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Residents turned out in costume to celebrate El Día de los Muertos.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION IN EAST BOSTON

Special to the Times-Free Press

Thousands of people had the opportunity to celebrate El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a 3-day celebration honoring and remembering community loved ones who have passed away. The celebration took place from Sunday, October 29, through Thursday, November 2.

“El Dia de los Muertos,” New England’s largest (Day of the Dead) Celebration, is a thoughtful observance of death in our lives and supports community cohesion and local businesses in the Central Square and Liberty Square districts organized by the Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC), including the traditional “Celebrate Life” Festival and the Catrina’s Parade.

This year was extra special since VROCC is celebrating its tenth anniversary, bringing this rich tradition to East Boston. VROCC also partnered with the ICA Watershed to



Local dancers dressed in costume to honor loved ones who have passed away during the El Día de los Muertos celebration.

present a one-of-its-kind Day of the Dead Altars exhibit created by local artists and community members, VROCC also partnered with Illuminus Boston to offer a unique Light Show and DS4SI to bring the celebration to Dorchester and activate the Community Altar. All events around El

día de los Muertos were admission free and accessible to all age groups and fosters intergenerational conversations among the community members through community workshops on healing and resilience, dance and healing circles at the Community Altar at Central Square Park.

Boston Public Schools students had the opportunity to visit the exhibit and engaged with the altars through guided tours, bilingual activity cards, interactive workshops, and multimedia. Veronica Robles and members of her Mariachi band close the

See CELEBRATION Page 7

HVNA listens to proposal for leaning building on Bennington St.

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

At its monthly meeting on Monday, the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) learned more about a project that would include the demolition of an existing building at 531 Bennington Street that Attorney Richard Lynds described as the street’s Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The existing building at the site is a three-story, three-unit dwelling and was described as being in unsound structural condition by Lynds, who presented the project to the HVNA.

During the presentation, Lynds read from an engineer report concerning the building’s structural integrity that pointed out several issues, such as

walls being out of plumb and leaning toward 529 Bennington Street, deterioration of the brick masonry foundation walls, and more.

Further, the report Lynds read from concluded that it would be safer to demolish the building and rebuild on its current footprint.

Moreover, Lynds explained that this has been presented to the Boston Landmarks Commission regarding a demolition delay application.

“The Boston Landmarks Commission has essentially waived any review of this and concur with our engineer and that they recommend certainly that we proceed with demolition,” said Lynds. He

See HVNA Page 3

East Boston Branch Library celebrates 10th Anniversary

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

The East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library (BPL) celebrated its 10th anniversary in its current 365 Bremen Street location on November 4 with day-long festivities, including a breakfast served with pastries reflecting countries represented in the community.

“Ten years ago, we got to open – what I consid-

er to be – the first of this decade of renovations of branch libraries throughout the system,” expressed David Leonard, President, Boston Public Library. “The real story of libraries is about establishing experiences with community members. Over the 10-year period, there have been 1 ½ million physical items lent from this loca-

See ANNIVERSARY Page 6

Fundraising for East Boston Holiday lighting program begins

By Cary Shuman

Lisa Cappuccio has launched the East Boston Holiday Lighting Program in coordination with other residents, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce, and East Boston Main Streets.

“We’re raising funds for holiday lighting for Maverick Square, Day Square, Orient Heights, and Central Square,” said Cappuccio, noting that East

Boston has not enjoyed the decorative presence of holiday lighting for several years. “It [holiday lighting] just sort of fell by the wayside.”

Cappuccio said she and other residents held a meeting to consider restoring the tradition of holiday lighting in the East Boston neighborhood.

“I said, ‘okay, what can we do to make it happen?’” related Cappuccio. “That’s when we decided

to start raising money for the program.”

The Holiday Lighting Program drew immediate and strong support from the East Boston business community, notably Chamber of Commerce President Shirley Fabbo and East Boston Main Street Director Miguel Vargas, who are board.

“The business owners and residents are very excited,” said Cappuccio. “I’ve actually never seen

this much energy before in any program that I’ve done. So, people want it.”

The East Boston Foundation has also stepped forward as a supporter of the program, according to Cappuccio. “We’re very happy about that,” she said.

The Holiday Lighting Program will supplement other holiday festivities such as the East Boston

See LIGHTING Page 2



Residents enjoying a breakfast items representing foods and drinks from the countries represented in the East Boston community, such as Chinese coconut tarts, Vietnamese iced coffee, and South American alfajor.



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EBNHC expands rolls of two executive leaders

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) announced the promotion of two current executive leadership team members to expanded roles within the organization. Ernani J. DeAraujo, Esq., former Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, will assume the role of EBNHC’s Chief Administrative Officer, and Amanda McGee, former Vice President and Deputy General Counsel will take the helm as EBNHC’s General Counsel.

“The healthcare needs of our community are complex and require sophisticated leadership able to drive our health equity agenda,” said EBNHC president and CEO Greg Wilmot. “Both Ernani DeAraujo and Amanda McGee have demonstrated their ability to skillfully guide our organization as we actively work to reduce health disparities among those we serve. With their expanded roles, they will be well positioned to advance our mission and shape the continued success of our organization.”

In his new role as Chief Administrative Officer, DeAraujo will oversee EBNHC’s government affairs and regulatory work at the federal, state, and local levels. In collaboration with the organization’s Chief Operations Officer and Chief Medical Officer, DeAraujo will shepherd operational projects and expand the organization’s presence in other business areas. He will also assist in developing existing and new external partnerships.

“As a lifelong resident of East Boston and patient of EBNHC, I’ve been fortunate to grow my career over the past 10 years at an organization that directly impacts my community,” said DeAraujo. “I am excited to pass the baton to my trusted colleague



Amanda McGee.

and successor, Amanda McGee, who will serve our organization well as General Counsel. In my new role, I look forward to helping our organization and patients through an operational lens and to deepen my work on advocacy and government affairs while continuing to serve my community.”

As General Counsel, McGee will focus on providing broader legal and strategic advice on the overall activities of the health center, as well as providing counsel and training to staff around legal and compliance matters.

“It is an honor to be recognized by my colleagues and peers as I take on a larger role within EBNHC,” said McGee. “I will continue to carry out the vision of my predecessor, Ernani DeAraujo, in creating a department of engaged creative legal minds, energized by the community-driven and multi-layered nature of our work. As one of a handful of women General Counsels in the Commonwealth, I appreciate this unique opportunity to encourage other women lawyers to follow their passion and pursue leadership at the highest levels of an organization.”

One of few Latino general counsels in the state, DeAraujo previously served as the East Boston Liaison for the late Boston Mayor Tom Menino; as an attorney at Foley



Ernani J. DeAraujo.

Hoag LLP; and as an investment banker at JP-Morgan Chase. DeAraujo is a Colombian-Brazilian American and lifelong East Boston resident and continues to stay engaged in the community organizations and committees including the John William Ward Fellowship and the Boston Latin School Association. He graduated from Harvard College and the Washington and Lee School of Law.

McGee’s practice spans all aspects of legal and corporate compliance for the health center, including regulatory compliance, litigation, and general corporate matters such as contract management, mergers and acquisitions, employment and labor issues, immigration, real estate, and tax matters. Previously, McGee was a senior litigation associate at the international law firm Morgan Lewis & Bockius. She graduated from Amherst College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and earned her J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law.

EBNHC is dedicated to diversifying its workforce, including their leadership team which is now 50% women, 40% who identify as racial and ethnic minority, and about 30% who are active clinicians. The health center has been recognized by The Boston Globe as a Top Place to Work eight times since 2014.

‘Wings for Autism’ event held at Logan Airport

The “Wings for Autism” program is designed for families with children on the autism spectrum to help ease the stress of flying. Attendees will have access to Boston Logan’s Sensory/Calming Room for the first time ever during this event.

