the state

Through the month of December 2022, the majority of the state experienced drought improvements, and as a result, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper today announced the following drought declarations: the Islands Region will remain at a Level 2-Significant Drought, the Northeast and Cape Cod Regions have been upgraded to a Level 1-Mild Drought, and the Connecticut River Valley Region will join the Western, Central, and Southeast Regions at Level 0-Normal Conditions. Rain and snow events during the previous month and a half have been well above normal, and conditions are expected to continue to improve through January 2023. However, for the state to be completely out of the drought, which is a longer-term condition, Massachusetts will need to benefit from sustained rainfall for a few more months before the entire state is within Normal conditions.

As outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, a Level 1-Mild Drought warrants detailed monitoring of drought conditions, close coordination among state and federal agencies, and technical outreach and assistance to the affected municipalities. Additionally, a Level 2-Significant Drought calls for the convening of an interagency mission group to more closely coordinate on drought assessments, impacts, and responses within state government.

“While it is great to see significant improvements throughout Massachusetts, it is critical that everyone practices indoor water conservation methods, particularly those residing and working within the Islands, Northeast, and Cape Cod Regions of the state,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “Through our ongoing collective efforts, water systems will return to normal and fully rebound faster, ensuring essential needs, such as for drinking water, fire suppression, and supporting habitats, will continue to be met.”

These declarations are the result of recommendations made by the state’s Drought Management Task Force, which is composed of state and federal officials, and other entities. The taskforce

will continue to meet until water levels return to normal in all affected regions of the state. The task force noted that it will take more time for the Commonwealth to come out of the longer-term drought, which started in early 2022, and has resulted in anywhere between two to ten inches of rainfall deficits over the course of the year in different regions of the state. Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 2 – Significant Drought region and a Level 1 – Mild Drought region, including those utilizing a private well. Residents and businesses are also asked to check with their local water system in case more stringent watering restrictions are in place.

For Regions in Level 2 – Significant Drought Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use; and,
- Follow local water use restrictions.

Immediate Steps for Communities:

- Limit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; and,
- Establish water-use reduction targets for all water users and identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication;
- Provide timely information to local residents and businesses;
- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates;
- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,
- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan.

For Region in Level 1 - Mild Drought Residents and Businesses:

- Toilets, faucets, and showers are more than 60% of indoor use. Make sure yours are WaterSense efficient;

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation pro-

gram that includes public education and communication;

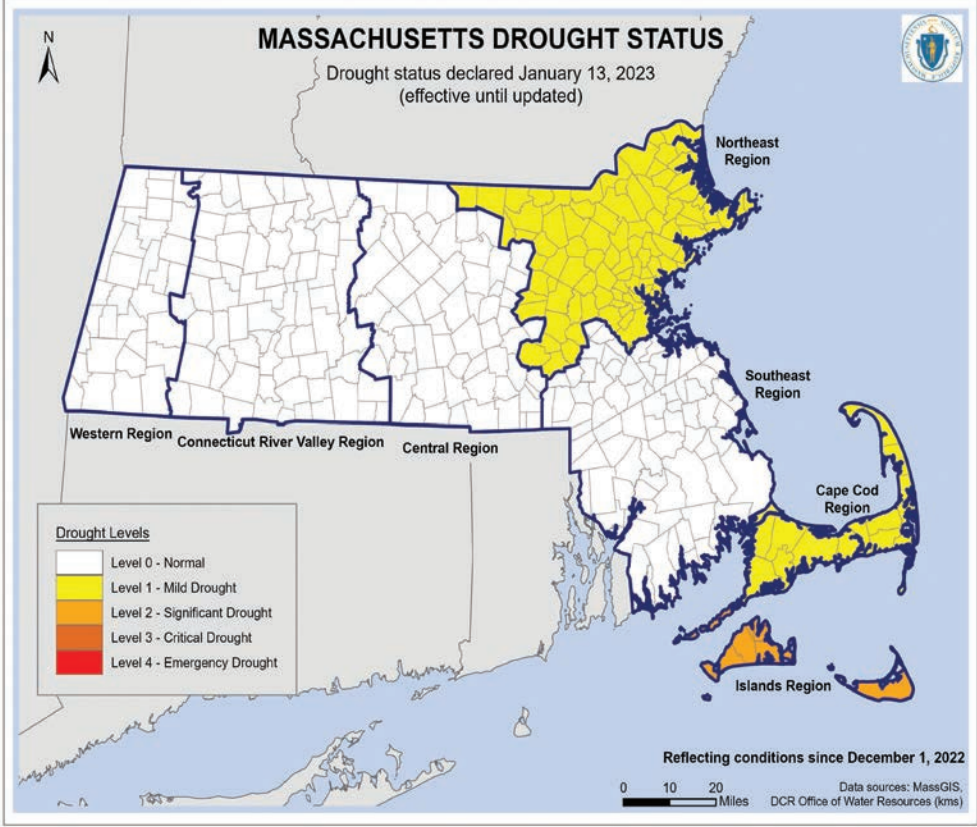
- Provide timely information to local residents and businesses;
- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,
- Develop a local drought management plan.

Furthermore, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to provide technical assistance to communities on managing their water systems, including assistance on use of emergency connections and water supplies.

