



East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

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PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



EASTER EGG HUNT AT PIERS PARK

The East Boston Foundation and Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association presented an Easter Egg Hunt on April 8, at Piers Park.

Above, families participating in the April 8 Easter Egg Hunt at Piers Park.

Right, new friends, Scarlet Rose, 4, and Maria Winter-ton, 5. See page 12 for more photos.

HVNA mulls 64 Homer Street parcel

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Theresa Strachila, a Program Manager with GrowBoston – the Office of Urban Agriculture – joined the monthly Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) meeting on Monday, Apr. 3, to discuss what residents want to see in the potential use of the 64 Homer Street parcel.

The city owns the parcel in question, which spans 2,500 square feet and has been vacant for several years. Now the city is beginning the process of selling this land and used last week’s meeting to un-

derstand what residents are for or against at the site.

Although this process is just beginning, Strachila mentioned that there already has been interest to use the site as open space in a few different ways.

“We have heard interest in permanently preserving the site as public open space or private open space. We have heard about interest for urban agriculture that would include some educational programming for youth and be available for public access. We’ve also

See 64 HOMER ST. Page 2

Author Danielle Joseph visits PJ Kennedy School

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Children’s book author, Danielle Joseph, visited the Patrick J. Kennedy School on April 4 to read selections from two of her works, discuss her career as a writer, and autograph teen fiction novels that she presented to the fifth and sixth grade.

Joseph read “I Want to Ride the Tap Tap” (2020) to lower elementary class-

es. The picture book tells the story of a young boy, Claude, and his wish to cruise in a colorfully embellished bus in Haiti.

“My husband, Delleperche, is from Haiti, so I wanted to showcase a positive story about Haiti. We have three children and have traveled to Haiti quite a bit,” Joseph said. “The tap tap bus is one of

See VISIT Page 6



Danielle Joseph speaking to Kimberly Anaya Santos, Valeria Mejia Herrera, and Randy Hillegass.

Wu announces grant for services to individuals experiencing homelessness

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu last week announced the City of Boston has received more than \$42 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support nonprofit organizations providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness. This award represents the largest Continuum of Care award ever for the City of Boston. The

funds will be distributed among 14 nonprofit organizations that provide critical services and support to Boston’s unhoused residents and advance Mayor Wu’s goals to end homelessness in the city.

The funding is made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annual Continuum of Care awards, a grant program that the Mayor’s Office of Housing (MOH)

has applied for and been awarded every year since 1995. Over the last 8 years, MOH has grown the funding the City receives from this grant by more than 85 percent, from \$22.6 million in 2015 to \$42 million this year, as a result of their competitive application and demonstrated ability to deliver results in collaboration with partner agencies.

“Boston residents and families across every

neighborhood deserve to live in safe, stable and

See HOMELESSNESS Page 2

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Chief Jemison welcomes new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Luis Frias

Staff Report

Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison announced the hiring of Luis R. Frias II as the new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA). Frias will serve as a member of the Agency's senior leadership team and be charged with the development and oversight of the Agency's equity and diversity priorities. In this capacity, he will work to establish collaborative partnerships with internal and external stakeholders and foster a more diverse, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, and supportive agency.

"I'm happy to welcome Luis to the Agency, and look forward to the important and positive impact he will have on helping us plan a more equitable Boston," said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. "I am excited to work with him to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are priorities in all of the BPDA's work, and to ensure we are building a City that best serves our residents."

"I'm pleased to join the BPDA and to help advance its mission to create and guide inclusive and equitable growth in our city,"

said Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Luis Frias. "In my short time here, I've already witnessed the passion, dedication, and brilliance of this team. I'm deeply honored to be in this role, as we work together to shape Boston's future."

Frias has spent the last decade working in higher education. He joins the Agency from Northeastern University, where he served as the Program Manager for Engineering PLUS, a National Science Foundation grant focused on creating networked communities and inclusive infrastructure across the nation to achieve the transformative, systemic, and sustainable change needed to increase undergraduate and graduate degree attainment for BIPOC and women engineering students. He also served as the Associate Director for Diversity Programs for Northeastern's College of Engineering, where he focused on both College and University level DEI initiatives.

While working at Northeastern, he also received the Black Heritage Award, given to Northeastern staff and administrators in recognition of their years of dedicated service to Northeastern, to students, and to the



Luis R. Frias II, new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at the BPDA.

John D. O'Bryant African American Institute. A Worcester native, he graduated from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts in 2013 with a major in Legal Studies. He also received a Master's from Northeastern in Applied Educational Psychology in 2020.

The work of the Director of DEI will build on efforts already underway to support equity by creating affordable housing, jobs, resilient infrastructure, and open space in every neighborhood. Additional efforts underway include leveraging funding from large real estate development to support workforce development and training, equitable procurement policies, requiring diversity criteria for developing publicly-owned land, and the BPDA's DEI in Development Policy, announced in 2022, to promote diversity within large private development projects in the City of Boston.

64 Homer St. // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

heard interest in private purchase for private use as open space," said Strachila.

One potential suitor for the property who has shown interest is Eastie Farm, a non-profit organization focusing on climate justice, food access, and education. Another potential buyer is an abutter who claims he has been taking care of the vacant property for several years.

"I've been an abutter to that property for 51 years. I've been taking care of that lot for what 30 years now since it's been empty. I've been cutting the grass, snow blowing, cutting the weeds – it's been invading my yard," said the abutter.

He also spoke about how he had been trying to get in contact with the city about the property for years, saying, "The

city has not said one word to me about any of this, and now you want to potentially build on that lot which was small, to begin with."

According to Skip Marcella, an HVNA Board Member, the abutter has indicated that if he were to gain ownership of the property, he would not build on it and leave it as open space.

It should also be noted that it seemingly does not look like the city is pushing for the property to be developed as something like housing.

"While it is possible that one to two units could be built on this lot, we've heard from neighbors that they're not interested in having housing built on it. So, that is not what we're exploring right now," said Strachila.

As part of a potential sale, the city is incorporating feedback from residents, which will help it draft a request for proposals (RFP).

During this process, the city must adhere to state law and hold an "open and fair competitive process," allowing interested buyers to apply to purchase the property with plans that are consistent with the future RFP.

Moreover, by law, the city is allowed to sell the parcel under its fair market value. However, it needs to be justified by a "strong public benefit," Strachila gave an example of affordable housing. Furthermore, Strachila indicated that if the property were to be sold to a private individual – an abutter – they would have to pay fair market value.

Throughout much of the meeting, there seemed to be growing support for keeping the parcel as open space. However, at least one resident thought developing the area for affordable housing might be prudent.

As aforementioned, this process is in its early stages, and Strachila indicated that she would continue to talk with abutters about the project and would come back to another meeting at a later date for updates before a vote would take place.

"If there are other thoughts or things you'd like to share, please do reach out to me. The more folks I hear from – we want to engage with the direct abutters, and we want to engage with other folks living in the neighborhood," said Strachila.

Strachila can be reached via email at theresa.strachila@boston.gov or via phone at 617-635-0267. For more information about this project, you can visit bit.ly/homerstreet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WU TO OPEN SWAN BOATS ON APRIL 15

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Paget family will host the first ride of the season on the popular Boston Swan Boats as they open at the Boston Public Garden lagoon on Saturday, April 15, at 11:00 a.m.

2023 marks the 146th season for the Swan Boats, a beloved tourist attraction and iconic symbol of Boston and the Public Garden. The oldest and smallest boat in the fleet just celebrated its 113th

season, while the newest was launched in 1993. The swan on the boats is made from either copper or fiberglass, depending on the age of the boat, and encloses a paddle mechanism that is used to propel the boat through the water.