Launched in 2011, the program was developed by Massport in partnership with Charles River Center, JetBlue Airways, TSA, Massachusetts State Police and the Logan airline community to offer a dress rehearsal of an authentic travel experience for neurodivergent children and their families. Massport has hosted more than 9,000 children and family members at the prior events, including three at Worcester Regional Airport. The program is now followed and modeled at

nearly 70 airports. JetBlue and Delta are providing aircraft for this event.

Attendees will also be able to tour our new Sensory/Calming Room in Terminal E. Boston Logan is one of the few major airports in the U.S. to provide this type of experience to passengers of all ages. The space has various interactive stations that focus on balance, light therapy and cognitive/memory improvement, including a room that replicates an airplane cabin to help passengers acclimate themselves with the often-stressful experience of flying.

Families are able to navigate the travel process by practicing the different steps from airline check in, to security clearance, waiting at the gate, and finally boarding the plane.

Not only is this a benefit to the families who participate, but it also provides a valuable training opportunity for airport, airline and TSA personnel to learn how to accommodate children with special needs.

The Charles River Center is a private, nonprofit human service agency in Needham, Massachusetts that has been providing programs and services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities since 1956. Founded by a group of parents with children with special needs, the mission of Charles River Center is to empower and support people with developmental disabilities and their families by offering high-quality, individualized opportunities that foster independence and community inclusion.

Lighting // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Main Streets tree-lighting ceremonies, which is held in conjunction with the Mayor’s Trolley Tour.

“Joe Ruggiero [director of Ruggiero Family Memorial Home] has been particularly supportive of our efforts,” lauded Cappuccio. “For many years, he took it upon himself to decorate trees in Orient Heights. He sponsors the tree-lighting ceremony on his own, so Joe has done a great job doing this every year. What we want to do is augment that.”

Cappuccio hopes that business owners will

pledge to decorate their storefronts in the spirit of the holiday season.

“There’s a lot of ways to get involved. You can make a monetary donation or pledge to decorate your own business,” said Cappuccio. “I think it’s going to be a trickle effect. Once people start to see the holiday lights again, I think more people will get that festive spirit. That’s what we’re hoping for. Our plan is to grow each year, and hopefully expand to other streets like Bennington and Chelsea, and certain areas like Jeffries

Point and Eagle Hill.”

Rep. Adrian Madaro said he recalls enjoying the holiday lighting while growing up in East Boston. “I fondly remember the holiday lights in East Boston during my childhood,” said Madaro. “I’m thrilled residents are working to bring them back to spread cheer during the holiday season.”

(To make a contribution to the Holiday Lighting Program, please call or email Lisa at 617-967-0464 or Lisa@bostonconcepts.net)



Pictured, left to right, are Mary Berninger, John Casamassima, Grace Previte-Magoon, owner of MP Tax and Financial and former director for many years on the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and EB Main Streets, Lorene Schettino, Executive Director of the East Boston Foundation, presenting a check for \$10,000 to Shirley Fabbo, President of the Chamber, Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt, and Lisa Capogreco-Cappuccio.

Local non-profit announces upcoming Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Eastie’s Elves events to support families in need

The Madaro Family Community Fund’s (MFCF) annual holiday programs, the Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Eastie’s Elves, will once again be celebrated in-person this year. Each holiday season, MFCF has supplied hundreds of meals and donated thousands of toys through the Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Eastie’s Elves events. The Madaro Family Community Fund hopes to spread holiday cheer and give back to those in the community who need it most.

The Thanksgiving Day Dinner will supply nearly a thousand sit-down, carry-out, and delivery meals to local families at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club. Additional program details can be found on the Madaro Family Community Fund’s website at www.madarocharity.org.

MFCF is continuing its community-wide toy drive in honor of the 20th annual Eastie’s Elves. The toy drive will host collection boxes throughout East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop from November 30th to December 13th. The toy drive will conclude once again with the in-person Eastie’s Elves celebration at the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor on December 15th, where

all are welcome. Admission to the celebration is one new, unwrapped children’s toy.

“Thank you to all of the businesses, organizations, supporters, and volunteers who make it possible for us to provide Thanksgiving dinner and holiday gifts to families in our community,” says Ariel Madaro, Director of the Madaro Family Community Fund. “We are so excited to continue our in-person festivities this year and are incredibly grateful for this opportunity to celebrate the holidays with our neighbors and friends. We look forward to continuing our tradition of spreading cheer and uplifting our community during the 2023 holiday season.”

The Madaro Family Community Fund is grateful to have the support of the following sponsors for the 2023 holiday season: Platinum Level Sponsors Amazon - East Boston Neighborhood Health Center - HYM Investments; Gold Level Sponsors Cora Operations - Enterprise Mobility - Happy Valley Dispensary - MassBio - North River Company - Thomas Falcucci; Silver Level Sponsors Aaron Michlewitz Committee - City Realty Group - Del-

ta Dental of Massachusetts - Meet Boston Foundation - New England Aquarium - Rasky Partners - Smith, Costello, & Crawford - The Tall Ship; Bronze Level Sponsors Benchmark Strategies - Commonwealth Counsel - David Modica -Gabriela Coletta Committee - Jeffrey Turco Committee - Jessica Giannino Committee - Joe LoGrippe - Kearney, Donovan, & McGee - Lydia Edwards Committee - Michelle Wu Committee - MLM Strategies - Moscone Law - Novus Group - Robert Deleo Committee - Ruggiero Family Memorial Home - Serlin Haley LLP - Suffolk University - Travaglini, Scorzoni, & Kiley - Winthrop Marketplace.

The Madaro Family Community Fund (MFCF) is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to supporting the families and children of East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop. During the holiday season, the organization partners with community organizations and businesses to host an annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner as well as the Eastie’s Elves toy collection & celebration in order to ensure a joyful holiday season for all community members.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Santiano, Evania P	Printing Press Lofts LLC	2-4 Lexington St #2A	\$459,000
Carson-Ames, Michele	Printing Press Lofts LLC	2-4 Lexington St #1B	\$359,000
Firger, Elizabeth A	Orlandella Ft	35 Beachview Rd	\$830,000
Richards, Hayley	137 Falcon Street LLC	137 Falcon St #4	\$750,500
Close Jr, Thomas C	137 Falcon Street LLC	137 Falcon St #1	\$795,000
Interiano, Elias	Lucy Mazzariello Lt	216 Bremen St	\$900,000
Deeb, Jillian	304 Sumner St LLC	304 Sumner St #4	\$750,000
315 Sumner LLC	East Boston Airport LLC	315 Sumner St	\$1,600,000
Big Ben Rt	Suffolk Orient LLC	969-985 Bennington St	\$7,100,000

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United Way of Massachusetts to partner with local nonprofits in East Boston and beyond

Staff Report

United Way of Massachusetts Bay President and Chief Executive Officer Bob Giannino recently unveiled a list of 124 organizations that will partner with United Way in a first-of-its kind effort to eradicate the conditions that lead to poverty and economic injustice.

As part of the partnership, each of the organizations will receive grant awards totaling more than \$56M (\$8M annually) through 2030.

In East Boston, the organizations that will benefit from the grants include East Boston Social Centers, Inc. and Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH).

“This new way forward is a recognition that philanthropic efforts must evolve in order to meet the pressing issues of our region,” said Giannino. “We have spent the past two years developing a community impact strategy that doesn’t just address symptoms of poverty but can eliminate it in the communities that need it the most. Through this multi-million-dollar grant initiative, we believe that together with our partners, we will move toward a future where every individual in our region, across race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, will



COURTESY PHOTOS

United Way of Massachusetts Bay President and Chief Executive Officer Bob Giannino recently unveiled a list of 124 organizations that will partner with United Way in a first-of-its kind effort to eradicate the conditions that lead to poverty and economic injustice.

be empowered to meet their financial goals and achieve financial well-being.”

