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TIMES-FREE PRESS

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East Boston High awarded \$100,000 for accomplishments

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

East Boston High School was revealed as the winner of EdVestors' School on the Move Prize during a ceremony last week at the Westin Copley.

The recognition netted East Boston High School a prize of \$100,000. According to a press release from EdVestors, the award includes \$80,000 in cash, with the remaining \$20,000 going toward "best practice research."

"I would like to thank EdVestors and their distinguished panel for their outstanding commitment to students across the City of Boston and for granting us your tremendous award," said Phillip Brangiforte, East Boston High School's Headmaster.

This year's ceremony marked the 18th time the School on the Move Prize has been given out. "Today is about shining a spotlight on the schools,

leaders, and teachers who create and continuously improve the learning environments where all our students can thrive," said Myran Parker-Brass Edvestors' Governing Board Chair.

"By sharing the stories of Boston Schools on the Move, our aim is to help more schools improve," she added.

Through the prize selection process, all Boston Public Schools (BPS) serving students from Pre-K to 12th grade could apply. Eventually, eight semi-finalist schools were whittled down to three by a selection panel.

The School on the Move Prize finalists were East Boston High School, Boston Green Academy, and Fenway High School.

Parker-Brass explained that the schools were chosen based on "their demonstrated improvements, their focus on equity, and the relevance of their improvement story to



East Boston High School's Headmaster Phillip Brangiforte (center) poses with students after winning EdVestors' School on the Move Prize.

other schools."

As part of the ceremony, those in attendance had the opportunity to learn

more about each school as a video from each finalist was shown. Additionally, those in attendance heard

remarks from BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper and Mayor Michelle Wu.

Both Skipper and Wu

were complimentary of all

See EBHS Page 2

Truck Trouble at Sumner and Seaver Streets

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

On the evening of November 7th, a semi-truck making a delivery to Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina allegedly damaged a fence at Brophy Park and a neighbor's car attempting to turn from Sumner Street onto Seaver Street.

According to a police report obtained by the East Boston Times, a witness and the accident victim stated seeing the truck struggle with the aforementioned turn.

The report also indicates that a redacted party observed the truck hitting the victim's vehicle, which had been parked in front of 12A Seaver

Street. Moreover, the report states that the officer observed damage both to the victim's car and the fence, which was de-

scribed as "concaved in."

The report also detailed that a redacted party stated that the driver of the truck fled the scene after photos

of the truck were taken.

The next day, November 8th, police responded

See TROUBLE Page 3

Brahms Symphony No. 4 highlights North Shore Philharmonic "Fall" concert

Special to the Times-Free Press

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra will honor the memory of one of its most beloved and longstanding members, clarinetist Murray Burnstine, when Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts the NSPO in its Fall concert to begin the 2023-2024 season on Sunday, November 19, 3:00 p.m. at Swampscott High School.

The "Murray Burnstine Memorial Concert" pro-

gram includes Johannes Brahms brilliant Fourth Symphony and music of French composers Gabriel Faure and Cecile Chaminade, with flutist Lisa Hennessy as guest soloist in Chaminade's "Concertino for Flute."

Burnstine, who played clarinet with the NSPO for nearly 30 years, died in June at the age of 94. "Murray was self-deprecating and easy going, with a dry sense of humor, yet fiercely dedicated to

his music," said Music Director Lehmann. "He was an experienced, veteran player in many genres, always up for something challenging and new and he loved making music with his colleagues."

Lehmann touted the concert program. "French and German music have aesthetically been at opposite ends of the musical spectrum in terms of concept French compositional style," he said. "Faure's Masques et Bergamasques epitomizes this sensibility in that it pays homage to France's rich musical and literary heritage. Brahms, on the other hand, was expected to represent the traditional Teutonic world of rich, heavy and 'learned' compositional elements." Lehmann noted, though, that Brahms "...slyly pays homage to the same 'Classical' ele-



Flutist Lisa Hennessy.



Music Director Robert Lehmann.

See CONCERT Page 2


THE EAST BOSTON CHAMBER COMMEMORATES VETERANS DAY



The East Boston Chamber of Commerce will be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming Veterans Day on Saturday, 11/11/23 at the Daniel H Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street. Veterans Day celebrates the bravery and sacrifice of all United States' veterans. It was originally known as "Armistice Day" which began on the one-year anniversary of when the agreement to cease fire was made to end World War I.

Due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, ads for the next issue are due Monday, Nov. 20, at 10 a.m.

TRASH DELAY
Due to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday on Thurs., Nov. 23rd, Trash will be delayed by one day on **THURSDAY & FRIDAY ONLY**
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Friday pickups will be on Saturday 11/25
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Louijeune to be next Council President

Last week, Ruthzee Louijeune, At-Large Boston City Councilor, announced she would be leading the council as Council President for her upcoming term. This comes two days after Louijeune earned the place as top vote getter in her first bid for reelection. In a showing of incredible force, Louijeune earned more votes than any At-Large candidate has received in an off year in recent history.

“I am humbled that my colleagues believe in me to lead the Boston City Council in the next term. We have a lot of work to do when it comes to meeting the basic needs of residents and it’s clear that is what our communities want us to focus on. I look forward to strengthening relationships with my colleagues and building relationships with my colleagues joining in January.” Councilor Louijeune said in a statement. “We are a city of diverse people and diverse needs. We will not always agree, but we can come together to move this city forward and meet the pressing issues we are facing with joy, collegiality, and an unwavering work ethic on behalf of those who are often excluded. As

the second Black woman to top the ticket, and the third Black person to lead the Council, I am eager to bring my lived experience and deep love for the entire city of Boston to this role.”

“I’m proud to support our new Council President Ruthzee Louijeune as not only an amazing colleague, but an incredible friend.” Councilor Brian Worrell said in a statement “I’m honored to serve as Vice President of the Council and I look forward to working closely with her and the Council to best serve our city. The diversity of our leadership team is a great sign of the progress and potential of our city.”

The Council Presidency is determined by the thirteen member body to identify the individual that will lead the body. The Council President holds responsibility to make key decisions on committee assignments, lead council proceedings, and set a culture for the body as a whole. Louijeune has proven her aptitude for this position by leading complex council processes such as redistricting, and remaining a cool head in times of unrest.

“Ruthzee is the steady and competent leader

ready to take the gavel as Council president,” Councilor Gigi Coletta said in a statement. “She’s demonstrated the decisiveness to lead this body through difficult and complex situations. I’m confident in her abilities, intelligence, and more importantly her heart.”

First elected to the Boston City Council in 2021, Louijeune brings seven years’ experience working on political and advocacy campaigns, fighting for working people and Black and Brown communities on issues of housing, education access, and voting rights. Most recently, Louijeune started her own legal and advocacy business, The Opening PLLC. Previously, Louijeune served as Senior Counsel for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren’s presidential campaign. Prior to that, she was a lawyer at Perkins Coie LLP.