Launched in 1877 by Irish immigrant and shipbuilder Robert Paget, the Swan Boats continue to be owned and operated by the Paget family. Mr. Paget designed the Swan Boats after attending the opera Lohengrin in New York City. At the end of the opera, the hero crosses a river in a boat drawn by

a swan.

Fully loaded, each Swan Boat weighs three tons and is powered by the driver using a foot-propelled paddle wheel. The Swan Boats are built on oak-framed pontoons sheathed in copper, just as they were initially constructed in 1877. After being stored in a safe place for the winter, the boats will return to the Public Garden Lagoon in the spring, with Mayor Wu celebrating the first ride of the season.

For more information, please visit boston.gov/swan-boats.

Homelessness// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

affordable housing," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we work to ensure that Boston is a city where all can live and thrive, these Continuum of Care Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will help us empower and support organizations that provide crucial services and support to our unhoused residents. I want to thank HUD Secretary Fudge and the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation for the City of Boston's largest Continuum of Care award ever and continued federal support as we work together to end homelessness in our city."

The City will allocate this federal HUD funding to organizations that offer a range of services and supports including housing search, the creation of housing for people experiencing long-term homelessness, rapid re-housing funds, and stabilization services to allow newly housed households and long-term-homeless individuals to receive the support they need to succeed.

"Boston has a successful network of experienced non-profit organizations committed to housing our homeless," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "This funding award allows us to continue the important work of moving our homeless residents from shelters and the street into housing that they can afford with the services they need to be successful. Given the high cost of housing in Boston and the region, this funding award, the largest in our Continuum's history, is more important than ever."

The funds will also support a number of permanent housing models including permanent subsidized housing, transitional housing, and short-to-medium-term rental assistance and case management for participants to find and maintain housing on the private market (rapid re-housing). The permanent supportive housing that is supported by this funding will combine subsidized housing with individualized support services so that individuals with a range of needs can receive the assistance they need to stay housed. The services are designed to build independent living skills and connect people with services such as community-based health care, help with mental health issues, substance use counseling, and employment services.

Organizations receiving funding include:

- Bay Cove Human Services
- Bridge Over Troubled Waters
- Casa Myrna Vazquez
- Roxbury Stone House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- FamilyAid Boston
- Heading Home
- HomeStart
- Justice Resource Institute
- Kit Clark Senior Services
- Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance
- Metro Housing Boston
- New England Center and Home for Veterans
- Pine Street Inn
- St. Francis House
- The Home for Little Wanderers

"The Continuum of Care awards reinforce the Biden-Harris Administration's continued commitment to addressing the nation's homelessness crisis using equity and evidence-based solutions," said Juana B. Matias, Regional Administrator of HUD New England. "Of the \$2.8 billion recently granted, the State of Massachusetts received more than \$110,000,000, and I am very pleased that the City of Boston is putting its share of the funding to good use helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness move into permanent housing."

Three new programs received funding through this year's award. Casa Myrna and Stone House received additional funding to provide permanent housing and supportive services to households fleeing domestic violence (DV), sexual assault, and commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking with permanent housing. St. Francis House will provide additional permanent supportive housing with wraparound services and onsite support to long term homeless households. Funding for these programs will allocate an additional \$3.2 million to house vulnerable populations.

"We are immensely grateful to the City of Boston and HUD for their unwavering support of our efforts to combat homelessness in the community," said Karen LaFrazia, President and CEO, St. Francis House. "This funding will enable us to continue providing vital services to those in need, supporting our commitment to developing strong relationships with individuals who come to us for assistance. By instilling hope and belief in their ability to make positive change, we empower formerly homeless individuals to move forward with their lives. We appreciate the ongoing partnership with the City of Boston, and look forward to continuing our work together to end homelessness in Boston."

"We are incredibly grateful to the City of Boston and HUD for their continued support of our

mission to end family homelessness in Greater Boston," said Larry Seamans, President, FamilyAid. "With this funding, we can continue to empower parents and caregivers, providing them with the resources they need to secure stable and sustainable housing, and build strong foundations for their children's futures. The ongoing partnership with the City of Boston and HUD has been instrumental in our ability to make a positive impact on the lives of families in our community. Together, we can make a real difference in ending homelessness in families in Boston."

Mayor Wu has made ending homelessness a priority. Boston offers services to homeless individuals by offering wrap-around services to those who require the additional level of care. Chronically homeless individuals have barriers that create challenges to remaining housed. These barriers can include physical disabilities, substance use disorders, and mental health challenges. As part of Boston's plan, the City is committed to a "housing first" approach to homelessness which is based on the belief that everyone should have access to permanent housing. In 2022, Boston housed 2,420 people experiencing homelessness including 461 family households and 1,054 adult individuals. Among those are 113 youth and young adults as well as 149 veterans.

"We are deeply grateful to the City of Boston and HUD for their commitment to supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our community," said Stephanie Brown, CEO, Casa Myrna. "This critical funding will enable Casa Myrna to continue providing life-saving services and resources to those who have experienced trauma and abuse. With this support, we can work towards creating a safer, more just society for all. We appreciate the City of Boston for recognizing the importance of this work and for investing in the wellbeing of survivors and their families."

In January, Mayor Wu led a group of volunteers, including City and State officials, homeless services providers, and public health and safety first responders, in conducting the City of Boston's 43rd annual unsheltered homeless street count. The street count is part of the City's comprehensive census of homeless adults, youth and families in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and domestic violence programs, and individuals staying outside in Boston each year.

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FRESH & LOCAL

Lessons from Jamie Oliver

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We have Jamie Oliver to thank for many of our favorite meals. Penny recently studied his cookbook, "One: Simple one pan wonders." It prompted us to start a list of what Jamie calls "clever tips, tricks, and techniques" that we've learned from his books and videos.

This healthy food advocate and educator pares away roadblocks that keep busy people from cooking. He knows that clean-up discourages home cooks. His website describes this book as "...his ultimate homage to making your life simpler. Every recipe is cooked in just one pan, so is perfect for getting good food on the table fast."

Use Less

Watch a few of Jamie's videos; you'll see less equipment, ingredients, knife work, and measuring. He calls it "maximum flavor with minimum effort." You'll see him washing his hands often because he uses his hands for many jobs that you might do with a utensil. For example, he tears peppers, mushrooms, and greens and mixes dough and salads with his clean hands.

A cutting board takes the place of extra bowls and platters. Of course, it is used for cutting ingredients that require a knife. He also uses it to mix dough, dress and toss salads, and serve meals like tarts, pies, pizza, and even salads. The board makes a few trips to the sink for

a wash between jobs, but that step becomes part of your workflow once you discover how much clean-up this technique saves.

He simplifies what he calls his "hero ingredients" to "...olive oil for cooking, extra virgin olive oil for dressing and finishing dishes, red wine vinegar as a good all-rounder when it comes to acidity and balancing marinades, sauces, and dressings, and, of course, sea salt and black pepper for seasoning."

Use More

On the other side of this equation, he uses more high-quality pantry staples like canned tomatoes and beans, coconut milk, frozen vegetables, premade fresh pasta sheets, pie and pizza dough, frozen phyl-



Jamie's "50/50 Bolognese" is made with ground meat and lentils and is great for batch cooking. We enjoyed these "Sloppy Joes" made with a frozen portion.

lo, and puff pastry.

He uses "flavor bombs" such as chutneys, curry pastes, black bean and teriyaki sauces, miso, and pesto instead of the many ingredients each contains. He'll add sausage, bacon, smoked salmon, and jarred tuna as proteins and flavor boosters.