As part of its reimagined community impact strategy, United Way is investing in partners and solutions that are working to create positive, population-level change in communities across its footprint.

To measure its progress, United Way will track measures such as increasing satisfaction in financial well-being among people living in local communities, increasing the percentage of house-

holds with at least \$2,000 in emergency savings, decreasing the percentage of households that spend greater than 50% of their income on housing, decreasing the percentage of people ages 16-24 who are not enrolled in school or employed, and narrowing the wealth gap.

For the first time in its history, United Way of Massachusetts Bay’s Request for Partnership application was open to any nonprofit eligible 501c3 in the region and was translated into seven languages to increase accessibility. Through this open application process, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay received a total of 382 applications and of those 220 moved onto community review. Ultimately, 124 recipients were selected to receive funding for direct services or advancing policy activities. Of the new partners, 35 percent are led by a Black or Latino/a leader, an increase from the United Way’s past portfolio of 24%.

Additionally, United Way is partnering with nonprofits that involve community members in decision-making and ensure community perspectives and experiences are integrated into program design and implementation.

“The selection of our



On October 26, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay gathered partners from 124 non-profits in the Greater Boston Area to present grant awards totaling more than \$56M (\$8M annually) through 2030.

grant recipients this year represents our evolution from providing support in exchange for programmatic outcomes to providing support in exchange for a shared commitment to advancing economic justice through systems change,” said Karley Ausiello United Way of Massachusetts Bay Chief of Community Impact. “This is a significant milestone for our new way forward.”

United Way select community partners across 12 priority communities - Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Quincy, Revere,

Salem, and Taunton. Together, these communities are home to two-thirds of the individuals who live below the poverty threshold in United Way’s geographic footprint. Grant recipients will provide direct services and advocate for policy change in these four avenues to prosperity:

Economic Inclusion and Wealth Building: Advance financial well-being and inclusion by providing access to services, resources, and tools that help individuals increase income, build credit and savings, and reduce debt.

Early Education and Out-of-School Time

(EEOST): Provide affordable, high-quality early education and Out-of-School Time programs that allow caregivers to work and learn and provide children and youth opportunities to learn, thrive, and explore their interests.

Education and Career Pathways for Youth and Young Adults: Engage youth and young adults ages 16-24, who are disconnected from school and work, in education and career pathways.

Safe and Stable Housing: Increase the availability and accessibility of safe and stable housing and associated services.

HVNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also added that a demolition permit is anticipated shortly.

With concerns about the structural integrity of the building in mind, the proposal for the project is to demolish it and build a four-story, five-unit residential building.

Regarding plans for the newly proposed four-story building, it was designed to align with the proposed zoning changes that stem from the Boston Planning and Development Agency’s (BPDA) neighborhood planning initiative PLAN: East Boston.

For example, Lynds went through some specific design features such as the height, lot coverage, rear yard depth, and how they are consistent with what is being proposed through the plan.

However, it was acknowledged by Lynds that since these proposed zoning changes are not currently in effect and a permit has been applied for under current zoning, the project would require relief under the current zoning code.

Also, an important aspect of the project to note is that the proposed building’s footprint would be consistent with the footprint of the current building.

“We’re not looking to expand the footprint of our building. We are increasing it vertically one level; however, we’re not changing it with respect to the footprint that you see,” said Lynds.

Following the presentation, a discussion about the project was held, and there were several comments and questions from those in attendance.

There were concerns from one attendee concerning the demolition of the existing building and whether it could affect the integrity of neighboring buildings.

However, Lynds explained, “When any building is taken down in the City of Boston or Commonwealth of Massachusetts, there’s very specific requirements for demolition of the building, including site surveys for any adjoining properties.”

“Any contractor who’s going to tear a building down will make sure that anything they’re doing in that area — they’ll ensure that both buildings, left and right, will be documented, and conditions will have to be observed,” he added.

There was also a question in regard to the current zoning and proposed zoning from PLAN: East Boston and Lynds explained that they presently have to operate under the current zoning.

However, he explained that with this application pending, if the zoning were to change, anything that complies with the new zoning would no longer need a variance. However, the project would still need to go to the Zoning Board of Appeal for aspects of the plans that do not comply with updated zoning.

As the discussion progressed, other topics were discussed, such as some of the design aspects of the building’s fourth story and more.

Since this was the first presentation for the project, a vote was not held. The HVNA is slated to meet again on Dec. 4.

City opens applications for Boston School Committee

Mayor Michelle Wu opened the application to fill two upcoming vacancies on the Boston School Committee, for a term starting January 4, 2024 and ending on January 1, 2028. The Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, composed of Boston Public Schools (BPS) families, educators, school leaders and representatives of the business and higher education communities, will receive and evaluate the applications and share recommendations with the Mayor. The Boston School Committee

is the governing body of the BPS.

Applications to fill the upcoming vacancies are due Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Interviews for selected candidates will be held on the week of November 27, 2023 in the late afternoon or early evening. Candidates must be Boston residents and should expect a significant time commitment to connect with school departments and leaders and prepare for and attend biweekly and impromptu meetings that run into late hours in the

evening.

The School Committee is responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- Setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, re-

view and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

Please direct all questions and submit completed applications to scnominatingpanel@boston.gov or to City Hall, Mayor’s Office 5th floor Boston, MA. You can learn more about the Boston School Committee online.

 **bpda**

Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: East Boston

NOVEMBER

14

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/EBsquaresStreetsZoning

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 825 0746

Project Description:

Please join the BPDA for a virtual public meeting on November 14, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to discuss draft zoning recommendations and zoning map amendments to the Boston Zoning Code, based on recommendations from PLAN: East Boston.

This meeting is part of the PLAN: East Boston process and will focus on specific geographies identified as “Squares and Corridors” in PLAN: East Boston. The proposed zoning amendments would adopt new zoning districts for these specific areas. The zoning amendments proposed for East Boston will align with Squares + Streets, a citywide planning and zoning initiative focused on centers of activity within neighborhoods and along main streets with the goal of enabling housing, retail, public spaces, arts & culture, and other amenities. **Additional PLAN: East Boston meetings are forthcoming** and can be found on the PLAN: East Boston page: bit.ly/Plan-EastBoston

This meeting will be held in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation. Register and learn more at bit.ly/EB-SquaresStreetsZoning

mail to:

Jack Halverson
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone:

617.918.4461

email:

jack.halverson@boston.gov

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bit.ly/Squares-Streets-Draft-Zoning-Amendment

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“THANK YOU” TO OUR VETERANS

This Saturday, November 11, will mark the 104th observance of Veterans Day in the United States, a day marked by solemnity and reverence to honor those who have served in our nation’s military. Veteran’s Day initially was known as Armistice Day when it was enacted in 1919 in observance of the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

World War I was marked by trench warfare in which neither the German-allied nations (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire) nor the alliance among England, France, Russia, and the United States, accomplished anything. Historians to this day cannot even pinpoint a rational reason for why it began. The trench lines did not meaningfully shift for the entire four-year period of the war. In the meantime, the European continent was ravaged, with 10 million soldiers and another 10 million civilians losing their lives.

More significantly, the “war to end all wars” only set the stage for an even bloodier world-wide conflagration 20 years later with WWII. Indeed, the roots of today’s conflict in the Middle East can be traced to the shift in control of the Middle East after WWI from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) to England, which eventually led to the so-called British Mandate for Palestine after the end of WWII.