The daughter of Haitian immigrants, fluent in Haitian Creole, French, and conversant in Spanish, Louijeune is the first Haitian-American to hold elected office in Boston city government. You can find more information about her campaign at: www.ruthzeeforboston.com.

Trouble // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to a call at the Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina, where the shipyard’s Head of Security communicated to the police that overnight security staff had identified a delivery truck with damage that stayed overnight.

When questioned by police, the report indicated that the driver of the truck said they had been operating the truck the night before and were aware that they hit the fence around Brophy Park. However, the truck operator “denied having any knowledge” of hitting a parked car.

The report continued, indicating that due to the observed damage to the truck and the circumstances of the original call, the BPD Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit was requested to respond to inspect the vehicle.

Upon inspection, the vehicle’s brakes were observed as defective, and it was placed out of service, according to the report.

This incident highlights an issue continually plaguing East Boston: truck traffic. A neighborhood resident, Mary Cole, expanded on this problem in email correspondence with the East Boston Times.

“Large 18-wheeler trucks making deliveries to the East Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina are a continuing problem for our neighborhood. The narrow streets are not appropriate for truck traffic,” wrote Cole.

She expanded on the subject, explaining that there have been incidents at places like Cottage, Orleans, Webster, and Marginal Streets.

Another resident, Michael Dwyer, also spoke about the issue of truck traffic in the neighborhood, especially on Marginal Street.

“It’s a big problem on Marginal Street specifically. Marginal is a dead-end street — it dead ends at the shipyard, and there’s no other way that 18-wheel trucks can come in and out of there,” said Dwyer.

He also spoke about how there is not enough room on the street for two trucks to pass each other and how the way trucks



PHOTOS COURTESY OF: MARY COLE

A visual of the damage to a resident’s car.

maneuver currently backs up traffic, “I’ve got pictures of traffic driving the wrong way up Cottage Street because the trucks are blocking the road — it’s a disaster waiting to happen,” said Dwyer.

State Representative Adrian Madaro also acknowledged the truck traffic issue and the incidents that occur not only in East Boston but also in other areas around the city, like Storrow Drive.

“These things unfortunately happen, and it’s not acceptable when it does, and there absolutely needs to be a recourse,” said Madaro.

In addition to both Dwyer and Cole demonstrating their feelings about truck traffic in the neighborhood currently, they also raised some concerns about projects in the area exacerbating the problem.

Dwyer spoke specifically about his concerns about increased traffic associated with parking included in Phase II of Piers Park, and both he and Cole shared concerns about the planned expansion of the Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina and the potential for increased truck traffic.

However, regarding the shipyard’s role, Marshall Greenland, Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina’s General Manager, said, “We are not calculating any anticipated increase in tractor-trailers as a result of our increased vessel repair and water transportation type work.”

“Most of that comes over the water, which is why we’re looking to build bigger lifts and better infrastructure so that we can get those boats out of the water,” he added.

Greenland also explained that the shipyard

has partnered with the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) on traffic management plans for the yard. “So as we work through this plan, we’ll continue to update and develop our mitigation efforts,” he said.

Greenland went into some current mitigation efforts, including ensuring shipyard tenants contact their vendors regarding proper truck routes. He also spoke about updating truck route signage and working with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to protect truck routes.

“Events like last week, we’ll send out an email to all of our tenants just making sure that they’re aware of what happened, just restating ‘please reach out to your truckers, let them know this happened, send them again the truck routes that are used to get into the shipyard,” said Greenland.

While it seems like it would be impossible to totally prevent incidents like last week’s from happening in the future, Madaro made it clear it does not mean preventive measures will not be explored.

“It’s something that we’re actively working on to try to increase signage, get the word out there better; one thing that’s being explored is how we can better work with the GPS companies to make sure that the GPSs are reflecting the most appropriate route for an 18-wheeler,” said Madaro.

“Do I ever think they can be fully eliminated? Perhaps not, but we can certainly do our best to try to minimize them because it’s not acceptable for public property to be damaged or private property to be damaged.”



The damage taken to the fence at Brophy Park.

The Greater Boston Food Bank’s Chain of Giving confronts sustained food insecurity

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, held its 18th annual Chain of Giving event last week, a yearly tradition convening civic leaders and community members to spotlight and alleviate holiday food insecurity and kick off GBFB’s Hunger Free Holidays campaign.

“Food insecurity is a challenge that we all must come together to solve. Together, we can end the root causes of food insecurity and end hunger once and for all in Massachusetts,” said Governor Maura Healey. “I am grateful for the outstanding work The Greater Boston Food Bank does to assist our communities and for their partnership and commitment with our state.”

As GBFB aims to provide nutritious and culturally responsive food to families in need this holiday season, Governor Maura Healey, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and GBFB President and CEO Catherine D’Amato shared remarks on the urgency of addressing food insecurity in the Bay State. Over 150 participants then passed nearly 1,000 turkeys from a delivery truck to GBFB’s freezer to donate to families in need. This represents only a portion of the 27,000 turkeys and other poultry options the nonprofit expects to distribute to pantries across Eastern Massachusetts throughout the holidays.

“Hunger is not an issue that anyone or any organization can tackle alone. We are working together with The Greater Boston Food Bank to help fund and provide resources to nearly 70 food pantries across the City, feeding

nearly 50,000 people every month,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Boston is blessed to have so many incredible organizations fighting food insecurity and expanding food access across our neighborhoods.”

The event’s presenting sponsor was Affiliated Managers Group (AMG), and its lead sponsor was National Grid. State Representatives Brandy Fluker Oakley, Christopher Worrell, James Arena-DeRosa, John Moran, Kevin Honan, Rob Consalvo and Samantha Montaño; Commissioner for the Department of Transitional Assistance Jeff McCue, MDAR Commissioner Ashley Randalles, Deputy Commissioner Winton Pickoff, as well as other state and local officials joined the tradition, alongside the beloved mascots for the Red Sox, Patriots and Bruins.

The state of food insecurity in Massachusetts remains a stark reality for the 1.8 million individuals facing hunger this holiday season. GBFB’s average food pantry partners report a 12 percent increase in individuals served from 2022. The USDA found national food insecurity rates increased between 30-40 percent in 2022, echoing the trends revealed in GBFB’s annual study on the state of food insecurity.

The report found that:

- 1 in 3 MA residents continue to face food insecurity
- Alarming child-level food insecurity
- Deep-rooted disparities in food access based on race, ethnicity, geography and sexual orientation

“We know Hunger is not an emergency — it’s a daily experience for too many of our neighbors across the Commonwealth,” said Catherine D’Amato.

to, GBFB President and CEO. “The pandemic may be over, but unfortunately hunger remains, and hunger should not be business as usual. With your help we have the power to end it and this holiday season we are urging the public to help us, help others.”