Swap It Up and Make a Batch

Jamie uses two types of swaps in his recipes. He encourages you to make the recipe your own by changing the ingredients to what you have on hand, what you prefer, or what

suits a particular diet. For example, he loves chilies and spicy food. However, he tells you to leave the chili out if you don't like heat. He also explains how to minimize the heat by removing the seeds and membranes or putting the chili in whole.

You'll also hear how to use swaps to make your meals healthier and to add more vegetables and fruit to your diet. You'll see him use whole grains, sneak veggies into something like a fish pie or create a vegetarian version of a popular dish.

Jamie will always tell

you when a dish freezes well. Penny made a big batch of his "50/50 Bolognese" with ground meat and lentils to serve with pasta. She froze half, and we enjoyed it in "Sloppy Joes" later in the month. We have another batch saved to top with mashed potatoes for a healthier cottage pie. Both suggestions for other uses were part of Jamie's recipe!

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

Wu & B.A.A. announce Inaugural Fastest Bostonian Award

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) today announced an award for the Fastest Bostonian, which will be given to the Boston man and woman with the quickest finish times in the 2023 Boston Marathon on Monday, April 17. This is also the first year the Boston Marathon has a category for non-binary runners, and one Boston resident is making history running in this category. The City and the B.A.A. will recognize this athlete as the first Bostonian to participate in the race registered as non-binary. This is the first time there will be any awards specifically for Boston residents. Mayor Wu and the B.A.A. will celebrate these three runners at a reception in the days following the 127th Boston Marathon.

"The Boston Marathon,

the world's greatest race, brings tens of thousands of runners from all over the world to our City," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Thanks to the B.A.A.'s partnership, we're excited to start a new tradition at the 127th Boston Marathon to highlight the fastest runners from Boston and an athlete breaking barriers, as we celebrate the world-class excellence and diversity of our local running community."

"The City of Boston is known world-wide for its heritage in athletics, and for welcoming runners each Patriots' Day," said Jack Fleming, President and CEO of the B.A.A. "We also are home to the most dedicated marathoners, and the Fastest Bostonian Award will recognize the achievement in the Boston Marathon. Together with Mayor Michelle Wu, we look forward to once again celebrating all finishers from Boston and

beyond on race day."

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon, traditionally held on Patriots' Day. This year, the Boston woman and man with the quickest time crossing the Finish Line will receive a commemorative glass bowl engraved with the phrase "Fastest Bostonian." The first Boston runner registered in the non-binary category will also receive a personalized award.

"What an exciting opportunity we have to add this recognition to an already amazing tradition that is the Boston Marathon," said John Borders, Director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment. "We have the chance to highlight the best of what Boston has to offer in front of the world by celebrating our residents, our neighborhoods, and now crowning the fastest Bostonians and those making history in the process."

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

A climate resilient Boston needs Belle Isle Marsh

By Ana Tavares Leary

Nestled between the cities of Boston, Revere, and Winthrop lies a natural barrier to climate change, the 359-acre Belle Isle Marsh. A salt marsh is a low-lying, coastal area that mostly comprises grasses that are frequently flooded by ocean tides.

This wetland protects coastal areas from flooding, destructive winds, higher tides, and increasingly intense storms. Plants in salt marshes help buffer the coast and reduce the impacts of storm surges, such as those generated during hurricanes. The Marsh delivers essential ecosystem services, which are important to help reduce climate change impacts caused by rising sea levels and severe weather events. Belle Isle Marsh provides critical habitats for wildlife—including the 271 species of birds which have been documented there—and recreation areas for local communities.

Background

In 1988, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts designated Belle Isle Marsh as an ACEC, or an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This area once contaminated by industry is now one of the most biologically significant habitats in Boston, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thousands of

birds migrate to this area, and many endangered and threatened species can be found in the reservation year round.

The largest remaining salt marsh in Boston Harbor, Belle Isle Marsh plays an important role in the prevention of flooding by delivering flood storage capacity. This capacity is lost when marshlands are filled or degraded via poor water quality from stormwater, which can also negatively impact public health, wellbeing, and safety to surrounding communities. Marshland filling accelerated in Boston during the expansion of Logan Airport in the 1960s.

Investing in a wetland is investing in public health. Salt marshes contribute to positive physical and mental wellbeing; they clean polluted air and purify water. Also, they provide accessible green spaces for recreation, physical activity, and connection to nature, all of which are crucial for improved mental health.

Coastal ecosystems (mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass meadows) are also known as blue carbon systems. Salt marshes and seagrass beds can sequester carbon (like forests do) during plant photosynthesis creating a carbon “sink” (capture). If destroyed, these habitats would emit a large amount of carbon into the atmosphere. Preserving these vital coastal systems

is essential to reducing the effects of climate change and protecting vulnerable communities.

Given the enormous benefits of the Marsh to its neighboring cities, what is being done to conserve it?

FBIM

Local nonprofit and environmental advocacy group, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh (FBIM), has spent 40 years protecting and preserving critical conservation habitats, specifically Belle Isle Marsh. This group of volunteers and conservationists organized in 1983 to protect the Marsh from industrial use, and it continues to work in close partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and other regional conservation groups. FBIM’s mandate is to protect the Marsh and its surroundings, to educate the public about the importance of salt marshes and barrier beaches, and to offer educational programming in all areas of the reservation.

Recently, the organization has partnered with the Mystic River Watershed Association, the Nature Conservancy, and the DCR to conduct an environmental inventory of Belle Isle Marsh, with technical assistance from the Woods Hole Group, to better understand the health of salt marsh’s ecosystem and to measure how it has changed over time. This inventory helps inform how the Marsh will

adapt over the next 50 years to climate change, sea level rise, and increasing storms.

What can you do to get involved to help protect Belle Isle Marsh?

First, come visit Belle Isle to go bird watching, enjoy a leisurely walk, watch the sunset, or climb the observation tower. Then, read more about the organization on our website (<https://friendsofbelleisle-marsh.com>) and join in on upcoming events, including monthly birdwatching walks, summer kayaking expedition, art painting night, and tide pool explorations for children. Finally, become a member to advocate for local conservation efforts, and take greater action in your community.

Conclusion

Understanding the critical importance of protecting our natural habitats is a first step to preserving and cherishing them. Wetlands provide myriad ecosystem services that benefit surrounding communities and help cities fight climate change.

Preserving Belle Isle Marsh—an essential coastal resource—contributes to a more climate resilient Boston, Winthrop, and Revere.

Ana Tavares Leary is the Conservation Program Manager for Friends of the Belle Isle Marsh.

CLARENCE THOMAS: SUPREME HYPOCRITE

"I prefer the RV parks. I prefer the Walmart parking lots to the beaches and things like that. There's something normal to me about it." -- Judge Clarence Thomas in a recent interview.

The revelation this past week that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife have been accepting luxury vacations from a Texas billionaire for the past 25 years, including a recent vacation that is estimated to have had a price tag of \$500,000 (that's not a typo -- there are no added zeros), is absolutely sickening.

For his part, this billionaire said he never discussed any cases with Thomas and reportedly never had any specific cases pertaining to him in front of the court.

However, among the other guests on these vacation junkets were top executives of major U.S. corporations, so it certainly is conceivable that some of these companies may have had matters that came before the Supreme Court during the 25 years that Thomas has been receiving these extraordinary gifts from the Texas billionaire.

However, the focus on whether any one of these wealthy and influential persons had any specific matters before the Supreme Court misses the point entirely, which is this: Thomas is hobnobbing with, and accepting gifts of immense value from, individuals who have a great deal of general interest in cases that come before the Supreme Court.