In the aftermath of the Korean War in 1954, Armistice Day officially became known as Veterans Day to include veterans of all of our wars. There are many ways that each of us can honor our veterans, including attending parades and ceremonies in our communities, visiting veterans memorials and cemeteries, volunteering with veterans organizations, donating to veterans causes, flying the U.S. flag, thanking a veteran for their service, or simply taking a moment to reflect on the great sacrifice made by so many who have put their lives on the line to ensure that all of us can enjoy the freedoms that we hold as Americans today.

If nothing else, Veterans Day should remind us that freedom isn’t free and that maintaining our freedom since our nation’s founding has required the personal sacrifice of millions of our fellow Americans.

THE UKRAINIANS AND ISRAELIS ARE FIGHTING FOR FREE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

There are two “hot wars” in the world right now, in Europe and the Middle East, in which two democratic nations, Ukraine and Israel, are standing up against two of the great forces of fascism in the world today: Russia under Vladimir Putin and Hamas terrorist fighters under the direction of Iran.

Both Putin and Hamas launched unprovoked attacks on civilian populations that were marked by their cruelty, inhumanity, and outright sadism. Russia seeks to eliminate Ukraine as a sovereign nation and Hamas wants to wipe Israel off the map. The efforts by the Ukrainians and the Israelis to fight these monsters of sheer evil have served as a wake-up call to free people everywhere -- and that includes Americans -- to recognize the simple but profound truth that we cannot take our freedom for granted.

Right now, Israel and Ukraine are bearing the burden for the free world of standing up to these fascist regimes. Although it goes without saying that America should support their efforts with as much military and financial aid as possible, we must realize that it is wishful thinking to imagine that we can remain above the fray. History has taught us that it is inevitable that when the enemies of democracy threaten free people, the United States will be drawn into the battle -- and Americans should be ready for that eventuality.

If we in the United States don’t support the forces of freedom and democracy, who will?

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, GOV. DUKAKIS

We wish to extend our best wishes for a “Happy Birthday” to former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who turned 90 last week.

Mike Dukakis served as governor of our state from 1975-79 and then again for two terms from 1983-91. He was the Democratic nominee for President in 1988, losing to Republican George H.W. Bush in a contentious election that was marked by immense distortions of Dukakis’s record, including the infamous Willie Horton ad that invoked racial stereotypes and played to the worst instincts of white voters.

For those too young to know about Mike Dukakis, we will mention three things about a man whose honesty, integrity, competence, and dedication to serving the people of our state stand as the benchmark for all office-holders: First, Gov. Dukakis turned around our state’s economic fortunes with the “Massachusetts Miracle” in which the high-tech and biotech industries set Massachusetts on a path to prosperity that carries through to this day. Second, he reinvigorated our state’s aging inner cities, including Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, and Lynn, and invested in public transportation, which Dukakis himself rode from his home in Brookline to Beacon Hill. Third, he established Massachusetts as a national leader in education, criminal justice reform, drug policy, and countless other areas.

Similar to former President Jimmy Carter, Mike Dukakis has led a low-profile, yet prolific post-government career in which he has continued with his lifetime of dedication to public service. We know we join with all of our fellow citizens in wishing Gov. Dukakis a “Happy Birthday,” and many more to come.



Forum



NEWS IN BRIEF

SECOND ANNUAL “NAME A SNOWPLOW” CONTEST FOR MASSACHUSETTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the second annual, “Name A Snowplow,” contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts. The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 vehicles. MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2023/2024 winter season. The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season. Winning applicants will be announced by December 22.

“This contest is a great way to celebrate the winter season in New England, encourage the creativity of our young people, and to thank all the dedicated members of our crews who keep our roads and bridges cleared during severe weather,” said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. “We truly appreciate all the people who work on the front lines regardless of the weather in all sectors of the economy and this is one gesture of thanks.”

“This contest was well received last winter and

we know there are many good suggestions out there once again for naming our plows this season,” said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, “We want to use the contest as a way to recognize our dedicated workforce and at the same time give students an opportunity to have some fun naming plows as it helps connect young people with the public servants who do the work.”

Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 1, and can be submitted by using an online portal: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission>. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school. The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: 1) kindergarten through fourth grade; and 2) fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the first snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flurry Fighter, Luke Snowwalker, Plower Ranger, Sherlock Snowmes, Snowdrop, Arctic Beast, Sled Zeppelin, Snow day

No Way, Blizzard Wizard, Snow Big Deal, Snow Time to Lose, and Blizzard of Oz. These names which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago remain on those vehicles.

For more information on the contest, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2023-24>.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS ON BOSTON’S HISTORIC FREEDOM TRAIL

The Freedom Trail® Foundation invites revelers to celebrate this holiday season on the annual Historic Holiday Strolls. The festive atmosphere of the city, set against the unique backdrop of Boston’s historic sites and centuries of history, makes these merry 90-minute tours a perfect way to celebrate the holidays. Walk the Freedom Trail and discover how Boston’s holiday traditions evolved on the Strolls offered Fridays and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. from November 18 through December 30.

Led by 19th-century Dickensian costumed guides departing from the Visitor Information Center on Boston Common, the Strolls are complete with a tour of holiday lights and Christmas trees along the Freedom Trail while learning about 19th-century holiday traditions. Fol-

lowing the Stroll, guests receive discounts off museum store purchases at Freedom Trail sites, including the Old South Meeting House, Old State House, Paul Revere House, and Old North Church’s Heritage and Gift Shops (valid with any Historic Holiday Stroll receipt from November through December).

“The Freedom Trail helps usher in the holiday season with the annual Historic Holiday Strolls, which gives tour participants a glimpse into the unique holiday traditions practiced throughout history,” said Suzanne Segura Taylor, Freedom Trail Foundation Executive Director. “The Strolls are one of many offerings to experience Boston’s historic sites and the Trail year-round.”

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children for public tours. The Strolls may also be scheduled as private group tours pending availability. The Freedom Trail Foundation continues to offer daily public Official Freedom Trail Tours® throughout November and December and during the winter months. All Freedom Trail tours are available as private family or group tours by reservation. For more information and to purchase tickets for the Historic Holiday Strolls and Freedom Trail Tours, please visit TheFreedom-Trail.org, and for group tour reservations, please call 617.357.8300.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor.

Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com.

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

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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STATE REP. ADRIAN MADARO HOSTS A RECEPTION AT EAST BOSTON’S HILTON GARDEN INN

State Rep. and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery Adrian Madaro hosted a reception at the Hilton Garden Inn in East Boston last Wednesday evening. A full house of friends, fam-

ily, and supporters turned out to show their appreciation of his commitment to the community of East Boston and the state. In his address to his supporters, Madaro spoke on his continuing support of the committee he has been

assigned the chair to, the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. Adding this is an ever-growing issue in the Commonwealth, and he will address this with a positive and hopeful outlook across the state. Madaro also went on to mention local projects and in the works, and one or two that he is hopeful to get approval on.



Representative Adrian Madaro with Sofia and Brendan Matthews.



From Boston Fire Fighter Local &18 Randy Greeley, former State Senator Joe Boncore and from NOAH, Phil Giffie at the Hilton Garden Inn with Representative Madaro.



State Representative Adrian Madaro with his staff, Joselyne Reynoso, Marlena Lopez Romero and Tom Baranowski.



Madaro supporters at the Hilton Garden Inn, Jeanne Risti, Judy Lyons, Elaine Grato and Margie Stevens.



The Madaro family, Jacopo Madaro, Debra Cave, Representative Adrian Madaro with his wife Ariel and their children, Matteo and Nico.



Suffolk County Register of Probate, Stephanie Everett with State Representative Adrian Madaro.



Representative Madaro with long time friend and supporter, Larry Nadeau.



Director of Sales at the East Boston Hilton Garden Inn, Steven Haley welcomed State Representative Adrian Madaro back to the popular hotel for his annual reception.