“The drought situation is still improving across the Commonwealth and today’s recommendation is based on conditions through December that do not consider the heavy, early precipitation we are experiencing this month,” said MassDEP Acting Commissioner Gary Moran. “This drought was the result of the long-term precipitation deficits that have built-up over many months, so it will take time to recover. We urge residents to follow the recommendations of their water supplier and continue to conserve water.”

It is important to note that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not experiencing drought conditions, as defined within its individual plan. Private wells, local streams, wetlands, vernal pools, and other water-dependent habitats located within MWRA-serviced areas may be impacted by drought conditions, while water quality in ponds can deteriorate due to lowering of levels and stagnation.

The Drought Management Task Force will meet again on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 10:00AM. For further information on water conservation and what residents can do, please visit EEA’s Drought page and water conservation page. To get the most up-to-date information on the drought indices, go to the state’s drought dashboard webpage. Additionally, the Commonwealth is surveying the public for any drought impacts that are currently being experienced. To participate, please visit the Massachusetts Water Impact Reporter webpage.



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Substation // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ten,” said Housh.

John Walkey, GreenRoots’ Director of Water-front and Climate Justice Initiatives, has been in the fight against the new substation since the process officially began back in 2014 and even before that behind the scenes.

After all his years of fighting and even with an appeal pending, Walkey seemed frustrated that the substation is on the precipice of construction.

“We figured at some point someone would come to their senses, and this project would end up getting paused or negotiated in some fashion. There has been absolutely no bending on the part of the state regulators or of Eversource,” said Walkey.

“They have pushed ahead with exactly what they wanted, with the only difference being the project has moved from one side of the site to the other.”

Not only did Walkey emphasize the dangers of the substation in an area that could potentially flood especially considering there is a playground next door, but he also talked about the strain a project like this will have on taxpayer’s wallets.

He stressed the negative impact the cost of this project could have on lower-income families, citing the already soaring utility costs.

“We are getting sort of a double whammy of having the bills go up because of supply issues, but then the bills go up because of these kinds of investments – \$103 million is nothing to sneeze at,” said Walkey.

As for the coming days and weeks, there are plans for more protests of the substation, and Chambers urged residents to make their voices heard. Chambers eluded to the fact that over 80% of voters opposed the construction of the substation on a ballot question in 2021, saying, “We need those people to show up.”

For more information on when and where pro-



A sticker posted on the fence at the site of the substation.

tests will happen, visit <https://xrboston.org/contact> for contact information and social media accounts.

“We’re calling on Governor [Maura] Healey to bring Eversource to the table and to bring Massport to the table and to move the site of the substation to Massport property,” said Chambers.



The construction site of the Eversource electric substation.

Arrests // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the response from BPD.

“I am very impressed with how fast the police has acted because construction is not allowed to get started before seven, and we did not block any construction, so this was a proactive arrest,” said Manitz.

“We should be able to be here to state our opinion that we still don’t like the substation, and I don’t understand why we are not allowed to say these things anymore.”

XR’s Song and Chant Leader Nora Maynard also did not seem thrilled with BPD’s response alluding to the fact that it seemed excessive.

“I would say that the police response was unnecessary in its magnitude. There were at least 20 police officers and several large vehicles, and there just weren’t that many of us here,” said Maynard.

Following the arrests, activists moved to the other side of the street opposite the entrance of the construction site holding a large banner that read “No Eastie Substation.” The activists then held signs, sang songs, and chanted in opposition to the substation.



One of the activists being detained by an officer.

This latest demonstration is not the first protest in recent memory, as there was a smaller one last week. In a fight that has drawn on for almost a decade, it seems like the situation has reached a boiling point.

The most significant issue with the substation among these activists is safety because there are concerns about flooding at the site. Moreover, the site is directly across from a playground, and activists fear flooding could lead to a disastrous explosion.

“It’s [the site] is in a flood zone, and these things tend to explode when flooded. The location is not good; it needs to be moved to Massport,” said Manitz.

Now XR is calling on Governor Maura Healey to step in and do something about the construction before it is too late.

“She [Healey] is in



An activist holds a sign urging Governor Maura Healey to take action.

office; she has power; she can do this now. We have been talking with her, GreenRoots has been talking with her for over a week now, and it’s time to actually put power and to put action behind her words of opposing the substation and work with us, the community,” said Manitz.

“We would very much like for the Governor Maura Healey to get the message that the community and the environment would be very poorly served by this substation being built right here,” said Maynard.

Furthermore, Maynard made the point that a lot of frustration has come out of this process because

it does not seem like the community is being listened to. Just a couple of years ago, in a 2021 ballot question, over 80% of voters opposed the substation’s construction.

“Why would the public think that their vote or their voice is worthwhile if nothing that they ever say actually comes into action,” said Maynard.

As tensions rise in the saga of the Eversource substation, Manitz urged residents to come out and make their voices heard.

“I want to say to not be afraid to join us; you can be part of this. You can be chanting, you can be singing with us, you can be part of this and this opposition,” said Manitz.

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Sports

EBHS GIRLS IN HOOP ACTION AGAINST KENNEDY ACADEMY

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

The East Boston girls logged their second win of the season (2-5) with a 37-14 win over Kennedy Academy for Health Careers Monday, January 9 at East Boston High School.