Boston Public School Students Win Nally Award

Each year, GBFB honors outstanding young people who have championed hunger-relief in their communities with the Nally Award. Established in 2006, the award is named after Danny and Betsy Nally, who at ages 8 and 6, started their very first turkey drive for GBFB. This year’s Nally Award winners are Ita Berg, Niamh Govender, and Laura Nguyen, three exceptional Boston Latin High School students that are making a difference here in our community. Last year as sophomores, they took their love of baking cookies and turned it into a fundraiser for GBFB called “Cookies for a Cause” which raised over \$1,000.

Boston Mayor Wu presented the Nally award to the Boston Latin students alongside their teacher, Mr. Andrew Zou. In her remarks she noted these students realized that they didn’t need the money that they were making as much as other people might, and so with the help of their teacher, they decided to donate it to The Greater Boston Food Bank. The students have set up their own peer-to-peer fundraising webpage to support their upcoming holiday bake sale.

To learn more about The Greater Boston Food Bank or to play a role in their annual Hunger Free Holidays campaign visit GBFB.org/holidays,

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

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

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

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



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PUBLIC NOTICE

As a part of East Boston Cannabis Company's "Positive Impact Plan" EBCC has made the following educational classes available on ZOOM.

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 16
At 6 PM

<https://princetonlabel.zoom.us/j/82052981025?pwd=2Aj6uasOXdDgbiFbxrQZ4rwa9MEhqs.1>

East Boston Cannabis Company is committed to providing educational programs and informational sessions geared towards individuals from the Target Areas and/or Massachusetts Residents who have, or have parents or spouses who have, past drug convictions that are interested in the cannabis industry, with specific focuses on marijuana retailers and entrepreneurship.

Such educational events will specifically include, but not be limited to, information on **licensing workshops (i.e., guidance on filing applications with the Commission), preparation of standard operating policies and procedures, Massachusetts cannabis market overview and METRC best practices.**

East Boston

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REMEMBERING PRESIDENT JOHN K. KENNEDY

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy 60 years ago this week seared an indelible imprint into the memory of every American who was alive at that time. Just as the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 5, 1941, had been to an older generation and the terrorist attacks on the twin towers on 9/11 of 2001 has been for today’s younger generations, every American can recall where they were and the shock they felt when they first heard the news that President Kennedy had been shot while on his motorcade in Dallas, Texas in the early afternoon of November 22, 1963.

We were in our fourth grade classroom at Our Lady of Grace School in Chelsea-Everett when the principal interrupted class to make the mind-numbing announcement and release everybody from school immediately. Though we were only nine years old at the time, we knew instantly that something had changed, both in our own lives and for the country, and that the world never would be the same again.

When people think of the cultural changes that took place in the 1960s, they think of President Kennedy as emblematic of those changes. But the reality is that the ’60s of our popular culture really did not take place until after his assassination. America on November 22, 1963, still was very much as it had been for the previous decade during the Eisenhower years and through the three years of Kennedy’s presidency: We were at peace (though engaged in a Cold War) and we were prosperous, but the evolving rights of minorities, women, and gays still were very much under the national radar screen in a culture dominated by white males. It still would be a few years before the multitude of societal changes that would shape our personal lives and America -- and the world -- into what we know it today.

The assassination of President Kennedy was the first of four major political assassinations over the course of the next four and one-half years -- Malcolm X in 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, and culminating with that of Robert F. Kennedy, President Kennedy’s brother, in early June, 1968.

But in November, 1963, that wave of assassinations, as well as the violent and incendiary protests and riots that were to engulf our inner cities and college campuses from the mid-’60s through the mid-’70s, were not even remotely imaginable. In particular, the war in Vietnam, the catalyst for much of the nation’s decade of turmoil, still was a clandestine operation with only a few hundred American advisers in the field on behalf of the government of South Vietnam.

Was it just a coincidence that America, and indeed the world, underwent a transformation in the immediate aftermath of the Kennedy assassination? Or would all of these things have happened regardless of whether President Kennedy had been shot? Would Kennedy have escalated the war in Vietnam? And if not, might the violence that accompanied so many of the changes that occurred in the decade after his death have been averted if President Kennedy had been re-elected to a second term?

These and many other “what ifs” are questions that historians have been pondering in the decades since his death and will continue to do so.

But for those of us who lived through the Kennedy assassination, such issues were far from our minds in its immediate aftermath. Instead, we recall the shock, and then the deep sadness and despair, that was felt universally by all of us as we watched our black and white TV sets and grieved for his young widow and their two small children. John F. Kennedy’s assassination made us all realize the fragility of life and how everything we hold dear can change in an instant, both for ourselves and our loved ones, regardless of our station in life.

So as we think about the events of 60 years ago this week and contemplate how the assassination of John F. Kennedy profoundly affected the future direction not only of America and the world, but also each one of us — let us remember too, the effect that his loss had on his own family, who sacrificed so much on that terrible day in Dallas.

President Kennedy was only 46 years old when he was assassinated. His death brings to mind two phrases from literature, applicable both to Kennedy and the promise of America in that era.

The first is from the ancient Greeks, attributed to the historian Herodotus:

“Those whom the gods love, die young.”

The second is the final paragraph from Gray’s *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*:

Yet ah! Why should they know their fate?
Since sorrow never comes too late,
And happiness too swiftly flies.
Thought would destroy their paradise.
No more; where ignorance is bliss,
’Tis folly to be wise.



Then-U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline hosted the leaders of the Massachusetts Democratic party at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis in 1956. Seated (left to right) are: State Representative James O’Dea from Lowell, who was the House Majority Whip; State Senator John E. Powers from South Boston, who was the Democratic floor leader and the future Senate President in 1959; and Jacqueline Kennedy. Standing (l-r) are Senator Albert Previte from Lawrence; Senator Maurice Donahue from Holyoke (who himself was elected Senate President in 1964 after Powers left the Senate); Senator John Gibley of Worcester. Mass. House Speaker Michael Skerry from Medford; John F. Kennedy; Senator Andrew P. Quigley, who represented Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, and part of Everett; to Quigley’s left is Senator Elizabeth Stanton from Fitchburg; and behind Stanton is Senator Jim Hennigan from Jamaica Plain.

GUEST OP-ED

Parks over pavement

By Jamie McGonagill

On Thursday November 2, leaders in the Logan Community Clean Air Coalition met with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu’s Chief of Staff Tiffany Chu, Environment Commissioner Dr. Alison Brezius, and Director of Stakeholder Engagement Mohammed Missouri to discuss East Boston’s proposed Haul Road project. The goal of the meeting was to establish a productive partnership between the coalition and the City through shared interest in preventing development of unhealthy land uses. The meeting’s tone was friendly and collaborative. In an official statement the Coalition stated that:

“Environmental costs are real costs. And we are thrilled that Chief Chu and the Wu administration are taking environmental and climate justice seriously. We are excited to continue to support the city’s efforts to protect low-income communities from further disproportionately negative environmental and health burdens.”