State Representative Adrian Madaro welcomes his colleague, Representative Jessica Giannino, and Stephen and Margherita Powers.



Former Boston City Councillor Paul Scapicchio (center) Chair of the Massachusetts Houzse Ways and Means Aaron Michlewitz and Community Engagement Manager for east Boston, the North End and Charlestown Jay Ruggiero.



Representative Adrian Madaro with Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards and Chairman of the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee, Aaron Michlewitz, who proudly introduces the host, State Representative Adrian Madaro.



State Representative Adrian Madaro addresses the capacity room of his supporters last Wednesday evening at East Boston's Hilton Garden Inn.



From the East Boston YMCA, Joe Gaeta and Bridgette Ridlon with State Representative Adrian Madaro.



Representative Madaro with Sandra Nijjar and Paige Thimmesch.



Boston Local 26, Hospitality Union was on hand to support Representative Adrian Madaro last Wednesday evening.

Anniversary //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion, and 1.2 million visitors.”

Leonard explained that the BPL was the first, large, municipally funded public library in the country, chartered in 1848. The East Boston Branch Library, which has been in four locations, was the first branch library in the United States, having opened in 1870. The BPL is now a system of 25 branches.

Boston Public Library origins began when the East Boston population was predominantly of Italian, Irish, and Jewish decent; and has deep connections to Boston’s maritime and port industries. It continues to serve immigrants, with 50% of the community deriving from Latin America and Hispanic origins.

“This is a vibrant community. In many ways, it continues to be the Ellis Island of Boston as a neighborhood,” said Leonard. “It is important to have this branch in the heart of this community. We have responsive collections, great information, and resourceful professionals.”

Mela Villa Gomez, Mayor Michelle Wu’s East Boston Liaison, presented a certificate of recognition in honor of the East Boston Branch Library’s 10 years of service and programming.

“I grew up loving reading and have borrowed many books from this library,” acknowledged Villa Gomez. “I know how special this place is for youth and adults – from community events to daily, evening homework sessions.”

Representative Adrian Madaro recalled frequent-



Mela Villa Gomez, Mayor Michelle Wu’s East Boston Liaison, and Marcela Lopez Romero, Representative Adrian Madaro’s Legislative Aid.

ing the Meridian Street branch with his mother growing up. Now when he visits, he sees children and families utilizing the space, as well as adults gathering in the meeting rooms, and residents attending cultural activities.

Madaro presented a citation on behalf of the House of Representatives congratulating the East Boston Branch Library on their 10-year milestone and endured impact. He commended the library staff for their smiling faces, helpfulness, and resourcefulness.

“My mom made sure at a young age that I loved books and going to the library. I often did my homework there,” described Madaro. “I remember having mixed feelings when that branch closed. I felt attached to that space; but we got here has been transformative in this community. The location – along the Greenway, sandwiched between schools, next to the T station – is remarkable. It is a state-of-the-art facility with so much natural light. This place is filled with so much love and community.”



Rep. Adrian Madaro commending the East Boston Branch Library for their friendly staff, helpfulness, and resourcefulness over the past 10 years.



Carla Ceruzzi and Alive Murphy.



Soukaiva Asfour proudly displaying her henna tattoo.



Boston Public Library President David Leonard delivering remarks about Boston Public Library History.



Zara Serano-Finet and Dan Finet.



Pamela, Gideon, and Enoch Neave, Eagle Hill residents.



Representative Adrian Madaro presented a citation on behalf of The House of Representatives, congratulating the East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library on their 10th anniversary, with Diana Beltao de Macedo, Programs and Community Outreach Librarian, Margaret Kelly, Branch Librarian, Debra Cave, President, The Friends of the East Boston Branch Library, and JoAnn Fitzgerald, The Friends of the East Boston Branch Library board member



BPL staff: Priscilla Foley, Mari McCullough, Diana Beltao de Macedo, Programs and Community Outreach Librarian, and Michael Colford.

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Mela Villa Gomez, Mayor Michelle Wu’s East Boston Liaison, presented the East Boston Branch Library with a certificate of recognition in honor of 10 years of serving the East Boston community

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MADARO FAMILY Community Fund

Celebration// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

celebration with a special performance at the ICA Watershed.

Our purpose is to create a safe space for community members to explore themes of life and death and learn more about the Day of the Dead celebration.

Members of the Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership program “Dancing Elotes,” which integrates arts and culture with business education and practical entrepreneurial experience while learning the skills needed to run a business and pro-

duce events like El Dia de los Muertos, actively participated in this festival in decision making and leadership roles.

VROCC programs are supported in part by the Cultural Investment Grant from the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, Cummings Foundations, and Shlomo Fund.

Visit VROCC social media to see photos and videos @vroccboston, to find out about upcoming events and register visit the official website site www.vrocc.org.



The one-of-its-kind Day of the Dead Altar exhibit created by local artists and community members.



A variety of costumes were seen throughout the Catrina’s Parade.



The Catrina’s Parade was a popular event of the celebration.



The La Bruja dance is performed with a candle on ones head.



A member of the Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership program.



The Mariachi band with a special performance at the ICA Watershed.

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Duncan Hines Frosting	2/ \$5.00
Dunkin Donuts K-Cups.....	\$5.99
Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice 64 oz.....	2/ \$5.00
(ex: 100%)	
Hellmann's Mayonnaise 30 oz.....	\$4.99
Barilla Pasta	4/ \$5.00
(ex: gluten free-protein-tortellini-pasta ready)	
Prego Pasta Sauce.....	2/ \$5.00
Wishbone Salad Dressing 15 oz	2/ \$4.00
Kitchen Basics Stocks	2/ \$4.00
Green Giant Canned Vegetables	4/ \$5.00
(ex: 3-bean & asparagus spears)	
Pillsbury Quick Breads	2/ \$5.00
Dole Pineapple 20 oz	2/ \$3.00
Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce 14 oz	4/ \$5.00
Heinz Gravies	2/ \$5.00
Hood Ice Cream.....	2/ \$7.00
Eggo Waffles & Pancakes	2/ \$5.00
(ex: thick & fluffy)	
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Sara Lee Pound Cake.....	\$4.99
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Daisy Sour Cream 16 oz.....	2/ \$3.00
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Margherita Prosciutto	\$12.99/lb
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10-16LB 16-22LB 24LB & UP	

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BUTTERBALL	1.99/lb
10-14LB 16-20LB 20-24LB	

(turkey weights are approximate)

DEADLINE FOR ALL TURKEY PRE-ORDERS IS SATURDAY NOV. 18

COUNCILOR COLETTA HOSTS ANNUAL SANTARPIO’S PIZZA ELECTION DAY GATHERING

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta hosted the annual Santarpio’s Pizza Election Gathering at the well-known establishment in East Boston Tuesday.

State Sen. Lydia Edwards and State Rep. Adrian Madaro joined Councilor Coletta in welcoming Boston, Suffolk County, and state officials to the East Boston neighborhood.



Community leaders Neelesh Batra and Mary Berninger.



David Modica and State Sen. Lydia Edwards.



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta and John Nucci, Senior Vice President of External Affairs at Suffolk University.



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta welcomes Suffolk County DA Kevin Hayden to the Election Day Luncheon at Santarpio’s.



Councilor-at-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, District 1 Councilor Gabriela Coletta, and Councilor-at-Large candidate Henry Santana.



New England Aquarium Vice President Rick Musiol Jr., Aquarium CEO Vikki Spruill, and Attorney Diana Modica.



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta and her nephew, Amadeo Acevedo, with State Rep. Adrian Madaro.



Councilor-at-Large Michael Flaherty, Frank Perullo, Principal at Novus, and Atty. Paul Scapicchio, President and CEO of Novus Group’s Government Affairs Division.