NOW YOU SEE IT...: Julianna Troville (21) makes a no-look pass to a teammate.



SET TO PASS: Jenna Dasilva (2) assesses the defense as she considers a pass.



LOOKING FOR HELP: Cheryl Pleitez (24) looks for an outlet as she is closely guarded by a Kenney Academy defender.



TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM: Alexandra Collado (seated) (1) holds her lip after taking an inadvertent hit to the face as teammate Grace Melendez (20) checks on her.



AVOIDING TRAFFIC: Senior forward Isabella Munoz (10) makes her way through the Kennedy Academy defense.



LONG REACH: Cindy Alfaro (3) reaches around a Kennedy Academy forward and knocks the ball loose.



I LIKE WHAT I SEE: Eastie's Julianna Troville (21) likes the clear path she sees to the basket.



OFF AND RUNNING: Brandy Aguilar (5) breaks up the floor in control of the ball.

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All about heat pumps--webinar Feb. 1

Heat pumps have been getting a lot of buzz—and a lot of questions. This free webinar, Wednesday February 1 from 7-8 pm, is your chance to learn. It’s worth learning even if you think heat pumps don’t apply to your housing situation.

The Downtown Chapter of Mothers Out Front, a non-profit mobilizing for a livable future, is presenting Loie Hayes of the Green Energy Consumers, a non-profit that harnesses consumer power to speed the transition to a low-carbon future.

Why Should I Care About Heat Pumps? They are a necessary part of our future. We must move away from fossil fuels to mitigate climate change and meet our city and state goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Buildings in Boston account for a whopping 70% of the City’s emissions.

What Are Heat Pumps?

Heat pumps can transfer heat into your home from air, water, or the ground outside your home. The webinar will focus on air-source heat pumps, which have a compressor unit outside connected to either a system of heating/cooling ducts or to one or more ductless air handlers or “heads”.

Do They Really Work in New England? Yes! They work in low temperatures—and provide cooling in summer as well!

Really-- a Heat Pump Could Replace My Air Conditioner? Absolutely. Some suggest they should be called “heat and cool pumps”.

Aren’t They Expensive? The webinar will note a variety of subsidies, credits, and tax incentives that help with the initial investment, as well as the savings over time.

Do they work in small apartments, or only in sin-

gle family homes? Heat pumps can be effective in a great variety of settings, including a single room or office, a single-family home, or a multi-unit building. Configurations vary. Ductless systems can work for a single room or apartment, with a “mini-split” fixture mounted on the floor or wall or ceiling. Buildings with a central duct system for a furnace or air conditioning can often use those duct systems.

How Do I Figure Out Whether Heat Pumps Make Sense for My Apartment or Building? The webinar is a great first step. It will address these and many other questions and invite you to ask your own.

To join the webinar, you can sign up at https://www.mothersoutfront.org/events/boston_ma_20230201/.

Story by Betsy Peterson of Mothers Out Front Downtown Boston.

Top five pet new year’s resolutions for 2023

We all make some type of New Year’s resolution. We set goals for ourselves to eat healthier, lose weight, spend less time on our phones, exercise more, be more mindful – yada yada yada. Well, it doesn’t stop with just us. With all the unconditional love and joy pets bring us, an overwhelming number of pet parents also set New Year’s resolutions for their pets.

There are countless ways that we can further enrich the lives of our pets. What better time to get started than the New Year ahead.

TripsWithPets surveyed pet parents to find out what their New Year’s resolutions are for their furry family members in 2023. Here are the top 5.

#1 Do more together

There’s no better way to bond more with your pet than engaging in new activities together. Top spot on the resolution list for pet parents in 2023 is taking more pet-friendly road trips and exploring new things to do with their pets. Paddleboarding, kayaking, hiking, and exploring pet-friendly places to shop, dine, and stay are among the activities noted.

#2 Introduce natural ways to support pet health

Loving our pets as we do means doing all we can to ensure they lead long, healthy, and happy lives. Many pet parents have re-

solved to take a closer look at natural health care for their furry family members. This includes their pets diet/nutrition, supplements, lifestyle, and alternative therapies – such as acupuncture, laser treatment, homeopathy, and the like. Improving our precious pets’ well-being is the ultimate goal.

#3 Brush pet’s teeth regularly

Daily brushing of your pet’s teeth is just as important for him as it is for you. Regular tooth brushing helps to prevent gum disease – and even other diseases. Yet, many pet parents overlook it.

What makes it a bit tricky is if you don’t start your pet out when he is young, it becomes more challenging to make him amenable to getting his teeth brushed as he gets older. That’s what typically makes many pet parents “intermittent” tooth brushers.

The good news is, News Year’s resolution #3 is that pet parents plan to commit daily to brushing their dog’s and cat’s teeth.

#4 Get more exercise

We all need to move our bodies more - and that includes our pets. It’s not just about losing weight, it’s about overall health - mind, body, and soul. Getting out for more walks, play dates, fetch, and games of “hide and go treat” are on the

docket for more pet parents in this coming year.

#5 Work on better manners & training

Whether it is barking at house guests, begging at the table, or bossing you around, most pets have some unfavorable behaviors that need to be curbed. Pet parents have committed to working with professional trainers this new year to help their pets with anxiety and behavior issues so they can be happier, more relaxed, and responsive.