Coalition members expressed their opposition to ongoing irresponsible expansion of Logan Airport, by Massport and the state. Afterwards, AIR Inc. issued a statement saying, “As we explained to Mayor Wu, when we met in March, we are not asking the city to oppose Logan Airport. We are asking the city to demand that

Massport, travelers, and the state share the environmental and economic costs of this polluting infrastructure and work earnestly and collaboratively to create sustainable and equitable growth plans.”

Chief Chu’s team willingly engaged in the dialogue and the meeting went smoothly. Afterwards community leader and organizer, Valinda Chan said, “Our discussion was not only insightful but also meant a lot to our coalition of community members and organizations in building a partnership with the City of Boston. We are excited about the potential opportunities we explored and the alignment of our “Parks Over Pavement:

No Haul Road” campaign with the City’s initiatives.”

The Logan Community Clean Air Coalition hopes that Mayor Wu’s next step will be to communicate the Wu Administration’s position on the proposed Haul Road and the Administration’s support for the positive alternatives described in the PLAN: East Boston draft to Governor Healey and the current acting MassDOT Secretary Tibbets-Nutt. The Coalition would also like to establish regular meetings with members of Wu’s staff, to help meet the City’s goals and support our communities.

Jamie McGonagill for the Logan Community Clean Air Coalition.

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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Election Results 2023

Coletta re-elected as District 1 City Councilor

Staff Report

Gabriela Coletta, who represents Charlestown, East Boston, the North End and the Downtown Waterfront on the Boston City Council, was re-elected Tuesday.

Coletta, 31, had won a special election in May, 2022, to succeed now-State Sen. Lydia Edwards. Coletta was unopposed in her bid for re-election to a two-year term.

In a letter to the residents of District 1, Coletta stated: "I'm honored to have your confidence and



COURTESY PHOTO
City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

support in my re-election to represent Charlestown, East Boston, the North End, and the Downtown

Waterfront.

I understand many challenges that are unique to my district remain, but I know there is never an issue too large that we can't tackle together. I remain committed to my promise to govern in partnership with you, to center your lived experiences, and to be ever-present in community.

The work continues. And I am so excited to continue working with you toward a healthy, thriving, and abundant District 1."

City Council at-Large results

Staff Report

There will be a new face as Councilor at-Large this January.

Henry Santana, who previously worked in the office of former District 8 Councilor Bok and also served as the city's first Director of Civic Organizing under Mayor Michelle Wu, was the only newcomer elected to one of the four at-Large City Council seats.

Santana placed fourth in the eight-way race, garnering more than 15 percent of the ballot, or 32,902 votes out of a total of 76,397 ballots cast.

"Boston, tonight our



COURTESY PHOTO
Henry Santana.

city delivered a clear and resounding vote for progress. I'm honored to serve as your next City Councilor At-Large, and I'm ready to fight on behalf of every neighborhood and every resident of this

city. Let's get to work," Santana posted on X after declaring victory in the election.

Other top candidates in the at-large race included three incumbents who earned the top three slots and secured their respective reelection bids - Ruthzee Louijeune, who will be City Council President, garnered more than just 20 percent of the ballot or 43,127 votes cast; Erin Murphy, who received just under 20 percent of the ballot, or 42,476 votes cast; and Julia Mejia, who garnered more than 18 percent of the ballot, or 38,529 votes cast.

City of Boston to host third Annual Ship Lighting at Martin's Park on November 25

Boston's newest holiday tradition will once again be held on Saturday, November 25, from 4-6 p.m. in Martin's Park at the Smith Family Waterfront. Located in the Seaport District and Fort Point neighborhoods, this third annual children's celebration is hosted by the Friends of Martin's Park and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.



Shown is a scene from last year's lighting.

Located at 64 Sleeper Street and visible from the Northern Avenue Bridge, Martin's Park at the Smith Family Waterfront is a climate-resilient park built in memory of eight-year-old Martin W. Richard, the youngest victim of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. The accessible park provides play opportunities for children, families, and visitors of all abilities.

The Park's wooden playship is the centerpiece of the space and will be transformed into a beautiful holiday display when the ship, surrounding beach fencing, and pedestrian bridge are illuminated with over 5,000 feet of white and blue LED lights.

Visitors are encouraged to head inside the park for the celebration, sponsored by the Friends of Martin's Park and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, with additional support from Nan Fung Life Sciences Real Estate, MacKay Construc-

tion, WS Development, Cambridge Trust, Barking Crab, and Lusterity Design + Events. Refreshments will include eggnog from H.P. Hood, hot cocoa from Tuscan Kitchen, and coffee from Caffè Nero Seaport.

Santa Claus and The Grinch will arrive by boat with the Boston Police Harbor Unit at the Harborwalk and enter the park to switch on the lights. Entertainment will be provided by the acapella group Ball In The House, performing a selection of holiday classics. Special guests include the Boston Red Sox official mascot Wally the Green Monster, and the Seaport's own Betty the Yeti. In addition, the Boston Park Rangers Mounted Unit horses will be on hand, along with a fire truck from the Boston Fire Department.

The City of Boston celebrates the lighting of

Boston's official 2023 Christmas tree from Nova Scotia on Boston Common on Thursday, November 30, beginning at 6 p.m. This year's tree is a 40-year-old, 45-foot-tall white spruce donated by Bette Gourley of Stewiacke, N.S., and her family. The celebration will be immediately followed by the lighting of the trees on Commonwealth Avenue Mall at Arlington Street and Commonwealth Avenue at 8:15 p.m.

Visit boston.gov/lighting-martins-park or call (617) 635-4505 for more information or visit Boston.gov/LightsOnBos for information on other holiday lighting events. To stay up to date with news, park improvements, and events, sign up for our email list at bit.ly/GetParksEmails and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.



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December

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

STAFFING SHORTAGE AT CPS

CHELSEA - A staffing shortage in the Chelsea Public Schools has had a negative impact on educators and students, according to teachers and staff who took part in the public speaking portion of last week's School Committee meeting.

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to a statement from Chelsea Teachers' Union President Kathryn Anderson, as well as about a dozen emails and letters from Chelsea school staff that were read into the record.

"Tonight, you are going to hear testimony regarding bargaining for central office about unfilled positions across the district," said Anderson. "Hiring is in flux across the district, but our most recent report from the central office indicates that there are 50 unfilled positions across our bargaining units."

Anderson said the numbers are in flux because the district is hard at work recruiting in the midst of a nationwide educator shortage.

"As a union, we recognize and appreciate the incredibly difficult work of finding and retaining a qualified and diverse workforce," said Anderson. "Chelsea has rightly been celebrated for hiring members who reflect our student body; we all know the important impact this has on students' educational, social, and emotional wellbeing."

However, Anderson said even with all the hard work from the administration, there are still dozens of vacancies across the district. She said the most recent report as of last week showed the district was

still looking to hire three instructional coaches, 12 paraprofessionals, and 32 teaching professionals. The majority of those teaching positions were in the special education and English Language Learner departments, she said.