Former State Rep. Carlo Basile, former Senate President Robert Travaglini, former Boston City Councilor Sal LaMattina, and Boston City Councilor-at-Large Michael Flaherty.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta, pictured with her family, parents Ed Coletta and Nina Coletta, fiancé Sebastian Zapata, sister, Angela Acevedo, who is holding her son, Amadeo Acevedo.

Massport joins others to launch prestigious apprenticeship program

Massport and Boston’s electrical workers union and its highly-rated joint apprenticeship training center are teaming up to create more career pathways in the communities they serve.

On Friday, October 27, Massport CEO Lisa Wieland and Local 103 IBEW Business Manager Lou Antonellis toured the Greater Boston Joint Apprentice Training Center (JATC) together and observed new apprentices learning hands-on skills as they forge new careers. With an IBEW apprenticeship, students “earn while they learn,” and are paid competitive wages and receive first class benefits as soon as their training begins.

One such apprentice is Alejandro Cardenas, an East Boston resident who always wanted to work with his hands. “I’m learning everything, from small outlets to part of the high voltage system. This is an amazing opportunity. Everyone is for you, nobody is against you, and that’s one of the things about this place. If you ask something of a teacher, they will go out of their way to find the answer for you,” said Cardenas.

In April of 2023, Massport and Local 103 IBEW signed a three-year contract ensuring the highest standards of electric and technician services for Massport’s infrastructure and facilities and a shared commitment to creating good, family-sustaining jobs throughout Greater Boston.

“Massport is proud to partner with IBEW Local 103 and the Greater Boston Joint Apprentice Training Center (JATC) to hire East Boston resident and apprentice electrician Alejandro Cardenas at Boston Logan International



Massport CEO Lisa Wieland and Local 103 IBEW Business Manager Lou Antonellis prepare to tour the JATC

al Airport,” said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. “Supporting programs like these ensure employment opportunities that are reflective and inclusive of Massport’s surrounding communities. The hands-on experience Alejandro gains at the airport will be essential throughout his multi-year training program.”

One of the highest-rated and most prestigious apprenticeship programs in the country, the JATC Training Program was created by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 103, and the Greater Boston Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) with one goal — to produce the most highly skilled and professional electricians and technicians in the industry. Each apprentice completes 10,000 hours of on-the-job training with experienced journeypersons, plus 1,000 hours of intensive classroom instruction with qualified instructors, leaving with a Journey level electrician or Systems Technician Commonwealth of Massachusetts electrical license.

“We deeply value our

partnership with Massport,” said Lou Antonellis, Business Manager and Financial Secretary with Local 103 IBEW. “Workforce development and training are crucial to keep creating the kind of good, union jobs our communities need. We’re very proud that our partnership will produce highly skilled workers capable of maintaining and expanding operational services at Logan Airport and other crucial transportation infrastructure overseen by Massport.

The mission of Local 103 IBEW is to provide Greater Boston’s developers with the best-trained, most-efficient, safest electricians and telecommunications specialists, while fostering our Union’s values of economic fairness, equal opportunity and charitable giving in the communities we work, live and raise our families.

Powering What’s Possible. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport.

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OBITUARIES

Philip “Sonny” Viola

Retired Winthrop School Custodian known for his wonderful disposition and personality

 Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Visiting Hours on Tuesday, November 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Philip J. “Sonny” Viola who died on Saturday, November 4th at the Massachusetts General Hospital following a long illness. He was 89 years old. A Funeral Service will be held in the funeral home at 1 p.m. Interment with military honors will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.



Sonny was born in Boston on May 11, 1934 to his late parents, Joseph and Phyllis (Delavora) Viola, the only boy of four children. He and his three sisters were all raised and educated in East Boston. Sonny attended East Boston High School. He was drafted into the US Army during the Korean Conflict and proudly and faithfully served his country from 1954 to 1957. He was honorably discharged as a Private 2n class. Sonny then began working at A & B Shoes on Essex Street in downtown Boston and then took a position as a baker at Stop & Shop in the production store for over 17 years. Sonny then left to work for the Town of Winthrop School Department as a custodian. Sonny had a wonderful disposition and personality. Sonny was witty, kind, personable and positive.

He was a very big sports fan, especially of the Boston Sports Teams. He was in a Bowling league for many years at Central Lanes in East Boston. His love for his sisters and their children was very present. He was affectionately known as “Uncle Sonny.” He was the beloved brother of Marie Graziano of Revere and her late husband, William Graziano, Lucille A. Abate and her late husband, A. Ed Abate and Jean R. Scario and her late husband, Raymond Scarino. He was the cherished uncle of Cheryl A. Vargus, Charles E. Green and his companion, Caroline Winter and Kenneth Green, all of Revere and the late David W. Green; the treasured grand uncle of Tiffany Green and her companion, Kirk Crowley and Chloe A. Green, all of Revere. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in Sonny’s Memory to the Jimmy Fund – Dana Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168 Boston, MA 02284-9168. For online guest book, please visit: www.vertuciosmithvazza.com.

Viola Caggiano

Her legacy of love, warmth and hospitality will continue to inspire those who were touched by her presence

Viola Caggiano, lovingly known to her family and friends, peacefully passed away on October 18. She was the devoted wife of the late Michael F. Caggiano and a cherished mother to Sandra Caggiano, Corinne Barisano and her late husband, Ronald, Michael F. Caggiano Jr. and his wife, Pamela and Cammy Green and her late husband, Charles. Viola was also a beloved sister of the late Frances DiStasi, Orlando Bossi, Anna Manfra, Domenic Bossi, and Carmella DiRienzo.

Viola’s legacy extended through generations, as she was a doting grandmother to Michael F. Caggiano III and his wife, Kelly and Krysta Caggiano and her husband, Robb Brooks. She took immense joy in her role as a great-grandmother to Gianna, Michael and John, cherishing each moment with them. Her love and warmth were felt by many loving nieces and nephews. Born on July 26, 1926, Viola spent her entire life as a proud resident of East Boston. In 1954, she married the love of her life, Michael F. Caggiano, embarking on a journey filled with love and cherished memories. Viola had a passion for spending time with her family, enjoying spirited card games and evenings filled with bingo. Tuesday nights were reserved for poker with her closest girlfriends and she reveled in hosting holidays, upholding traditions, and preparing Sunday dinners that brought everyone together.



Viola was known for her open-door policy, welcoming all with open arms. Her home was a place of warmth and hospitality, where countless cherished memories were created. Friends and family paid their respects during visiting hours at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, on Monday, October 23 and again on Tuesday, October 24 followed by a Funeral Mass in celebration of Viola’s life celebrated at Sacred Heart Church on Brooks Street, East Boston. Following the Mass, Viola was laid to rest beside her beloved husband at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Care Dimensions at 75 Liberty Street, Danvers, MA. Viola’s memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing her, and her legacy of love, warmth, and hospitality will continue to inspire those who were touched by her presence.

Rose Elena Tacelli

Passed on November 3rd


Rose Elena (Maddalone) Tacelli passed away peacefully on November 3. She was the loving daughter of the late Frank and Carmella (Grieco) Maddalone and the beloved wife of the late Arthur Tacelli. Rose was the devoted mother of Carla Tacelli DiRuzza and her husband, Carmine. She was the cherished grandmother of Christopher and Christina DiRuzza, the dear sister of Saverio, Frank and the late Phillip “Beebe” Maddalone and the sister-in-law of the very special Kenneth Tacelli. Family and friends honored Rose by gathering at her treasured parish, St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston, on Monday, November 6, from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Tuesday, November 7 for an 11 a.m. Mass celebrating her life. Services concluded with Rose being laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

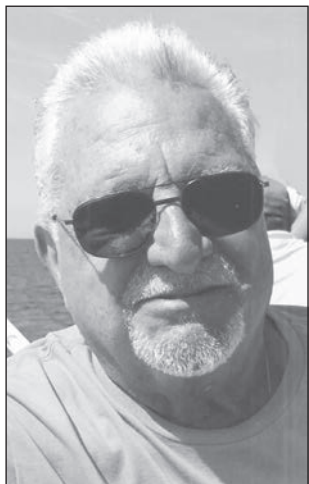


If you wish, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Rose’s name to the Campus School at Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill 02467, Attention: Tom Miller. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com. Arrangements under the personal care of the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston.