TripsWithPets is a leader in the pet travel industry – providing online reservations at pet-friendly hotels across the United States and Canada.

With over 45,000 accommodations, TripsWithPets provides pet travelers with a wide variety of pet-friendly options.

Pet parents go to TripsWithPets.com for all they need to find and book the perfect place to stay with their pets – including detailed, up-to-date information on hotel pet policies and pet amenities.

As passionate animal advocates, TripsWithPets supports local and national 501(c)(3) animal welfare organizations by raising much needed funds through their annual Partners for Animal Welfare Series (PAWS)

TSA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

explosives detection canine teams at airports and mass-transit facilities to support large-scale events such as Super Bowl LVI, the Kentucky Derby, Indy 500 and enhance security operations at airports and surface transportation systems nationwide.

Announced open architecture initiative: TSA partnered with Airports Council International (ACI) - Europe to begin piloting open architecture airport security technology. Open architecture offers agility in technology development, adoption and updates, promoting competition and improving security and the traveler experience.

TSA Insider Threat: Executed a multimedia insider threat awareness campaign, increasing workforce knowledge of potential risk indicators of an insider threat and reporting streams; expanded TSA office and program membership within the TSA Insider Risk Mitigation Hub and increased external domestic and international transportation stakeholder and partner outreach efforts. The agency also continued advancement of TSA Insider Threat with the deployment of a case management system and threat data analytics.

Global incident management: TSA supported Operation Allies Welcome with the safe transport of over 90,000 people from Afghanistan to the U.S. Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, TSA continued to lead cybersecurity efforts as a sector risk management agency for transportation.

Our Customers And Partners

Passenger volumes continue to recover: Travel volumes returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022, with TSOs screening 736 million passengers, averaging over two million passengers per day. On average, 99.4% of passengers waited less than 30 minutes at airport security checkpoints, while 99.4% of passengers in TSA PreCheck lanes waited less than 10 minutes.

TSA PreCheck reduced enrollment fee: Seven new airlines joined the TSA PreCheck expedited

screening program and over 3.3 million people enrolled, bringing the total number of active TSA PreCheck members to more than 14 million. The agency also reduced the initial enrollment cost to \$78 and renewal cost to \$70.

First TSA PreCheck at an international checkpoint: In February, TSA opened its first TSA PreCheck lanes outside of the U.S. making its debut in Nassau, Bahamas.

TSA improved the passenger experience: The TSA Contact Center answered 1.9 million traveler calls and email messages; AskTSA responded directly to 2.2 million traveler questions, typically within two minutes, over social media and introduced a new feature enabling airline passengers to text AskTSA (275-872) with security-related questions. The TSA Cares helpline provided assistance to 46,000 travelers with disabilities, medical conditions and other special circumstances. Additionally, TSA implemented enhanced screening technology, improving the Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) units in airport checkpoints with a software update that enhances accuracy and efficiency. Through a partnership with Apple, TSA also continued to test the acceptance of mobile driver’s licenses to enable a more seamless airport security experience for travelers in participating states including Arizona, Maryland and Colorado.

Collaboration and strategic partnerships: TSA conducted over 500 domestic response plan exercises; provided self-defense training for airline employees; offered truck, port and rail workers online options to securely renew credentials and increased intelligence sharing with surface and aviation partners.

TSA leveraged innovation and identity management: TSA published its Innovation Doctrine to highlight how the agency embeds innovation into its business processes. Additionally, TSA issued an Identity Management Roadmap, outlining a cohesive identity management approach that enhances standards, improves data sharing and privacy protocols across systems and expands collaboration efforts among stakeholders to improve the traveler experience.

TSA introduced its virtual Mission Hall: In November 2022, TSA launched a virtual tour of TSA’s Mission Hall, which is located at TSA headquarters. The exhibit is a collection of historical archives and artifacts documenting the agency’s

establishment, its evolution and critical events in transportation security.


Our People

Increased compensation for TSA employees: In late December 2022 President Biden signed into law the FY23 Omnibus Bill, which was a top priority for DHS and TSA, that includes funds to pay TSA employees at a level commensurate with other federal agencies. The new compensation plan will begin in July 2023 and recognizes the critical role TSA employees play in protecting the nation’s transportation systems.

Expanded collective bargaining rights for non-supervisory screeners: The FY23 Omnibus Bill included funding to support implementation of an expanded labor framework, including broad collective bargaining rights for the non-supervisory screening workforce. On December 30, 2022, Administrator Pekoske signed a new Determination on Transportation Security Officers and Collective Bargaining that sets forth this new labor framework. The spending bill also included funding for continued Merit Systems Protection Board rights for TSOs. The agency first established these rights for TSOs in September 2021.

TSA hired a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Officer: TSA hired its first-ever executive officer to lead diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives for the agency. The Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Officer is responsible for designing, developing, and recommending a diversity management strategy that aligns with and contributes directly to TSA’s mission and strategic goals.

TSA continues to hire and train officers: TSA hired more than 10,000 new TSOs and opened its new TSA Academy West adjacent to Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) in Las Vegas. The new training academy graduated over 1,000 TSOs while others were trained at the TSA Academy East in Glynco, Ga. TSA offered a hiring bonus for TSO positions in some areas of the country where it is hard to recruit applicants and provided an opportunity for candidates to onboard as Security Support Assistants (SSA) within just a few weeks. The SSA position allows candidates to quickly obtain employment at TSA to perform non-screening duties in support of checkpoint operations, while they complete the TSO hiring process.