In a statement on Tuesday morning, district officials said "At present the District has approximately 25 vacancies in educator positions with primary responsibility for staffing classrooms and/or providing necessary services for students. The District has an additional 10 vacancies in educator positions that, while important, do not have these primary responsibilities."

Anderson said there have been a myriad of issues associated with the hiring shortage, including existing staff taking on the responsibilities of the unfilled positions, leading to potential burnout and services falling through the cracks because of the heavy workloads.

"We have been meeting with the district since September in attempts to address these impacts," said Anderson. "Unfortunately, the district's response so far has been far from what our kids need."

The administration has agreed to make some minor changes, such as allowing paraprofessionals with bachelors' degrees to serve as long-term substitutes and allowing school psychologists to miss some meetings.

As of last week, Anderson said over 375 staff members had signed onto a petition highlighting four requests from the union in regard to the vacancies.

Those requests include informing families when a

student is missing a teacher and updating them on efforts to fill the position; cease and desist counting one educator as two positions in areas where the district is missing a special education liaison, multilingual educator, or general education teacher; compensating the understaffed school psychologists, multilingual educators, and general education teachers who are working solo when there should be co-teacher or when there are increased class sizes; and adding lead positions when coaches are missing.

"We are seeking clear, simple remedies to this situation that will go a long way to recognizing the gargantuan efforts our existing staff are putting in to get what kids need," said Anderson.

A number of educators and school staff submitted testimony about the hardships they are undergoing in making sure the duties of the unfilled positions are handled.

Browne Middle School math coach Jessica Flick said she has had to take over teaching duties and other responsibilities as the school is down one eighth grade math teacher.

"What this means to me is absolute exhaustion," said Flick. "I work 12 hour days and then at least one weekend day every week. This workload affects my family, and I am only being compensated for the time I teach a math class, however I am planning seven sessions per week."

Chelsea High School special education teacher Marjory Rome said she has not seen such unprecedented workloads in her 20 years at the school, and that each additional task educators are asked

IT'S MAYOR KEEFE



Revere Mayor Elect Patrick Keefe with his family and supporters celebrating his victory at the Marina at the Wharf Restaurant. Keefe was quoted "We Believe" and it happened.

to take on with vacancies mushrooms the time it takes to complete them.

"It is painful for me to see my colleagues and friends doing two jobs without being compensated appropriately," said Clark Middle School teacher Alison Gorman. "I believe that you know that teachers will pick up the slack left by the vacancies because we care about our students and we want the best for them. However, we have already seen many of our colleagues resign from Chelsea public schools and I am fearful that the level of burnout that we are experiencing will result in even more vacancies."

School Committee member Katherine Cabral thanked the educators for their comments and said the committee did not take their concerns lightly.

In the statement from Tuesday, school district officials stated that "as

bargaining with the Chelsea Teachers' Union over the impact of vacancies on current staff is ongoing, the District must decline to comment further at this time. It's crucial to emphasize that the problem of teacher shortages is not exclusive to Chelsea Public Schools; it is a widespread issue across the entire state."

DRAINE RECOGNIZED FOR WORK

EVERETT - Cathy Draine, the City of Everett's inaugural director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), has been recognized in a special edition of COLOR Magazine as one of the Top 50 Chief Diversity Officers.

She is included in a list of honorees from across the country representing individuals in government service, higher education

and the private sector.

Draine's efforts in City Hall have focused on including more inclusive policies and procedures. She implemented a training to educate municipal employees about unconscious bias in the workplace. She also implemented a hotline for individuals to report concerns about illegal, unethical, or otherwise objectionable conduct or practices by city employees. Additionally, Draine helps ensure Everett's compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) requirements and reporting.

Draine also has created opportunities for municipal employees and members of the community to come together to learn and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diversity that exists in Everett. She implemented a "Lunch and Learn" program that brings employees together to discuss important topics including strengthening community through language access, how service providers can provide care with cultural competency, and how to create safe spaces for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

She also spearheaded Mayor DeMaria's "Everett for Everyone" initiative by working with members of the community and community organizations to support cultural events and celebrations, including this year's well-attended Nepal Day celebration in Glendale Park.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving of this recognition than Cathy Draine," said Mayor DeMaria. "Since moving to Everett and joining our team, Cathy has worked hard to make sure that

See REGION Page 10

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‘COACH OF THE YEAR’



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

Prior to the girls all-star soccer game on Wednesday, November 8, East Boston High School girls coach Rich LaCara (center) was presented the ‘Coach of the Year’ award from BPL athletic director, Avery Aesdaile. Representing the Jets at the game were #2 Diana Melgar, # 10 Isabella Munoz, # 11 Anahi Vasquez and # 30 Gladis Madrid. The team ends the season at 13-5-1.



BPL athletic director, Avery Aesdaile (right) presents East Boston High School girls coach Rich LaCara the ‘Coach of the Year’ award.

ALL-STARS



PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

Representing East Boston High School at the all-star girls volleyball game was Alexmayri Peguero Soto and Jordynn Copeland. The annual game at the end of the season took place at Madison Park on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The Jets had a successful season ending at 11-8.

WELL DONE EBHS CHEERLEADERS



PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

The East Boston High School girls cheerleading squad celebrate their third place finish in the BPL cheerleading competition held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at the Reggie Lewis Track Center. Coach Renee Rich was presented the North Division Coach of the Year Award too.

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NATIONAL GUARD YOU CAN

NFPA urges extra caution when preparing your feast this Thanksgiving

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) urges added caution when cooking on Thanksgiving Day, by far the leading day of the year for home cooking fires. In 2021, an estimated 1,160 home cooking fires were reported to U.S fire departments on Thanksgiving Day, reflecting a 297 percent increase over the daily average.

“Thanksgiving is a hectic holiday with multiple dishes cooking and baking at the same time, along with lots of guests, entertaining, and other distractions that can make it easy to lose sight of what’s on the stove or in the oven,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “With all these factors at play, it’s not surprising that the number of cooking fires spikes so dramatically.”

Overall, cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires and injuries, and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths. Unattended cooking is the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.

“Keeping a close eye on what’s cooking and minimizing the likelihood of getting distracted are key steps people can take to ensure a festive, fire-free holiday,” said Carli.

Following are additional tips and recommenda-

tions from NFPA to help cook safely on Thanksgiving:

- Never leave the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. Some types of cooking, especially those that involve frying or sautéing with oil, need continuous attention.
- When cooking a turkey, remain at home and check it regularly.
- Make use of timers to keep track of cooking times, particularly for foods that require longer cook times.
- Keep things that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food wrappers, and towels at least three feet away from the cooking area.
- Avoid long sleeves and hanging fabrics that can come in contact with a heat source.
- Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If a small grease fire starts, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan, then turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. Only open the door once you’re confident the fire is completely out, standing to the side as you do. If you have any doubts or concerns, contact the fire department for assistance.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Hot foods and liquids should be placed away from table and counter edges.