For example, the infamous Citizens United case in 2010 (in which the court held that the free speech clause of the First Amendment prohibits the government from restricting independent expenditures for political campaigns by corporations, thereby striking down a federal law that had placed a limit on donations by corporations) was brought by billionaires -- and who have been influencing U.S. elections ever since with what is known as "dark money" (because its source is unknown). Thomas -- surprise! -- voted with the majority in a 5-4 decision.

But beyond what constitutes an obvious conflict of interest by Thomas, this is just another example of the hypocrisy that has marked Thomas's tenure ever since he was appointed to the Supreme Court more than 30 years ago.

Thomas rates as the most unqualified person ever to sit on the court. He never tried a case in a courtroom and had no substantive legal experience prior to being appointed to a seat on the federal Appeals Court. (He was incapable of having been named as a federal district court judge because he would have been clueless as to how to conduct a trial.)

He often speaks and writes of his humble beginnings growing up poor on a farm in Georgia, but he never acknowledges that it was thanks to de facto affirmative action programs at Holy Cross and Yale Law School that gave him the opportunity to rise to the highest court in the land. Nor does he acknowledge that it essentially was affirmative action by President George H.W. Bush that elevated him to his judicial posts, because Thomas by any objective measure was unqualified to be a judge.

But here's the irony of Thomas's personal affirmative action story: He is among the leaders of the Supreme Court faction that no doubt soon will be striking down affirmative action programs that have existed for decades in universities across the country.

Thomas's stance on affirmative action is the height of hypocrisy -- he benefited from programs that afforded him opportunities, but he is pulling up the proverbial ladder so that others cannot follow him -- that goes way beyond taking expensive vacations in the face of his laughably stated preference for "Walmart parking lots."

ATTENTION HOSPITAL CEO'S: PLEASE "SHARE THE WEALTH" TO SUPPORT BEDSIDE NURSES...

To the Editor,

Nurses have been long overdue for better salaries and the accommodation of on-site call rooms. Hospitals generate billions of dollars in revenue annually. Hospital CEO's receive salaries that range from \$1 to \$7 million annually. Is sitting in an executive suite of a hospital behind a mahogany desk, floors away from the frenetic patient care taking place 24/7 really worth a salary of \$1 to \$7 million dollars per year? How much would a safe on-site overnight suite for nurses including beds and shower facilities cost? Could those million-dollar CEO salaries instead go toward significantly increasing bedside nursing salaries? Could hospital CEO's find it in them to "share the wealth" to improve the working conditions and life of the bed-

side nurse?

Nurses are leaving bedside nursing in hospitals at alarming rates. Bedside nursing work is stressful both physically and mentally. Staffing and scheduling challenges plague the nursing profession.

Hospitals need to make improvements to the poor work environment that often leads to nursing burnout and turnover. Due to continual understaffing, nurses feel like they are constantly on call, even if they are not. In order to attract more nurses to working in hospital settings, hospital environments are going to have to become more attractive for nurses. This means incentives such as increase in salaries and providing on-site nurse call rooms. If hospitals want to recruit and retain the nursing workforce needed to provide optimal patient care, they must offer nurses more than a pat on the back and the occasional 10 boxes of pizza lunches.

Many nurses travel to large Boston hospitals from Cape Cod, Rhode

Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and they sometimes work double and triple shifts. Nurses often resign from their positions at hospitals for a variety of reasons such as understaffing, stressful conditions and lousy pay scales. However, many nurses resign due to costly parking fees and commuting long hours for their 12 hour shifts. Many younger new nurses have mounds of student loan debt and are unable to

afford hotels for overnight stays due to a long commute. They instead, sometimes sleep overnight in their cars in order to make the next early morning 12 hour grueling shift.

Hospitals have always provided residents and MD's overnight on call rooms within the hospital, rightly so, given their busy schedules and overnight on call duties. However, nurses are not provided

See LETTER Page 6

LETTER to the Editor

Your opinions, please

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Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com.

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

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March 27, 2023 through fall 2023



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To Long Wharf, Boston		To Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:15 AM	7:25 AM
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8:00 AM	8:10 AM	8:15 AM	8:25 AM
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Weekend Schedule

To Long Wharf, Boston		To Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
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Boston Harbor
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de 2023 hasta el otoño de 2023



Horarios entre semana

A Long Wharf, Boston		A Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Salidas	Llegadas	Salidas	Llegadas
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:15 AM	7:25 AM
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Horarios fines de semana

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Boston Harbor
citycruises

Visit // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the main modes of transportation in Haiti. They're privately-owned and decorated by artists. People take pride in them because they're moving works of art."

Joseph also read excerpts from her 2021 chapter book, "Sydney F. Frankel's Summer Mix-Up," about a 6th grade student, Sydney, and her hope for a fun summer before the arrival of her new sibling. Forced to enroll in a class at a local community center in Miami, Florida, Sydney and her best friend, Maggie, devise a plan to switch places so that they can enjoy the courses they really wish to attend.

As a writing activity 5th and 6th grade students were assigned to create another character for Sydney to meet. Joseph stressed the importance of grammar and punctuation.

"One reason I like to write is because it's an excuse to use my imagination. When I write, I get to explore new places," explained Joseph, who wrote her first book, "Mommy, Can I Go to the Zoo," in first grade. "My books are about music, art, going for your dreams, and speak-



Danielle Joseph, children's book author, visiting the Patrick J. Kennedy School on April 4.

ing up for yourself and others."

Joseph also presented a trailer from a Disney Channel movie that was based on her book, "Shrinking Violet." "Radio Rebel," as Disney renamed the title, is about a shy girl, played by Debby Ryan, who becomes a mysterious disk jockey for her high school radio station.

"You must believe in yourself. That's how things happen," declared Joseph, who described her visit to the film set in Vancouver, Canada.

Joseph is the eldest of five siblings, and uses her family as inspiration for her writing. She explained that her books are influenced by songs she has

listened to, conversations overheard in cafes, news headlines, books, and movies.

"Being a good writer means being a good listener," Joseph noted. "No matter what you do in life, writing is a good skill to have."

Joseph studied creative writing at Emerson College, and recognized Walter Dean Myers and Judy Blume as her literary heroes.

Joseph's upcoming book, "Ruth First Never Backed Down," a picture biography about the Jewish, South African freedom writer, Ruth First, who fought for social justice, will be published in November 2023.



Starla Paolini commenting on "Sydney F. Frankel's Summer Mix-Up."



Eyad Yagoubi, raising his hand to comment on Joseph's book.

Letter // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

with safe, overnight on-call rooms within hospitals. If anything proved there is a need for this it was the COVID pandemic. In order to recruit, retain and accommodate nurses for unexpected double and triple shifts, they should be generous-

ly compensated and be provided with safe, on-site overnight nursing call rooms within the hospital at no cost.