Virtual Public Meeting

East Boston

1141 Bennington Street

January 31, 2023
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/1141BenningtonStEB
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 137 0877



Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the proposed 1141 Bennington Street project, located in the East Boston neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR).

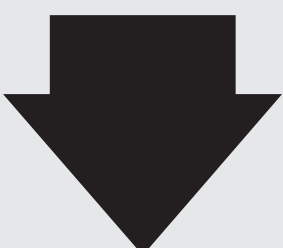
The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public. How to Participate Please register for the meeting using the following Zoom link: bit.ly/1141BenningtonStEB Meeting ID: 161 137 0877 Toll-Free Call-in Number: 833.568.8864

La información de esta reunión es fundamental para usted como residente de Boston y parte interesada. Dispone de servicios de idiomas de forma gratuita. Si los requiere, comuníquese con (ebony.darosa@boston.gov) antes de la siguiente fecha: 1/24/2023

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One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4419
email: ebony.darosa@boston.gov

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The East Boston Foundation
Phone: 617-561-6336

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for an application
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Wednesday, January 11, 2023

THREE KINGS DAY AT THE
VERONICA ROBLES CULTURAL CENTER

DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS



There was an Epiphany celebration for El Día des los Reyes, Three Kings Day, at the Veronica Robles Cultural Center. Epiphany revelry included many performances by dancers from the Veronica Robles Cultural Center (above).



The Three Kings, our Three Wise Men, came to visit Jesus and brought him presents of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. These Three Kings, portrayed by Sebastian Zapata, Guillermo Arcos, and Leonardo Encina, brought presents for the children in attendance. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.



The Veronica Robles Cultural Center was filled with many who wished to celebrate Epiphany.

Federal funds will
help enhance urban
forests in East Boston

By Adam Swift

The Mystic River Watershed Association recently secured \$400,000 in federal funds to enhance urban forests in Greater Boston's Mystic River Watershed. This funding will help mitigate the dangers of climate-driven extreme heat in vulnerable environmental justice communities including Everett, Chelsea and East Boston. The program will support the implementation of local urban forestry plans (including the planting of 750 trees), while training youth, reentry citizens and others to perform the horticulture activities needed to establish and maintain

urban trees. The funding is part of nearly \$13 million in federal community project grants for nine resilience projects in the Mystic Watershed. "This funding allows us to partner with communities to cool off some of the hottest neighborhoods in our watershed that currently have very few parks, trees, or other cooling," said David Queeley, deputy director for projects at the Mystic River Watershed Association. "These same neighborhoods are where many low-income BIPOC residents live due to past redlining practices and

See FUNDS Page 2

EBCC ready to observe
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Special to the Times-Free Press

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce (EBCC) will be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 16, at the Daniel H. Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street. Martin Luther King Jr. exemplified organized protests to voice his concerns in a peaceful way, without violence. He will

forever be remembered for advocating for meeting with violence in non-violent ways while voicing his concerns through protests. Did you know that #MLKDay is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities? Learn more: <http://ow.ly/txj050LZNLj> Please note that the

See MLK Page 2



The Daniel H. Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street.

Tall Ship asking for annual entertainment license

Michael Coughlin Jr.

During the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association's (JPNA) monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 9, representatives of The

Tall Ship Boston went before residents to present their plan to obtain an annual entertainment license.

As it stands today, the Tall Ship has been op-

erating under a series of one-day entertainment licenses, encompassing both its non-live and live entertainment. This means that the Tall Ship has to have programming signed

off by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, the Police Captain, and the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing on a week-to-week basis.

Now, the Tall Ship is seeking to simplify that process via the annual entertainment license, which representatives emphasized is merely administrative and would not affect operations. "We're not looking to change anything that we do at this space; there are

See TALL SHIP Page 2

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR CITY MANAGER

CHELSEA - Several city councilors have commented on the big shoes the next city manager will have to fill with Tom Ambrosino moving onto a new position in the state court system.

Monday night, the council began the process of actually filling those shoes. Ambrosino submitted an official resignation letter to the council, specifying his last date on the job as Friday, Jan. 13.

With that letter in hand, the council set up a subcommittee on conference meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 17 to consider the process for hiring a replacement for Ambrosino.

“What we have to do, our city manager has informed us that he is leaving, we have to begin the process of replacing him,” said Councilor-at-Large Brian Hatleberg. “That’s a complex undertaking.”

The subcommittee will also look at the process for the appointment of an interim city manager.

Monday night, the council agreed to discuss the terms and conditions for Deputy City Manager Ned Keefe to take over as the interim city manager at that Jan. 17 subcommittee meeting. Council President Leo Robinson said Keefe stated he will accept the interim position as the search process gets underway.

“We need to have an interim city manager because someone needs to fill the shoes when (the position) is vacated, so we need to discuss that and get everyone on the same page,” said Hatleberg.

City manager isn’t the only position the council will need to discuss filling at the Jan. 17 meeting. The council has yet to fill the position of clerk to the council.

Long-time clerk Paul Casino officially retired effective at the end of 2022, but he will be working with the council on a part-time basis as it searches for a replacement.