In addition, NFPA strongly discourages the use of turkey fryers that use cooking oil, which can cause devastating burns. For a safe alternative, NFPA recommends purchasing a fried turkey from a grocery store or restaurant or buying a fryer that does not use oil.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/free-access.

OBITUARIES

Clara Polizzi

A woman of great faith, her family was her priority

Clara (Cieri) Polizzi was born in East Boston on October 17, 1928, to her late loving parents Francesco “Frank” and Elvira Cieri. Clara was one of eleven children raised and educated in East Boston and a proud graduate of East Boston High School’s Class of 1948.

The year of 1948 was a year of accomplishments for Clara. She married her high school sweetheart and love of her life, Anthony “Tony” Polizzi in November of 1948. East Boston was a place they both loved and where the couple decided to raise their family. In the summer of 1949, the newlyweds welcomed their first child, their daughter, Bernadette and six years later, in 1955, they added to their family with the birth of their son, Phillip.

Clara’s priority was her family. She took care of those she loved and always gave words of wisdom and sound advice. A woman of great faith, Clara, was always in attendance at Sacred Heart Church on Brooks Street, and could be found lighting candles, saying prayers, and donating to those less fortunate.

If you were lucky enough to know Clara, you know how much she loved playing Bingo. The local Catholic church bingo circuit was something Clara took joy in being a part of, she made her mark at St. Anthony’s in Revere, along with St. Mary’s, Mount Carmel and Sacred Heart in East Boston. Not only did Clara enjoy socializing and winning money while playing Bingo, she also enjoyed watching “her” shows in the comfort of her own home. These shows included, Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, The Price is Right, \$100,000 Pyramid and Press Your Luck, nobody enjoyed saying “NO WHAMMIES, NO WHAMMIES, NO WHAMMIES” more than Clara.

Clara was blessed to be a grandmother, but her grandchildren were the ones who benefitted from having a woman like Clara in their life. Derek, Joshua and Zachary learned how to play card games like gin rummy, go fish and war while spending time with her. Clara made it a point to bond with each of her grandchildren and always had home cooked



food waiting for them. But one thing Clara enjoyed the most was sitting at the window with them, watching the cars pass and feeding the birds stale scallibread.

After a brief illness, Clara passed away on October 21st, 2023, at the Ledgewood Rehabilitation Center in Beverly, four days after her 95th birthday.

She was the beloved wife of the late Anthony “Tony” Polizzi, the loving mother of Bernadette Spitaleri and her late fiancé, Joseph Vacchio along with her late son in law, Nicholas Spitaleri, her late son Philip Polizzi and his surviving wife, Brenda Polizzi; the cherished grandmother of Derek and Callie Spitaleri, Joshua and Marci Spitaleri, and Zachary Polizzi and his fiancé, Liz Mazzaarella. Clara is also survived by her two treasured great grandchildren, Ava Marie and Angelo Nicholas. Clara was the dear sister of the late Dominic “Sonny” Cieri, Frank Cieri Jr., Helen “Honey” Pollock, Pasqualina, Mary Morelli, Philomena Farias, Adriana Salini, Rose Tenaglia, Lorainne Cioffi and Jean Anastasopoulos. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

A visitation and Funeral Service was held privately for Clara Polizzi on November 6th, 2023. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN. 38105.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

Nicola Di Libero

Owned Libero Construction Company; member of Bricklayers Union, East Boston Community Development Corporation and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts

Nicola R. Di Libero (Nick), 84, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 5. He was in the presence of his loving family at Kaplan Family Hospice in Danvers where he received exceptional care after a brief illness.

Nick was born on April 6, 1939 in East Boston, the son of the late Alessandro and Rose Di Libero from Sant’Apollinare, Italy.

As a lifelong resident of East Boston, Nick met and married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, the late Maria (Di Beardino) Di Libero. Together

they raised their three children, Lehana and her former husband, John LaPlaca, Nicola “Nick Jr.” and his wife, Joellen, and Erik.

Nick was a loving grandfather, the best “Papa” to Leah Gibbons and her husband, TJ, John and Joshua LaPlaca, Perry Di Libero and his wife, Vanessa, Nicola “Nicky” Di Libero III, Erik Jr. and Matthew DiLibero and the cherished great grandfather to Ella, Hallie, Tommy and Lily Gibbons and Vincent Di Libero.

He was a caring brother, cousin and friend.

Nick was a bricklayer by trade. Being a mason was a family tradition Nick was very proud to uphold. Together with his wife they built Di Libero Construction Company leaving a legacy of structures and architecture throughout Boston and New England. He was a proud member of the bricklayers union, East Boston Community Development Corporation and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

Nick spent his free time playing handball and making exquisite wine. Later in life he found a love for cooking. His favorite to cook were his delicious



pizzas, in the pizza oven he built, for his family and friends to enjoy.


He also took great pleasure in traveling the world with his wife and family, where together they owned homes and spent time in both St. Croix and Pescara, Italy.

Funeral Services were held privately. Remembrances may be made to Care Dimensions Hospice, 75 Sylvan Street, Suite B-102, Danvers, MA 01923 or www.caredimensions.org/giving.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

Birthday Remembrance
November 18th

JOHN FAY



First guy to ever love me.
First to ever sweep me off my feet or plant those scratchy whisker kisses gently on my cheek.
First man to take me seriously.
First pal I ever had.
First guy I ever gave my heart to...
Happy Birthday, Dad.
I'll Love You Forever!
Michele

Leslie Ann Seaman

Of East Boston

Leslie Ann (Cutlip) Seaman of East Boston passed away peacefully on November 8.

The loving daughter of the late Warren and Mary (McPhee) Cutlip, she was the beloved wife of the late Robert L. Seaman, devoted mother of Jayson Seaman, cherished grandmother of Kylie Seaman and Camille Seaman, dear sister of Barbara Kelble and her husband, James of New Hampshire, Paula Forster and her husband, William of Winthrop, Mary Duber and her husband, Jeff of Ohio, Patricia Leone and her husband, Anthony of Taunton, Warren Cutlip Jr. and his wife, Marie of Ipswich, and Richard Cutlip and his wife, Deanna of Everett. She is also



survived by many loving nieces and nephews. The family would also like to mention their loving family friend, Gerard Labella.

A memorial service will be held at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston, on Saturday, November 18th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588



19th Anniversary

November 20, 2004 - November 20, 2023

JOHN FAY

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So, He put his arms around you and whispered “Come to me” God broke our hearts to prove, He only takes the best.

We love and Miss you very much.

Lovingly remembered by
Wife Fran, Children Michele and Joe, John Jr & Rose, Grandsons Joseph & John

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Region// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

individuals from all backgrounds feel seen and valued in City Hall and in the community. I am grateful to Cathy for all her efforts and for the guidance and support she has shared with me and others in our community.”