Nurses are the lifeblood of any hospital. MD's and nurses work hand and hand and hospitals cannot function effectively without

both. Therefore, hospital CEO's should be making efforts to support the bedside nurse with what they need and deserve to perform their jobs well. Providing a significant increase in salary and on call overnight accommodations would help in the

short term and long term to recruit and retain highly skilled nurses. Nurses do not need more pizza or "Cookie Appreciation Days" in appreciation for their work. Bedside nurses need and deserve to be paid well for the backbreaking, exhausting,

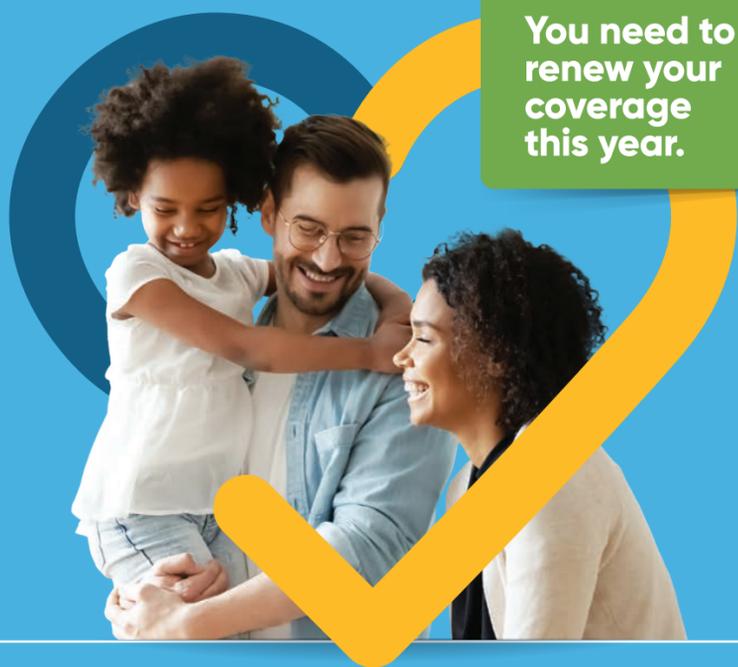
physical, mental and emotional work they perform on a daily basis. So hospital CEO's, how about "sharing the wealth" to support bedside nurses?

Mary Beth Muckian, BSN, RN is a graduate of Boston College

and Regis College. She has been a nurse for 17 years and currently works as a Utilization Review Manager. She has worked over her nursing career in the areas of bedside nursing, Nursing Research and Occupational Health Nursing.

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Sports

EAST BOSTON GIRLS IN SOFTBALL ACTION AGAINST REVERE

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

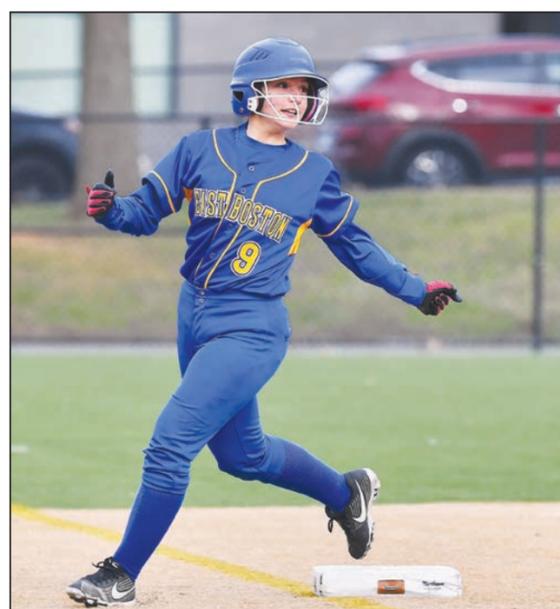
Revere and East Boston turned in a score that resembled football more than softball, but in the end, the Patriots prevailed 19-17 in a wild game at the East Boston City Yards field on Thursday, April 6.



NO NEED FOR THIS: East Boston's Grace Gans Linnane tosses her bat aside and heads to first base after drawing a walk.



NOT IN TIME: Shortstop Jaden Pacitta fields a throw but not in time to prevent a sliding Revere's Danni Hope Randall (6) from stealing second base.



LOOKING FOR MORE: Gianna Troville crosses second base and looks for more after advancing on a pass ball.



ON THE MARK: Shortstop Jaden Pacitta fires a throw to first base after fielding a ground ball.



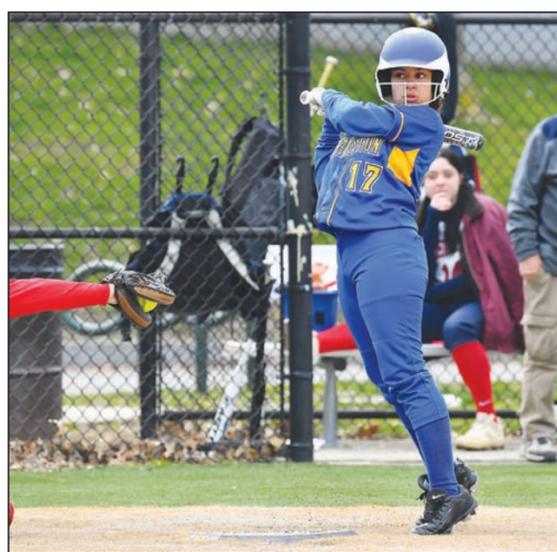
ON THE BALL: Left fielder Arielle Tritto fields a Revere base hit.



PAINFUL ESCAPE: Revere's Isabella Qualtieri evades a tag by East Boston first baseman Anaihaliz Rivera Mercado, but unfortunately Qualtieri fell awkwardly and suffered a knee injury that forced her to leave the game.



KEEPING CONTROL: Catcher Juliana Troville moves to keep a low pitch from becoming a wild pitch.



STEP BACK: Jailey Chavarria Gutierrez leans back from an inside pitch.



INTO THE WINDUP: Pitcher Mikayla Forbes sets her eyes on strike zone as she starts her windup.

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Best Yet Mustard	2/ \$3.00
Best Yet Ketchup	2/ \$3.00
Rice-A-Roni	2/ \$3.00
Post Fruity Pebbles	2/ \$6.00
Post Cocoa Pebbles.....	2/ \$6.00
Prego Pasta Sauce.....	2/ \$5.00
Penn Dutch Egg Noodles	2/ \$5.00
Pillsbury Toaster Strudel.....	2/ \$5.00
Pepperidge Farm Layer Cake.....	\$3.99
Green Giant Poly Bag Vegetables	2/ \$3.00
Philadelphia Soft Cream Cheese	2/ \$7.00
Chobani Greek Yogurt.....	4/ \$5.00
Turkey Hill Iced Tea	2/ \$4.00

Bakery

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Toufayan 6pk Bagels	2/ \$7.00
7" Double Layer Carrot Cake.....	\$14.99

Deli

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Krakus Imported Polish Ham.....	\$6.99/lb
Kayem Natural Casing Franks.....	\$6.99/lb
Kretschmar Pepper Turkey Breast.....	\$8.99/lb

Produce

Fresh Italian Roma Plum Tomatoes	\$1.39/lb
Creamy Smooth Tropical Hass Avocados... 2/	\$3.00
Fresh & Delicious Tropical Pineapple.....	\$2.99
Sweet and Tasty Driscoll Raspberries	\$3.99
Fresh & Sweet Yellow Peppers.....	\$2.99/lb
Fresh & Sweet Orange Peppers	\$2.99/lb

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Fresh Whole Pork Tenderloin.....	\$2.99/lb
Mountaire Fresh Boneless Chicken Tenders ..	\$2.59/lb
Mountaire Fresh Grade A Drumsticks.....	89¢/lb
Ballpark Meat Franks	2/ \$5.00
41-50 ct Cooked Shrimp 16oz pkg	\$5.99

Weekend Specials

Friday, April 14th through Saturday, April 16th
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Ciabatta Bread	2/ \$6.00
Assorted Brownies 4 pk.....	\$4.99
DELI	
Cornershop Cut Angus Roast Beef	\$9.99/lb
Great Lakes American Cheese	\$4.99/lb
Smithfield Domestic Ham	\$4.99/lb
PRODUCE	
Florida Fresh Butter & Sugar	
Bi-Color Sweet Corn.....	6/ \$2.99
Natures Finest All Purpose	
Eastern White Potatoes 5lb bag	2/ \$5.00
MEAT	
FAMILY PACK SPECIALS	
Beef T-Bone and Porterhouse Steaks.....	\$8.99/lb
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Our Senior Life

Know the Early Warning Signs of COPD

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a long-term lung disease that makes it hard to breathe. A leading cause of disability and death in the United States, more than 12.5 million people have been diagnosed, and millions more may have the disease without even knowing it. While there is no cure, knowing COPD's early warning signs can lead to earlier treatment and may prevent its progression.