Salvatore “Sal” Napolitano

Retired MWRA Maintenance Mechanic and member of East Boston ITAM

 Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours on Friday, November 10th from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Salvatore J. “Sal” Napolitano who died following a brief illness with Pancreatic Cancer. He would have celebrated his 78th birthday on November 19th. A Funeral Mass will follow the visitation at 12 noon in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere. Interment will be held privately.




Sal was born to his late parents, Ralph and (Noto) Vincenza in Winthrop. He was raised with his two sisters and brother in East Boston, educated in Boston Public Schools and attended East Boston High School. Sal enlisted in the United States Army during the Viet Nam War. He proudly and bravely served his country from 1965-1967. He returned home, married and had two daughters, Dawn and Kristin. He remained in East Boston for many years, until moving to Saugus with his daughter, Kristin, over 23 years ago. Sal worked as a Maintenance Mechanic for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) at the Deer Island Facility in Winthrop for over thirty years. Some of Sal’s favorite ways to spend time was fishing, going for boat rides and listening to music. He was a member of the East Boston ITAM Club, where he socialized with many friends and fellow veterans. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Sal loved his family unconditionally. He was the loving father of Dawn M. Ryan of Auburn, ME and Kristin Faiella and her husband, Joseph, Jr. of Saugus; the cherished papa of eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren; the former husband of Elaine C. (Powers) Napolitano of East Boston; the treasured brother of Susan McMahon of Revere and her late husband, Philip McMahon, Gerard Napolitano of East Boston and the late Nancy Fontaine. He is also lovingly survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Sal’s memory to Make A Wish Foundation Mass & RI, 133 Federal St. 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02110. For online guestbook, please visit: www.vertuciosmithvazza.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU23P2421EA
Estate of: Donald Bradford Roy
Also Known As: Donald B. Roy
Date of Death: July 20, 2023
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Paul R. Konikowski of Billerica, MA. A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Paul R. Konikowski of Billerica, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

11/08/23
EB

Joseph Costanzo of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away at home on October 29. He was 93 years old. Born in East Boston, the beloved son of the late Francesca (Arrigo) and Giovanni Costanzo, he was a resident of Winthrop for over 50 years, he worked as a laborer for Local 22. He was also a member of the National Guard. He was the devoted husband of the late Josephine (Olivieri) and the loving father of Francine Pappas Mariano and her husband, Richard and Maria DelPapa and her husband, Joseph, all of Danville, NH, John Costanzo of Winthrop, Debra Crescente and her husband, Anthony of Medford and Joseph Costanzo, Jr. and his wife, Lisa of Revere; dear brother of the late Leo Costanzo and Orazio “Ray” Costanzo; cherished grandfather of Sean Pappas and his wife, Nanci of Peabody, Alaina Pappas and her partner, Eric Barrows of Orlando, Florida, Joseph DiRocco and his wife, Cassidy of Saugus, Anthony Crescente and his wife, Samantha of Wakefield, Christopher Costanzo and Darren Costanzo of Revere and great grandfather of Bradley Pappas, Joshua Pappas, Matthew Pappas and Luca DiRocco. He was lovingly cared for by family and friends, Parc at Harbor View, Neighborhood Pace, Care Dimensions and Right at

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Home. Relatives and friends attended the visitation from the Caggiano-O’Malley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop on Sunday, November 5 and the funeral was conducted from the funeral home on Monday, November 6 followed by a Funeral Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church, 320 Winthrop St., Winthrop. Services concluded with the interment in the Belle Isle section of Winthrop Cemetery. Memorial donations may be sent to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan St., Danvers MA 01923 or go to www.caredimensions.org. To sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Build a bowl

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

There are many ways that “Bowl Meals” can be a lifesaver for busy cooks. Whether you order bowls for takeout or prepare them at home, they fit into a busy life and the hectic holiday season.

With some preparation, you can have the ingredients for a tasty bowl ready to layer for dining at home or take with you for a meal away from home. You can make bowls for breakfast, lunch, or dinner for yourself or the whole family.

You can make all components from scratch or stock your pantry with healthy products to create your masterpieces. Our pantry has prepared grains and cans of tuna and salmon with vegetables. Sometimes, our bowl meal is simply a grain or legume with one of those cans of protein and vegetables on top.

Growing Popularity

The catering firm Mai-

son Culinaire explained the 30% growth of the bowl in chain and fast food restaurants. Among their reasons for adding bowls to their menu is the ability to substitute gluten-free or low-carb ingredients for simple high-carb ones for the health-conscious or those with restricted diets. They can also offer options for nutritionally balanced meals, indulgent or decadent bowls, or pure comfort food.

This meal staple is prevalent across Asia. You can adapt yours to the flavors of many cuisines. Burrito bowls are among the most popular takeout items these days.

Bowl Basics

There have been cookbooks written on the basics of building a meal bowl. Your public library should have a few in both physical and ebook forms. The Internet is a treasure trove of ideas to brainstorm what you want in your bowl.

We start with a base layer like pasta, noodles, grains, legumes, or beans. We tend to choose something filling. Top this with colorful vegetables in easy-to-eat forms, for example, shredded carrots or chopped cabbage. Add some bites of a protein source. Salmon, chicken, shrimp, sausages, and cheese are among our favorites to star on the top of our bowls.

Once your layers are in place, it’s time to add some moisture and crunch. Keep the crunch and sauce on the side if you’re packing the bowl to go. The saucy note could be a salad dressing, yogurt, raita, or dip like the nuoc cham we love on Vietnamese noodle salad. Crunch can come from nuts, croutons, sliced chilies, or pickled vegetables.

Holiday Bowls

There are two ways bowls fit into holiday meal planning. First is to feed various friends and



This Vietnamese noodle salad is one of our favorite bowl meals.

family from prepared bowl ingredients. Putting out a table of options and encouraging everyone to make their personal bowl allows a host to enjoy the gathering.

The second is to make bowls with the leftovers from a holiday meal or party. Let’s take the traditional Thanksgiving meal as an example. The base layer could be stuffing, mashed potatoes, or roasted root vegetables.

Those roasted vegetables could also be the colorful second layer. You could lighten the bowl by using vegetable sides, like Brussels sprouts, green beans, or even peas and carrots from your freezer. The turkey is the protein, and the gravy is the sauce.

Just as the traditional meal needs the brightness

and tart notes of cranberry sauce to wake the palate, we put this on the side to add to the bites you eat. Many times, nuts are on the holiday table or on hand for seasonal baking. We suggest pecans for a Thanksgiving bowl.

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

World’s largest franchise operator acquires a planet fitness franchise

Special to the Times-Free Press

Flynn Restaurant Group LP (“Flynn”), the largest franchise operator in the world, announced it has acquired a highly-successful Planet Fitness franchise from Alder Partners, LLC, which operates 37 locations in two major markets in the United States. A significant investment for Flynn, it is the operator’s first foray into an adjacent sector outside of the restaurant space since its founding in 1999. Fifth Third Securities facilitated on both sides of the transaction, serving as both the sell-side advisor for Alder Partners and left lead arranger and administrative agent for Flynn. Coinciding with its entry into fitness, Flynn Restaurant Group also announced its rebranding to Flynn Group, a change which reflects its evolved vision to be the premier franchise operator in the world, spanning multiple industries and countries.