COLOR Magazine is an affiliate of BridgeTower Media and for the past ten years has focused on creating thought content for issues including diversity and inclusion.

OCEANVIEW KENNEL CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN REVERE

REVERE - Lisa Cutting is carrying on her late mother’s superlative legacy of kindness and excellent animal care as the owner of the Oceanview Kennel on North Shore Road in Revere.

“My mother [Marion Viveiros] started the business – this was her dream,” said Cutting. “And to be honest, I thought she was crazy when she said she was going to open a kennel. I didn’t even own a dog.”

Two decades after Mrs. Viveiros realized her dream of kennel ownership, Oceanview is celebrating its 20th anniversary, “and because of my mother, we have saved thousands of dogs.”

Like her mother, Cutting has earned the respect and gratitude from not only pet owners, but city leaders in Revere and beyond its borders.

“We [Oceanview] have been the city pound for 13 cities,” said Cutting. “So, we’ve been able to save not only dogs, but cats, goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, iguanas, ducks, chickens, hens, and doves. I’ve worked with our city [Revere] for 17 years.”

The dream continues Oceanview Kennel founder Marion Viveiros died unexpectedly in September, 2022. She especially enjoyed rescuing dogs and placing them in safe, happy homes.

“I’m carrying her legacy on,” said Cutting. “So many Revere residents depended on my mother for their pet care. I’m so proud of what she did for people and their pets.”

Following her mother’s example, Cutting brings the same high level of attentiveness, energy, and care to each dog under her supervision.

“A dog owner brings their pet overnight if they travel, or for daycare so the dogs can play,” said Cutting. “Dogs need to be socialized. They’re packed. So, when you leave a dog home by itself, they withdraw. I wish humans had friendship bonds and trust like dogs do with their dog friends. Life would be a lot better.”

A courageous comeback

Lisa Cutting has faced health issues during the past three years, having been diagnosed with cancer in 2020.

“I battled it for three years,” said Cutting. “This place wouldn’t have stayed running without

my daughter [Morgan Burdulis] and son-in-law [Jay Burdulis]. They held down the fort 100 percent.”

Cutting feels much better today. “I have some little side effects from chemotherapy, but I swear my best medicine was Morgan and Jay. They handled a lot and did a great job.”

Helping her community Lisa Cutting has been lauded universally by her clients for going above and beyond for senior pet owners who don’t have access to transportation and other resources.

“If a senior citizen has to bring their dog or cat to the veterinarian, I’ll go and pick their pets up and we’ll provide transportation [free of charge],” said Cutting. “You need to help people and give back to your community, because I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for the community believing in my mom. Now that we’ve been here and we’re celebrating 20 years, I feel a part of this community. You need to give back.”

Praise from Guarino-Sawaya Ward 5 resident and community leader Angela Guarino-Sawaya brings her Australian Husky, Mercedes, daily to Oceanview Kennel.

“They were afraid to have me come here because I was so paranoid about leaving my dog,” recalled Guarino-Sawaya. “Lisa put my dog in a room to see how she was going to interact with other dogs. There was a big dog there, and their instant connection was the sweet-

est thing ever.” Guarino-Sawaya said Lisa is in a class by herself when it comes to the professional care of animals. “Lisa does a lot for all the dogs in the community. She’s amazing. She goes above and beyond. She has parties for their birthdays, celebrations for every holiday. I can’t say enough about what she does for the community. She’s definitely the voice of Revere for our pets.”

Cutting credits Councilor-at-Large Dan Rizzo “for giving the kennel the resources it needed to be successful and fighting for the proper tools to become the city’s official pound.”

Rizzo said the respect is mutual and considers Cutting an impactful leader in the community.

“I just can’t tell how important Lisa Cutting and Oceanview Kennel is to our community,” said Rizzo. “The work she does with these vulnerable animals is incredible work, it’s God’s work. This city is a much better place because of her and the way she takes care of these precious animals. She will always have my full support and everything she needs to make sure that all animals, to the extent possible, will be taken care of be cared for.”

The Viveiros/Cutting legacy will continue for many years to come as Morgan Burdulis stands ready to carry on her mother Lisa’s beloved stature in the community and among pet owners on the North Shore.

For Oceanview Kennel is the Cutting Edge.

HONAN TO STEP BACK FROM LAUDED MILITARY CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

WINTHROP - For more than two decades, US Army Veteran Richard Honan has been a lifeline for active service members across the globe.

Honan, the lifelong Winthrop resident, artist, Vietnam veteran and much more, has sent Christmas care packages to military personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan to Europe and Asia and beyond for 21 years.

But Honan said it’s time for him to hang up his hat when it comes to the military care package and Christmas tree programs.

“After 21 years and over 43,000 pounds of peanut butter crackers, trail mix, Mac n’ Cheese, magazines, granola bars, movie videos, Marshmallow Fluff, cans of clam chowder and letters and cards from the school children of Winthrop, I have decided to retire my military care package and Christmas Tree care package program,” Honan said. “In 21 years, I have sent these boxes of support to men and women in all five branches of the military and to all seven continents.”

Honan said he felt it was time for him to step back from the program, which has earned him letters and friendship from hundreds to thousands of US personnel who span the breadth of the United States.

“I feel comfortable knowing that I have given a 100% effort in support of our troops here and abroad,” Honan said. “I know that I brought thousands of smiles and thousands of pounds of support to our deployed servicemen and service women serving all over the world. I want to thank all of you who assisted me, donating goods, baking cookies, donating money for postage or helping me fill the hundreds of holiday care packages with Christmas trees and decorations. God Bless our men and women of the United States Military.”

Honan said he started sending out individual packages to the military 21 years ago after talking to a young woman who grew up with his daughters.

“I was in the army, I was in Vietnam 54 years ago,” said Honan. “I tell people, when you’re 20 years old, it’s like driving a hot rod at 100 mph. You don’t think you’re going to die, you’re more afraid

of being forgotten. So I started sending her stuff.”

Honan’s operation soon expanded well beyond Winthrop, as he soon cultivated a list of service personnel from across the country to whom he would send care packages and Christmas trees each year.

While there has been plenty of help from organizations such as the public schools, the American Legion, the Girl Scouts and other residents and groups over the years, it has always been Honan’s keen organizational and people skills that have kept the motor running.

“Every year is like planning a wedding,” said Honan. “When I was at the high point, which was anywhere from five to 10 years ago when we were still in Iraq and Afghanistan, I was doing a care package a day.”

Honan said he would often have people asking him about who he was sending the care packages to.

“I would have as many as 20 or 30 that I would send out to, and they would be your brother, your aunt, your niece, your father,” said Honan.

He said he has been doing the care packages for so long, people know of him, and Honan said he would gather information about what each of the individual service members would like for snacks and other items they would like in the typical 12-inch by 12-inch priority mail boxes.