The American Lung Association, funded with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is sharing the following insights to help Americans recognize the warning signs of COPD and take action:

Early Warning Signs of COPD

Not everyone has the same COPD symptoms, but some of the more common early warning signs and symptoms may include shortness of breath, a cough that may bring up mucus or phlegm, chest tightness, fatigue and reoccurring lung infections. People may think these symptoms are because of aging, smoking or being out of shape and become less active to avoid experiencing them. These signs and symptoms shouldn't be ignored. Speak with your healthcare provider if you experience any of these symptoms and discuss any activities you are avoiding due to breathing difficulties.

Risk Factors and Diagnosis

Anyone can develop COPD, but people aged 40 or older and those who smoke or used to smoke are at higher risk. Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of COPD, however 1 in 4 people with COPD never smoked cigarettes. Secondhand smoke, air pollution, workplace exposures to dust, fumes and chemicals, and a genetic condition called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency

(AATD) are also causes and risk factors for COPD.

People are often diagnosed at later stages of COPD when the disease has progressed because they delayed sharing their early symptoms with their healthcare provider. Everyone with risk factors and those experiencing early warning signs should talk to their healthcare provider about any breathing issues. It's especially important for women to do so. Because COPD has been historically thought of as a "man's disease" or an "old person's disease," women are sometimes misdiagnosed or receive a delayed diagnosis. But overall, more women are affected by COPD than men and the death rate is higher in women. In addition, women tend to develop the disease at a younger age.

To diagnose COPD, the healthcare provider will evaluate symptoms, gather a complete health history, conduct a health exam and perform a pulmonary function test called spirometry. The results of the spirometry test can determine if you have COPD.

Lifestyle Changes

In addition to treatment, certain lifestyle changes may make a difference, as patients living with COPD know firsthand. After being diagnosed with stage 2 COPD in the wake of a COVID-19 infection, Bob F. partnered with his doctor and started monitoring his breathing at home and leaned into exercise. His hard work has paid off, with his last pulmonary function test showing that the disease has not progressed, and he is in better overall shape than before.

"Most of the advice you should follow is no different than what doctors tell us all.

Eat right, exercise, sleep, drink plenty of water, manage your weight and don't smoke. If you do these things, you may slow the progression of your COPD," says Bob.

But you shouldn't wait until a COPD diagnosis to make these changes. Lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, avoiding second-hand smoke and reducing your exposure to air pollution may reduce your risk for developing COPD. If you are experiencing shortness of breath or

other respiratory symptoms, do not delay talking to your healthcare provider about your symptoms or COPD risk factors. For more information about COPD, visit Lung.org/COPD. (StatePoint



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) SDI Productions / Getty Images

Don't Forget Pick Up After Your Pet!

Pet waste discarded on the street or in catch basins carries harmful bacteria straight into the waterways we rely on for recreation. Always remember to "Scoop the Poop" and dispose of pet waste in the trash. Proper disposal of pet waste protects the environment and our waterways from contamination.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

Let's Protect Boston's Waterways

STAY SHARP WITH SUDOKU

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In the end, it's not the years in your life that count — It's the life in your years — Abraham Lincoln

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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APPRECIATION

Reflections on Mel King

By Marianne Salza and Dan Murphy

unity. His emphasis on compassion, respect, and inclusivity strengthened families, neighborhoods and political institutions throughout Boston.

“In the 130-year history of United South End Settlements, there are few people we hold in higher esteem than Melvin Herbert King, a man whose extraordinary life intersected our organization at a number of historic points,” wrote Jerrell Cox, Chief Executive Officer, United South End Settlements, in a letter to the community. “Mel was a pioneer, an activist, and a radical champion of love, harmony, and justice between all people.”

King was a passionate supporter of racial justice, desegregation, and affordable housing. He was a leader in the Tent City protests against urban renewal in 1968, when hundreds of displaced residents gathered in a South End lot where homes once stood. The area was eventually transformed into the Tent City affordable housing community, with 269 units for mixed-income families.

“Mel King was a giant in Boston’s civic community. For so many decades,

his character, courage, and commitment inspired other Bostonians to similar heights,” shared Kenzie Bok, Boston City Council, District 8. “In my own family, it’s a point of pride that my grandfather was able to assist in the legal work for Tent City. Mel leaves a deep legacy in both the physical infrastructure of justice in Boston, and in the hearts of generations of people and public servants here. I hold him and his family in my prayers.”

When King ran for mayor of Boston in 1983, he became the first black person in the city’s history to reach a mayoral general election. During his candidacy, King promoted solidarity through the Rainbow Coalition, unifying people of all ethnicities, sexualities, and beliefs.

“People must come together, moving out of their isolation to challenge conditions which exploit us. Alliance, cooperation, coalition: those are the only paths to follow,” wrote King in an excerpt from his 1981 book, “Chain of Change,” in

which he analyzes the struggles of the black community in Boston. “I want to make sure the city is working for everybody. We just need to hold hands and understand that love is the question and the answer.”

King served as an educator, youth director, and provided computer and technology access to lower income families.

“Mel King was a giant in Boston. He positively impacted so many aspects of our lives in Boston; especially in housing and education,” said State Representative Jay Livingstone. “I was honored to meet him.”

Family and friends of King are inviting members of the community to a two-day celebration in his memory. A visitation will take place on Monday, April 10, 4-8pm, at the Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Avenue, Boston. A 6:30pm speaking program will include remarks by members of the community who were impacted by King’s life.

Funeral services will follow on Tuesday, April 11, 12pm, at Union United Methodist Church. Guest



Melvin King shown in 1975, during his time representing the 9th District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

tickets are required for in person admission at www.UnionBoston.org/MelKing. Services will be live streamed at Boston City Hall, the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, and www.UnionBoston.org/MelKing.

Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 16, 2-5pm, at Florian Hall, 55 Hallett Street, Boston.

“Mel King was an iconic leader for the fight for racial justice, economic justice, and housing justice in Boston, and especially in our neighborhoods,” said Johnathan Cohn, Policy Director, Progressive Massachusetts. “His legacy is present throughout the South End.”



Mel King shown being congratulated by former Mayor of Boston Ray Flynn and others during the Nov. 13, 2021 unveiling of Mel King Square at the intersection of Yarmouth Street and Columbus Avenue.

Old North Church celebrates its 300th birthday with free day of programming

On Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Old North Church and Historic Site, 193 Salem St. will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the laying of the church’s cornerstone with a day of special programming. Admission to Boston’s oldest surviving church will be free for all children and teens under the age of 18. A new audio tour with 40 minutes of history in both English and Spanish will launch with a \$3.00 fee. All who are walking the famous Freedom Trail and pass by Old North between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. will enjoy an interactive experience with public historian Adam Hodges-LeClaire who answers the age-old question: Are you a pirate? This presentation will use 18th-century sailors’ clothing as a case-study in separating fact from fiction regarding the history of pirates.

Old North’s free day of programming kicks off a week-long celebration, including services with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on April 16, Patriot’s Day festivities on April 17 and the historic site’s Lanterns and Luminaries on April 20, which will include a re-enactment of the famous signal that lit the way for the American Revolution and a keynote address from Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Annette Gordon-Reed.

Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated, will be on site for interviews and can speak to Old North Church’s place in American history and the role of active citizenship in the ongoing struggle for justice and equity.