Monday night, the council unanimously agreed to hire Casino as a part-time consultant and clerk for the council. The position is temporary until a new clerk is hired, and is set at a rate of \$50 per hour with no benefits and not to exceed 20 hours per week.

MRWA RECEIVES GRANT

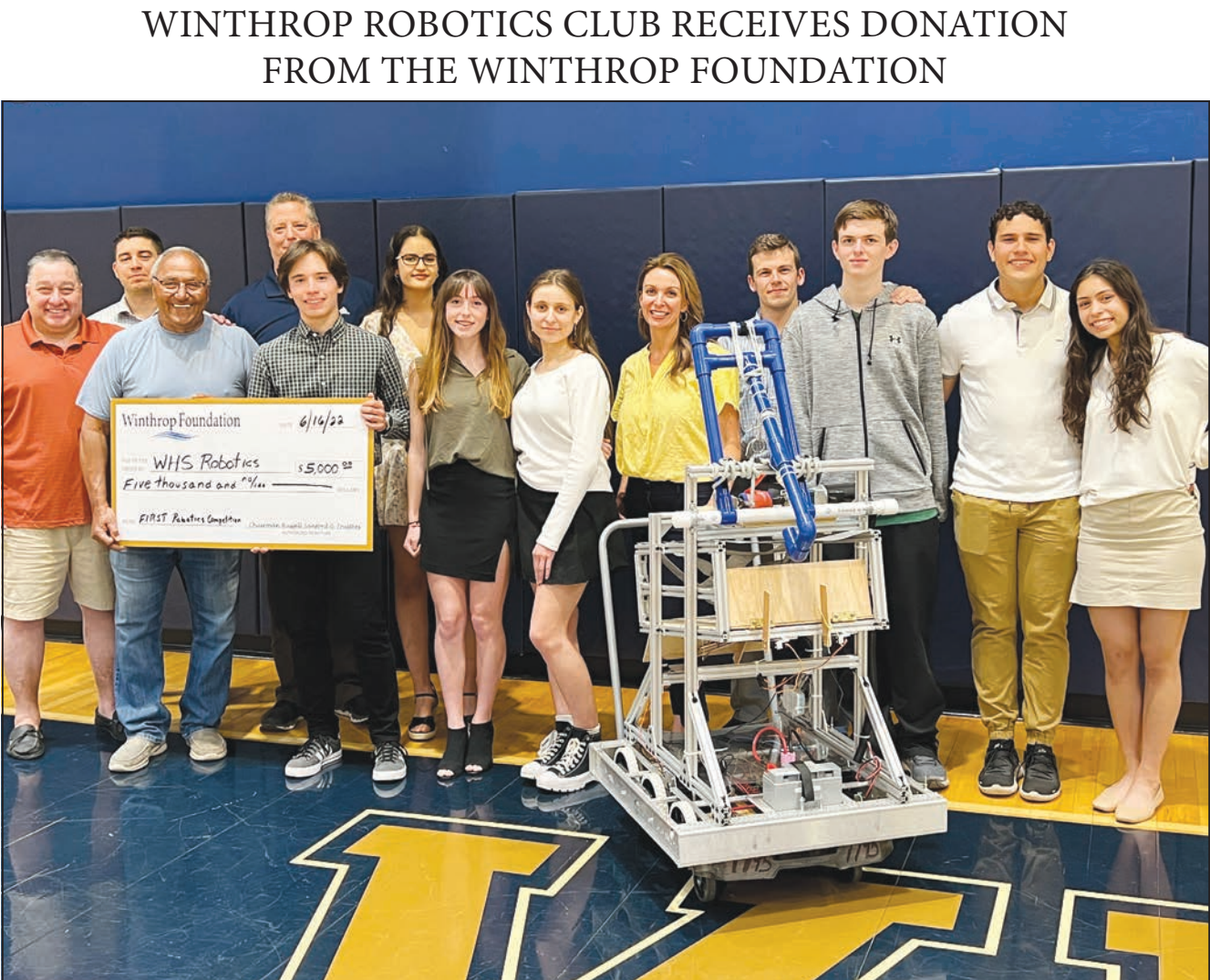
EVERETT - The Mystic River Watershed Association (MRWA) recently secured \$400,000 in federal funds to enhance urban forests in Greater Boston’s Mystic River Watershed.

This funding will help mitigate the dangers of climate-driven extreme heat in vulnerable environmental justice communities including Everett, Chelsea and East Boston. The program will support the implementation of local urban forestry plans (including the planting of 750 trees), while training youth, reentry citizens and others to perform the horticulture activities needed to establish and maintain urban trees.

The funding is part of nearly \$13 million in federal community project grants for nine resilience projects in the Mystic Watershed.

“This funding allows us to partner with communities to cool off some of the hottest neighborhoods in our watershed that currently have very few parks, trees, or other cooling,” said David Queeley, deputy director for projects at the Mystic River Watershed Association. “These same neighborhoods are where many low-income BIPOC residents live due to past redlining practices and crushingly high housing prices elsewhere. Helping vulnerable residents stay safe lowers hospitalization rates and medical costs. If we can help cool off the hottest streets, or even whole neighborhoods, why wouldn’t we?”