With leading positions in some of the most recognized consumer brands, Flynn Group has an unrivaled track record of successfully scaling multi-unit consumer concepts. Its focus has been on building a portfolio of dominant and distinct, valuebased brands and supporting them with a unique structure and culture to deliver superior and

sustained risk-adjusted returns. With its rebranding to Flynn Group, the operator is now in a unique position to tap into new, complimentary markets at scale, with no distraction to its core restaurant businesses. The Planet Fitness acquisition is Flynn Group’s third major move in 2023, which was highlighted by significant international deals including Wendy’s and Pizza Hut in Australia.

“We’re incredibly excited to enter a new sector and, with it, our third chapter of growth at Flynn,” said Greg Flynn, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Flynn Group. “For over a decade, our focus was exclusively on building our Applebee’s business, and establishing best practices in structure, culture and systems. Chapter two was about diversification across the restaurant industry to mirror its composition, welcoming new brands such as Taco Bell, Panera, Arby’s, Wendy’s and Pizza Hut to the Flynn family. Chapter three will layer on two new growth channels – international restaurants and adjacent, consumer-facing franchised businesses – such as fitness – to our core domestic restaurant business. We are eager to accelerate growth across all channels and to bring our full capabilities to bear to

drive even more value for our franchise systems and customers alike.”

When evaluating potential complementary segments for expansion, the fast-growing consumer fitness category was a primary target for Flynn Group. With an investment thesis built on concepts that offer consumers a substantial value proposition and expertise in operating multi-unit and multi-state consumer facing franchised businesses, the Planet Fitness brand aligned seamlessly with Flynn Group, leading it ultimately to Alder Partners. One of Planet Fitness’ original and most respected franchisees, Alder Partners’ footprint spans two markets – Atlanta and Boston – with 37 clubs. With Flynn Group’s acquisition, the portfolio is now positioned for substantial growth via new club development and follow-on acquisitions.

“You’d be hard pressed to find a more respected and dedicated franchisee in the Planet Fitness system than Alder,” added Greg Flynn. “Under Stan DeMartinis’ leadership, Alder grew its Planet Fitness portfolio to 37 clubs, and did so without wavering from its core values, which are lock step with our own. We are excited to have found such a great partner to enter the Planet Fitness brand and we are

looking forward to an outstanding partnership.” The Alder management team will continue to run the business under the Flynn Group umbrella, with its founder, Stan DeMartinis, Jr., leading the team as Brand President.

Alder Partners has been part of the Planet Fitness system since 2007, when the family run business converted its World Gym location in East Boston, MA to Planet Fitness. Alder Partners saw rapid growth over the next several years after signing an Area Development Agreement (ADA) in 2010 with Planet Fitness to develop the Atlanta DMA. Over the past 12 years, Alder has organically developed 31 additional clubs in Massachusetts and Georgia. In 2020, it acquired six additional locations from the PollyDot Corp. in MA.

“It was a very emotional decision to weigh the benefits of selling my family’s business to an outside party,” said Stan DeMartinis, Jr., Managing Partner, Alder Partners. “After a series of conversations with Greg and his team, it became evident that they would allow us to grow on many different levels. I am thrilled to have found a partner who aligns with our core values, investment horizon, and that’s dedicated to helping accelerate our growth and bring an affordable health and wellness experience to more and more people. We believe we have the foundation of a uniquely differentiated platform that does not exist in the Planet Fitness ecosystem today and are excited about the future with Flynn Group.”

Under the Flynn Group umbrella, the business will continue with growth in its current ADA with plans to open three additional Planet Fitness clubs within the coming four months. One of the earliest franchisees in the Planet Fitness system, Alder has deep connections to the Planet Fitness corporate team and is a trusted advisor to other franchisees as Stan DeMartinis is an active, founding board member of the Planet Fitness Independent Franchisee Council (PIFC), an organization in which he has held various leadership roles including a multi-year term as President. Flynn Group will rely heavily on those relationships and Alder’s expertise in this sector, including an unmatched team of dedicated fitness operators, to execute on the growth strategy and to ensure the established culture of success established by the DeMartinis Family, continues.

Flynn Group LP (formerly Flynn Restaurant Group) is the largest franchise operator in the world. Founded by Chairman & CEO Greg Flynn in 1999, Flynn Restaurant Group currently owns and operates 2,600 restaurants and fitness clubs in 44 states and two countries, generating \$4.5 billion in sales and employing 75,000 people. It’s affiliate, Flynn Properties Inc., owns 121 hotels in the United States and Mexico, including 109 franchised hotels. More information is available at www.flynn.com.

Alder Partners, LLC (Alder) is a privately held multi-unit franchisee of Planet Fitness. Alder Partners is a family run business that currently owns and operates a total of 37 Planet Fitness clubs in Georgia and Massachusetts. As an independent franchise the company was built on core values. Those values include having a customer centric mindset, unwavering perseverance, integrity, loyalty, gratitude and being family oriented.

Founded in 1992 in Dover, NH, Planet Fitness is one of the largest and fastest-growing franchisors and operators of fitness centers in the world by number of members and locations. As of June 30, 2023, Planet Fitness had more than 18.4 million members and 2,472 stores in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, Panama, Mexico and Australia. The Company’s mission is to enhance people’s lives by providing a high-quality fitness experience in a welcoming, non-intimidating environment, which we call the Judgement Free Zone®. More than 90% of Planet Fitness stores are owned and operated by independent business men and women.

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63-year-old charged after police recover large amount of drugs in East Boston apartment

An East Boston man is facing numerous drug charges after a several months-long investigation led to the recovery of 240 grams of fentanyl, 65 grams of cocaine, 13 grams of crack cocaine, and 15 pounds of marijuana from his home, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

ROBERT CIAMPI, 63, was charged Thursday in East Boston BMC with trafficking in cocaine more than 36 grams, trafficking in fentanyl more than 10 grams, possession with intent to distribute class A (subsequent offense), possession with intent to distribute class B (subsequent offense), possession with intent to distribute class C (subsequent offense), and possession with intent to distribute class D (subsequent offense).

Judge Debra DelVecchio set bail at \$5,000 and ordered Ciampi to remain drug and alcohol free with GPS monitoring and home confinement except from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays through Saturdays for work. Ciampi is due back in court on December 6 for a probable cause hearing.

At Thursday’s arraignment, Assistant District Attorney Amanda Taylor referenced Ciampi’s prior record, which stretches back to 1975 and includes entries of various drug offenses and convictions. Ciampi served a four-year sentence on his most recent drug-related conviction.

At about 11:08 am, on November 1, Boston police executed a search warrant in an apartment at 54 Orleans Street in East Boston, belonging to Ciampi. Police located various narcotics throughout the apartment, including a

BOSTON’S VETERANS DAY PARADE

The November 4 Boston Veterans Day Parade began at the Boston Public Library located on Boylston Street and marched to the corner of Park and Tremont Streets, and ended at 1 City Hall Plaza. This was a new and exciting parade designed to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families, as well as a thank you to all who continue to serve.



PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR
ROTC contingent from East Boston High School marching in the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 4, in the Back Bay.



PHOTO COURTESY THE MAYORS OFFICE
All the branches of the military were represented.



PHOTO COURTESY THE MAYORS OFFICE
The Boston Fire Department's Color Guard..



PHOTO COURTESY THE MAYORS OFFICE
Families brought photos of family members who served in the military.



PHOTO COURTESY THE MAYORS OFFICE
Boston thanks our veterans for their service and their selflessness.

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A VETERAN TODAY



**ADRIAN
MADARO**
State Representative

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the ultimate sacrifice



Lydia Edwards
STATE SENATOR

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