Known for “One if by land, and two if by sea” and the midnight ride of Paul Revere, the Old North Church and Historic Site is maintained and operated by Old North Illuminated.

To mark the 300th anniversary of the church’s founding in 1723 and connect Old North’s legacy

to contemporary issues, Old North Illuminated is developing new programming that explores the complexity of the church’s identity as a beacon of liberty and independence alongside its deep and complex connections to colonialism and enslavement. Old North Illuminated believes that by presenting, questioning, and learning from the full and complicated span of Old North’s 300-year history, we can engage audiences in contemporary questions of equity and representation, courage for the common good, and what it means to be an informed and compassionate active citizen. For more information, visit: www.oldnorth.com.

More events will include:

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to preach at Old North Church’s 300th year celebration

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will be in Boston on Sunday, April 16 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of iconic Old North Church, Boston’s oldest standing church building and famous for its role in the start of the American Revolution.

On the night of April 18, 1775, Old North’s sexton, Robert Newman, and vestry member Captain John Pulling Jr. shined the “two if by sea” lanterns from Old North’s steeple as the signal from Paul Revere that the British army was advancing by the Charles River toward Lexington and Concord where the opening battles of the American Revolution erupted the following day.

Established in 1723 as Christ Church in the City of Boston, and known colloquially as “Old North,” it is now both a national historic landmark that receives some 500,000 visitors a year and an active Episcopal Church congregation.

“Old North Church holds a unique place in



Shown above is the rear entrance to the Old North Church.

our diocesan life, not only for its historic connection to our nation’s history, but also for the ways in which it wrestles with vital issues of race, culture and patriotism, and the intersection of each with Christian faith and theology. We are so grateful for Presiding Bishop Curry’s recognition of this milestone,” Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Bishop Alan M. Gates said.

Presiding Bishop Curry—known internationally for his dynamic preaching and a ministry whose animating vision and message is Jesus of Nazareth’s model of radical, sacrificial love—will give the sermon at Old North’s 11:00 a.m. Sunday service and then will be the honored guest speaker at the 6:00 p.m. ticketed Lantern Service, which promises to be an inspirational evening of song and rededication, culminating in the lighting of Old North’s steeple lanterns.

“Even older than our nation, Old North stands tall as a beacon of hope and freedom. This extraordinary 300th anniversary provides us the opportunity to celebrate not only the majestic building built in 1723, but also and more importantly the people who have shaped our history, who prayed here and called this church home for three centuries,” said Old North’s vicar-in-

charge, the Rev. Matthew P. Cadwell.

The Lantern Service will illuminate significant moments from Old

North’s history, including recent research on the lives of enslaved and free Black and Indigenous members in the colonial era.

“That history reminds us that for many, especially people of color both enslaved and free, liberty and freedom were far more elusive in our earliest days. As we observe this milestone anniversary we intend to remember and honor these members of our community alongside those who lit the lanterns on the eve of the Revolution,” Cadwell said.

The Old North Chamber Choir will be joined at the Lantern Service by the Men and Boys Choir of All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Ashmont in Dorchester. Anthems will include a choral setting of “Paul Revere’s Ride,”

Bairstow’s setting of the 23rd Psalm, and a new piece, “The Light and the Wind,” commissioned for the anniversary.

Lexington Minutemen and Paul Revere re-actors will be among the evening’s guests, to also include several city and state elected officials and bishops from neighboring New England Episcopal dioceses.

“We are pleased to welcome Presiding Bishop Curry to preach from the same pulpit used by bishops and American presidents,” Cadwell said. “The Old North Church continues to inspire faith and hope in people across our nation and the world. We invite you to join us as we give thanks to God and look to the future in confidence and hope.”

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVES BUDGET

CHELSEA - The School Committee unanimously approved a \$132,367,509 budget at its meeting on Thursday, March 30.

The budget for the 2023-24 school year is about \$14 million above the current school year's budget, thanks in large part to the Student Opportunity Act. The budget includes 62.5 new positions, and in addition, 19 positions that were funded in the current year through ESSER Covid relief funding are being transitioned to the district's operating budget.

Many of the new positions address needs for special education and English language learners.

During last week's meeting, committee member Roberto Jimenez-Rivera asked several questions about the number of counselors and mental health professionals at the middle and high school level. During the public hearing process, there were several staff members and students who advocated for additional funding for mental health positions at the secondary level.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta said that in addition to the counselors at Chelsea High School, there are eight social workers that can assist with some services for students. She added that the district also recently added telehealth mental health services dis-

"We are a district that is well supported with mental health, and I believe what we will work on doing and what we have started doing is working to communicate to students how they can access the mental health services that we have," said Abeyta. "We have a portfolio of mental health services with our counselors, our social workers, and our telehealth."

Abeyta also addressed a request that was made for dean positions at the middle school level to assist with student discipline and behavioral issues.

"Last year, at the request of the principals, we added outreach workers instead of deans at each middle school to help with discipline," said Abeyta. "So with the cadre of school counselors, social workers, and outreach workers, we do have staff to support student discipline and behavior."

The superintendent also pointed out that the 2023-24 school budget was crafted to set the stage for the following school year, when a number of positions funded through Covid relief funds will have to transition to the general operating budget.

"Next year, we are going to have to fund 40 positions, and we are going to have to put those 40 positions that already exist with people in those positions into the Chapter 70 regular general fund," she said. "We want to make sure we are in a position where we do not have to cut a lot of positions."

Jimenez-Rivera

SPRING EGG HUNT AT THE CHELSEA MARY C. BURKE COMPLEX



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Seventy-five children, ages 2-10, dashed to collect the 1,000 eggs scattered in a cafeteria of the Mary C. Burke Complex during the April 1 Spring Egg Hunt, hosted by Chelsea Recreation & Cultural Affairs.

Above, children, ages 2-10, collecting eggs during Chelsea Recreation's April 1 Spring Egg Hunt. Right, families exploring ducks and a goose from Drumlin Farm.



praised the administration for the work it did in preparing the budget, and said one area that really stuck out to him was the additional funding for the La Vida Scholar program.

The La Vida Scholars program helps find full college scholarships for Chelsea students.

"I believe in the program wholeheartedly, and I want more students to have access to it," said Abeyta.

School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia expressed her gratitude to the administration and the committee for its work on the budget.

"This budget reflects every single one of us that are in here, but most importantly, it includes students, teacher voices, and administrator voices," said Garcia. "I just want to express my gratitude to this team who continues to show up day in and day out, listening to family, students, and staff."

EVERETT CHAMBER HOLDS POT OF GOLD

EVERETT - The Everett Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of Executive Director Cheryl Smith, held its \$10,000 Raffle Dinner March 28 at Spinelli's, Lynnfield. More than 200 guests attended the annual event.

Colin Kelly, vice president of public affairs at Schnitzer Steel Industries and chairperson of the Everett Chamber of Commerce, did a great job presiding over the raffle portion of the event.

Each guest who purchased a ticket had a chance to win the grand prize of \$10,000. Through an elimination drawing among all 200 tickets, the field of potential winners was pared down to nine people. Guests then had the opportunity to purchase a \$20 raffle ticket to be selected as the tenth finalist.

During the round of ten finalists, each of the final-

ists can opt to say "split" the \$10,000 prize or "go" for the entire \$10,000 prize. If one person says, "go," the contest continues.

When the field of 10 finalists for the grand prize was cut one-by-one to five remaining ticketholders, each finalist told Colin Kelly that they wanted to split the jackpot. Each of the five winners received a \$2,000 cash prize.

The many guests enjoyed a social hour followed by a catered full-course dinner and dessert.

Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting such an outstanding social event.