When President Biden signed the FY2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law on December



WHS Robotics Team members and Winthrop Foundation board members (from left to right): Gus Martucci, Brian Leslie, Foundation Chairman Russ Sanford, Terence Delehanty, Ben Prew, Hanna Essaouabi, Elizabeth Carney, Nataliay Melnyk, Chrissy D’Ambrosio, Vinny Tarantino, Jonah Clark, Daniel Nieves and Delia Parco.

29, 2022, the \$1.7 trillion spending bill included nine grants for Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC) cities and towns totaling almost \$13 million.

These earmarks bring the total grant funding for RMC community projects to \$30.4 million since its founding in 2018.

For each of the last two federal budgets, Congresswomen Katherine Clark and Ayanna Pressley and Congressman Seth Moulton were able to secure multiple Community Project Funding for projects with demonstrated local support that fit within specific existing federal grant programs. These grants included four for RMC communities in FY2022, and nine in FY2023.

“We couldn’t be more grateful to Congresswomen Katherine Clark and Ayanna Pressley and Congressman Seth Moulton and their staff for securing such robust funding for

our communities,” said Patrick Herron, executive director of the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), which staffs the RMC. “These investments will make our cities and towns safer, more equitable, and more beautiful.”

Since its beginnings, the Resilient Mystic Collaborative has been focused on projects that make a difference for the people most affected by climate change, according to John Walkey, Director of Waterfront & Climate Justice Initiatives at local non-profit GreenRoots.

“It’s why GreenRoots is so excited to support and partner with the RMC and its members to help secure almost \$14 million in federal grants to fund these projects.”

Each of the municipalities that championed these climate resilient projects is a founding member of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative, a watershed-wide

voluntary partnership focused on regional climate resilience. Convened by MyRWA in September 2018 and led by senior staff from 20 cities and towns and non-governmental partners, the RMC focuses on managing flooding and extreme heat on a regional scale and increasing the resilience of vulnerable residents and workers to extreme weather.

KEEFE TAKES GAVEL AS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

REVERE - Ward 4 City Councillor Patrick Keefe was the unanimous pick to serve as the council’s president for 2023 at last week’s meeting.

Keefe, who last headed the council in 2020, takes over for outgoing president Gerry Visconti. Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna was the unan-

imous selection for vice president for the new year.

Keefe struck a chord of finding common ground with his fellow councillors for the good of Revere.

“I want to thank outgoing Council President Visconti for doing an outstanding job in this last year navigating the turbulence and helping to maintain and upkeep civility in this hallowed chamber,” said Keefe. “Far too often, people on TV and social media see what’s going on and think that’s the normal way to act disrespectful to each other and think that’s how they are going to get the job done, but that doesn’t work in real life. Life is about finding common ground and making sacrifices at times when decisions are not always black and white.”

Keefe said the council must be comfortable managing gray areas and be okay disagreeing respect-

See REGION Page 11

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LEGAL NOTICE

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. SU22P2776GD Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 In the matter of: Grace M. Heffron Of: Boston, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by William G. Heffron of Boston, MA and Ann Marie Heffron of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that

Grace M. Heffron is in need of a Guardian and requesting that William G. Heffron of Boston, MA and Ann Marie Heffron of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/26/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be tak-

en 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: December 14, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 1/18/23 EB

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Region//

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

fully.

“We represent our community with actions and our behaviors, and we owe it to the 65,000-plus residents of Revere to represent them with respect and proper decorum,” said the new president. “This is how we operate in the City Council, and that will be my number one duty to make sure we continue to do so.”

Keefe thanked his fellow councillors for having the faith and confidence in him to lead the council, and thanked his family for their support while he takes on public service.

“I’ve built my life, my family, and most of my living experiences around the city of Revere,” said Keefe. “My pride for what we have accomplished and the work we have to do is constant.”

Visconti also thanked the council, his family, and the voters for supporting him during his time in office, and especially during his last year as the council’s president.

He also had a special thanks for City Clerk Ashley Melnik.

“Madame Clerk, without you, this council does not operate,” said Visconti. “You’re probably one of, or the most important,

person to all of us, and on behalf of the rest of the City Council, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for all of the work that you do for all of us, and especially the help you have given me this past year.”

McKenna also thanked her fellow councillors for their vote of confidence in selecting her as vice president.

“I would also like to thank you for your respect, always, for your love, always, and for your support and friendship through my seven years of being a councillor,” said McKenna. “I also want to thank my constituents for putting me on the council.”

COUNCIL CONSIDERS CHARTER CHANGES

WINTHROP - The Town Council tackled two of the more potentially divisive recommendations of the 13 made by the Ordinance Review Committee at a public hearing last week.

The two recommendations concern the composition and length of term for town councilors, and providing a recall process for elected officials.

It is likely the council will make the final decision on whether the charter changes are brought before the town’s voters in the next month or so. The council can amend the recommendations, or vote not to bring them to a public vote, but the voters have the final say on any changes to the town charter.

Among councilors, there was a mix of opinions on the two proposed changes discussed last week.

If it goes through as recommended, the charter change pertaining to the composition of the Town Council would result in a major overhaul for town government.

The recommendations include paring the total number of councilors from nine to seven, with six at-large councilors and one council president. Currently, there are nine councilors, with six precinct councilors, two at-large members, and a president.

The proposed change would also change the term of councilors from four to two years in an effort to increase participation in town government. Conversely, the term for council president would

jump from two to four years.

“I think the thought process behind a lot of the thinking was to increase participation, because the vast majority of races over the years have been unopposed,” said Council President James Letterie.

Precinct 6 Councilor Stephen Ruggeiro, who is on the Ordinance Review Committee and chairs the council’s rules and ordinances subcommittee, said he voted against the changes to the composition of the council. He said cutting the number of councilors would alter the ratio of councilors to residents and constituents in the town.

Ruggeiro was also one of several councilors that expressed concerns that moving to a fully at-large council could lead to underrepresentation for some neighborhoods.

Precinct 5 Councilor Joseph Aiello said he likes the current relationship between a councilor and their precinct.

“I just think it would negatively affect the relationship between the district councilors and the constituents,” said Aiello. “I don’t think this achieves

what was the spirit and the intent of the ideas.”

Councilor-at-Large Rob DeMarco said that ultimately, it should be up to the voters to decide who represents them.

Precinct 2 Councilor John Munson said he was not in favor of going to an all at-large council, but said he was in favor of dropping the length of the council term to two years as a way to entice more people to run for office. Several councilors noted that while a shorter term may get some more people to run, a longer term is helpful so that new councilors can get up to speed on municipal government without having to worry about running for reelection soon after taking office.

Letterie said the council could make adjustments to the Ordinance Review Committee recommendations. He said the council could consider going to seven members, but still use a precinct, rather than an at-large system.

“Do we think nine is the right number?” Letterie asked. “And if it is different than nine, what should the composition be?”

Several councilors said

they had issues with the recall provision, noting there should be a high threshold to recall elected officials

Ruggerio said the best way for elected officials to stay accountable to the public is through the election process.

“I’ve always been in favor of a recall (provision) ... but the bar has to be set high,” said DeMarco. “Four percent of registered voters is too low of a bar.”

DeMarco said a recall provision could work if it was necessary to gather signatures totalling 50 percent of the turnout in the previous election.

“I think the standard should be incredibly high,” said Letterie. “I don’t think the provision itself would be unwarranted. Hopefully, it will be something that we never have to use.”

Letterie said he would still like there to be an opportunity for the public to be heard on the proposed charter changes, with the goal of the council voting in February on whether to bring them before voters at the ballot box.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Home economics

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Home economics is commonly defined as “cooking and other aspects of household management, especially as taught at school.” From the early 1900s, this subject was promoted for females. In the 1960s, the women’s rights movement objected to the traditional stereotype that girls should be taught cooking and homemaking and boys woodworking and mechanical skills.

Today, in places where this subject is taught, it’s referred to as “family and consumer sciences” (FCS) and is open to all students. In a recent interview, Ben Mervis, author of “The British Cookbook,” related that his interest in food came from an assignment in his “home economics” class.

His exposure to household management resulted in a career path. It might provide the skills needed to be a great single parent, partner, caregiver, or healthier human for a dif-

ferent person.

Vital Life Skills

Feeding yourself and your family food that is healthy, nutritious, safe, and within your budget takes more education than you can obtain by watching a few TikTok videos or following food influencers on Instagram. Training in these vital life skills could result in better decisions about how we spend our food dollars, differentiate between good nutritional information and puffery, and minimize food waste. These topics are essential to our personal well-being, economy, and environment.

Going back to that definition of home economics, we like the idea of teaching anyone who wants to learn how to be the CEO and CFO of an organization called a household. In addition to classes held in schools, community-based continuing education could make it possible for anyone suddenly responsible for feeding themselves and others to learn how to do it well.

This might include young people on their own for the first time, seniors who need to adapt to cooking for one, or those who become single parents and need to feed a family.

So Much To Learn

WBUR reported on the diminished availability of home economics classes and teachers. In that article, they quoted Carol Werhan, an FCS educator and member of the board of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The article’s author, Tove Danovich wrote, “...cooking taught through FCS courses is more about having the confidence to experiment in the kitchen than becoming a trained chef. ‘People don’t need to have perfection — you have to know what are the failures that are OK.’ ‘Burnt edges can be cut off. Overcooked meat can still be served.’ Werhan said.”

Valuable Lessons

Learning that you must practice a skill to master it and that failure along



This photo of a home economics class was taken circa 1900–1919 when it was thought that only women needed the skills to manage a home.

the way is to be expected is a valuable lesson. The WBUR article also talked about students seeing the relevance of what they were doing and learning in FCS classes. At first, they may not realize they are using mathematics, chemistry, resource management, financial acumen, and organizational skills to follow a recipe or set up

a menu. Still, before long, they see the connection.

Once, these skills were passed from generation to generation as they shared space in multi-generational households and large connected families. However, now we also hear of cases where the young are teaching their older family members to make better choices for the family

and the environment. Any knowledge we can provide through FCS education at school or in the community can help ensure we have a new generation of home-ec teachers, young and old.

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


JETS HOCKEY ACTION AGAINST ST. PAUL



PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

CORRECTION. Last week the Times-Free Press incorrectly identified East Boston High School hockey player #2. The correct player is Caden Brown. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

TAKING AIM: East Boston’s Caden Brown gets a pass off in front of a St. Paul defender.



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