COUNCIL LAYS OUT RULES FOR BEHAVIOR

REVERE - Decorum prevailed at April's City Council meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Council President Patrick Keefe addressed the incident that happened during the March 27 meeting, when tempers flared during the continued debate over the high school building project. A halt was called during the meeting as a scuffle broke out. Resident and former council candidate Wayne Rose was charged on counts of assault and disorderly conduct.

At the April 3 meeting, Keefe had City Clerk Ashley Melnik read the rules for videotaping, behavior, and procedure during council meetings.

"We don't mean to overburden the crowd, and we don't want to overburden the public with rules that may or may not be as understandable," said Keefe. "In essence, we want to explain that we want as much public participation as possible. We owe it to you to open that process and ensure that residents and people are involved in the public process."

Keefe said that the action of a few people should not outweigh the

participation of the many.

"Last week, we had a very good meeting, believe it or not," said Keefe. "There were 60, 80, 100 residents in here that were doing a very nice job, but unfortunately at times, the actions of a few can really overshadow that. We owe it to our children, our families, and those we represent to be better, and I know that we are."

Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna thanked the police officers who helped de-escalate the situation at the March 27 meeting. She said the situation could have gotten out of hand without the actions of the officers.

Over the past two years, there have been a number of times when there have been additional police details on duty in the council chambers as issues such as the new high school, biolab safety procedures, and the human rights commission have come up for debate.

COUNCIL CONSIDERS CHANGES TO ZONING BOARD

WINTHROP - The Town Council's rules and ordinance subcommittee supports a proposal to increase the size of the Zoning Board of Appeals, but is waiting for more feedback from the ZBA before making a formal recommendation to the full council to move forward with the changes.

Last month, Council President James Letterie introduced a motion seeking to increase the size of the Zoning Board of Appeals from six to seven members to make it easier to vote on appeals and conduct business.

This would allow the board to have five members on a hearing with four votes needed to approve an appeal, giving it more flexibility, according to Letterie.

"The first motion we discussed would increase the size of the board of appeals and it would re-

quire us to appoint additional members to that," said Council Vice President Stephen Ruggiero, who chairs the rules and ordinance subcommittee. "The second motion coupled with that would adopt Mass General Law Chapter 39, Section 23, which would allow the associate members of the board of appeals to step in and vote for a regular member of the board of appeals if that person were to be absent on the day of a vote."

The associate member could not have missed more than one meeting during the hearing process, and would have to attest in writing that they were aware of all the facts and provisions of the relevant case.

"In our opinion, this would make for a more efficient process ... and it would create a more efficient government," said Ruggiero. "The general consensus is that we were in favor of these; we had a few follow up questions we sent to (the city solicitor) which we received answers on. I think our concerns were clarified, but we decided to hold these until our next council meeting just because we haven't heard back from members of the board of appeals directly and we want to make sure we give them ample time to consider these."

In other business on Tuesday night, Town Manager Tony Marino said repairs to the commuter ferry are almost complete. He also verified that there will be a stop along the ferry route this season at the Hyatt Hotel at Logan Airport.

"That should help some of our residents who work at the airport," said Marino.

In addition, Marino said the Revere Street reconstruction project is still on track to go out to bid this June, with construction to begin next spring or summer.

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Suffolk Downs to host second Annual Marathon Daffodil Dash

Looking for a family friendly way to kick off the Boston Marathon weekend? On Saturday, April 15, The HYM Investment Group LLC, "HYM," will host the second annual Marathon Daffodil Dash from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Track at Suffolk Downs. The Daffodil Dash is hosted in partnership with the Revere Parks and Recreation Department and the Marathon Daffodil Project.

The Marathon Daffodil Project began after the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013 with the yellow daffodil used as a symbol of strength and hope. In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Boston Marathon Bombings, The Track at Suffolk Downs will be filled with the 'Marathon Daffodils' that line the streets of Boston leading up to the Boston Marathon finish line.

The Daffodil Dash will feature three 50-yard dash races for grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8 followed by a mile run for grades K-8. Following the races, all participants and families are encouraged to hang out in The Paddock and enjoy kids activities by ForKidsOnly, music, lawn games, face painting,

flower crown making, and our local vendors Boards-ByMo and Sweet Treats by Maria.

"As we approach the 10th anniversary of the Marathon Bombings, we are proud to host the 2nd Annual Daffodil Dash at Suffolk Downs, an event that celebrates strength and hope across our City," said Thomas N. O'Brien, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of HYM. "The Track at Suffolk Downs welcomes neighbors from across the area to come together to have fun, enjoy the outdoors, and engage in simple acts of kindness."

Registration for the Daffodil Dash is free but requires to participate in the race events. The Track at Suffolk Downs is located at 525 McClellan Highway, Boston MA 02128. Parking is free and available on-site. The Track is also accessible from the MBTA's Beachmont and Suffolk Downs Blue Line stations.

The HYM Investment Group is a premier development company that is leading the development of more than 20 million square feet of real estate throughout Greater Bos-

ton. 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 35% 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

In 2017, Suffolk Downs, located in both East Boston and Revere along two MBTA Blue Line Stops, was purchased by HYM and its investors with a vision to create a welcoming neighborhood designed around new ways of living and working. Today, the 161-acre site at Suffolk Downs is being reborn as a new urban district with a dynamic mix of uses and offerings connected and supported by public open space, neighborhood retail, and civic spaces. Suffolk Downs will deliver 5.2M SF of life science and office space, 10.15 M SF of residential space, 450K SF of retail space, 400k SF of hotel space and over 40 acres of open space. Phase 1 of the redevelopment, Beachmont Square, broke ground in May 2022 on the Revere side of the site and will deliver in 2024.

About the Boston Marathon Daffodils Project Boston resident Diane Valle founded the Marathon Daffodils, now in its tenth year, to honor the spirit of the Boston Marathon by growing and delivering thousands of daffodils throughout Boston.

Marathon Daffodils collaborates with hundreds of generous donors and volunteers who donate their money, time, and energy to add a cheerful display of yellow daffodils to welcome runners, visitors, and residents.



Area children enjoying last year's Daffodil Dash.

Don't Forget Pick Up After Your Pet!

Pet waste discarded on the street or in catch basins carries harmful bacteria straight into the waterways we rely on for recreation. Always remember to "Scoop the Poop" and dispose of pet waste in the trash. Proper disposal of pet waste protects the environment and our waterways from contamination.



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EASTER EGG HUNT AT PIERS PARK

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The East Boston Foundation and Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association presented an Easter Egg Hunt on April 8, at Piers Park. Families greeted the Easter Bunny, had their faces painted, and enjoyed recreational activities provided

by Knuckle Bones, a Charlestown-based play company. In less than 10 minutes, little ones collected 3,000 eggs – and those who found a golden egg received a gift basket donated by local community members.



Brenda and her daughters, Emily, Amy, and Abril



Tatyana and Emmanuel McFadden, and Fa-Evah and Aviana Withers with the Easter Bunny.



Lucy Tsai, 5-years-old, taking a ride.



Ashley Glennon, Violet, 4, and Dave Ascoli.



Suyapa and Brando, 6, with the Easter Bunny.



Carlos, Lucy, and Dani Interiano, 4-years-old, walking on stilt.



Friends, Scarlett Salerno, 4, who found a golden egg, and Violet Teazis, 5



Representative Adrian Madaro with his wife, Ariel, and sons, Matteo and Nico.



Sisters, ages 6 and 4, riding on a bouncy toy.



Eunice Innocent, Gwen Ruderer, and Davis Ross, of Knuckle Bones, a Charlestown-based play company that provides recreational activities and games for the community.

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