Over the years, Honan has received hundreds of letters of thanks from the servicemen and women to whom he has sent care packages, and has become friendly with many of them. In fact, there was one serviceman Honan said he did not meet in person until he was invited to and attended his wedding.

“Thank you so much for the Christmas care packages that you sent to Andy,” read a letter from the family of one serviceman. “I know that he sent you his own thank you note, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for both this package and for the support that you have given to our family over the years. With us being apart for most of this holiday season, your package really uplifted his Christmas spirit, and he was very honored to receive it.”

For those asking if Honan is stepping back from the program because of health reasons, he said there is no need to be concerned.

“I just decided that after 21 years, I was going to call it a day,” said Honan.



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How to winterize your landscaping tools

Winter is just around the corner, and while most of us are busy preparing our homes and vehicles for the cold months ahead, it's important not to forget about our trusty landscaping tools. These essential tools help us maintain our lawns throughout the year, and neglecting them during the winter can lead to costly repairs or replacements come spring.

In this blog, we will discuss the importance of winterizing your yard work tools, provide a checklist of supplies you'll need and offer step-by-step instructions on how to protect your lawn care tools from the harsh winter elements.

Assessing Your Landscape Tools

Before you begin the winterization process, it's essential to assess the state of your landscape tools. Check each tool for signs of wear and tear, damage or rust. Make a list of the types of lawn tools you have, such as lawnmowers, trimmers, leaf blowers and edgers, and identify their vulnerability to winter damage. For example, metal parts are more prone to rust, while fuel systems can suffer from cold-related issues like fuel freezing, gasket seals cracking or overcooling which can result in piston scuffing and other issues.

Winterizing Supplies Checklist

To winterize your yard work tools effectively, you'll need a few essential supplies:

- **Cleaning materials:** Brushes, rags and cleaning solutions to remove dirt, debris and oil.
- **Fuel stabilizer:** To prevent fuel from deteriorating during storage.
- **Oil:** For changing the oil in your engines.
- **Lubricants:** For maintaining moving parts and preventing rust.
- **Sharpening tools** like a blade sharpener or drill attachment: To keep blades and cutting surfaces sharp.
- **Storage solutions:** Covers or shelters to protect your tools from the elements.

Safety Precautions

Safety should always be a top priority when handling lawn tools. Wear appropriate safety gear, such as gloves and safety goggles, when performing maintenance. Before



PHOTO COURTESY SOD SOLUTIONS' CECILIA BROWN.

cleaning any gas-powered tools with a blade for example, make sure you remove the spark plug first to keep the tool from accidentally kick-starting. Read the manufacturer's guidelines for each tool to ensure you follow the recommended safety procedures.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Cleaning your lawn tools thoroughly is the first step in winterizing them. Remove dirt, grass clippings and other debris using a brush or compressed air. Wipe down the surfaces with a rag and a suitable cleaning solution. For lawnmowers, trimmers and other garden equipment, refer to the manufacturer's instructions for detailed cleaning and maintenance procedures.

Fuel and Oil Management

Properly managing fuel and oil is essential to prevent engine damage during winter. Drain the fuel tanks or add a fuel stabilizer to prevent deterioration. Change the oil according to the manufacturer's recommendations and check and replace air filters as needed. These steps will help ensure your engines start smoothly when spring arrives:

- Drain the gas tank and then run the engine until the fuel system is empty for long-term storage or stabilize the fuel for short-term storage.
- Generally, you will need to remove the oil drain plug, drain the oil into a container, replace the drain plug and refill the engine with the recommended oil.
- Replace the oil filter at least once a season, more often under heavy use.
- Check the air filter once a season or every 25 years of usage.

Sharpening Blades and Cutting Surfaces

Maintaining sharp blades and cutting sur-

faces is vital for effective lawn care. Dull blades can damage your grass and plants, making them more susceptible to disease. Safely sharpen your tools' blades using the appropriate sharpening tools, following the manufacturer's guidelines or seeking professional help if needed.

1. If you have a gas-powered lawn tool, be sure to remove the spark plug first before sharpening blades so that the system doesn't accidentally kick-start.
2. Loosen the single nut or bolt holding the blade on so you can remove the blade
3. Take a wire brush to it and clean off all of the debris that has accumulated over time.
4. Use a 10-inch long mill bastard hand file, or a sharpener attachment to the end of a drill-bit.
5. Use a handy nail that has been nailed into the wall or a balancing tool to balance the weight of the blade so that you don't take off more weight from one side of the blade and not the other.
6. Reinstall the blade and hand-tighten the bolt.

Lubrication and Rust Prevention

Lubrication plays a crucial role in preventing rust and corrosion. Apply lubricants to moving parts, such as hinges, springs, gears or any other moving parts/surfaces that might be susceptible to rust as recommended by the manufacturer. Additionally, protect surfaces susceptible to rust by applying a rust-inhibiting product.

Storing Your Landscape Tools

Proper storage is the final step in winterizing your yard work tools. Find an ideal storage space, such as a shed or garage, to protect your tools from extreme cold, moisture and snow. Use covers or shelters for added protection. If you have rechargeable batteries for your tools, store them in a cool,

dry place and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for proper battery maintenance during the winter months. Some safe places to store landscape tools over winter include:

- Garages
- Hanging inside on a wall
- Plastic bins with a lid or cabinets

How do I get my landscape tools ready for winter? - Answered

In preparation for winter, it's essential to winterize your landscaping tools by cleaning and maintaining them, managing fuel

and oil, sharpening blades, applying lubrication and storing them properly to prevent damage from the cold weather and ensure they're ready for use in the spring.

So, don't wait—start winterizing your yard work tools today and enjoy a worry-free winter knowing that your tools are well cared for.

Want to learn more about achieving a great lawn? Check out more Sod University tips here and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

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This article was written by Sod Solutions Content Strategist, Valerie Smith.

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CITY PAWS

Boredom can be dangerous

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We’re sure you’ve heard the old saw that a tired dog is a good dog. There is a corollary that a bored dog can be a dangerous dog. Many of our canine companions were bred to do a job, a specific task that humans needed help in doing.

That job could be herding sheep, pulling carts, tracking prey, retrieving birds, killing vermin, or guarding animals or a home. Even lap dogs are refined along the way to be excellent companions to people. Since some of these traits are innate and strong, your dog may need a way to compensate and use that drive.

Animal behaviorist Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D., CAAB Emeritus, in a recent “Other End of the Leash” column, answered the question “Do Dogs Need A Job?” She replied, “... dogs don’t necessarily need to accomplish a task.

I think the standard advice is trying to say that dogs need mental exercise as much as physical exertion. That dogs can get bored, and boredom often creates behavioral problems like chewing on TV remotes, incessant barking, or somewhere, someday, a late-night order on QVC by a standard poodle.”

Is Your Dog Bored?

You should be alert for commonly recognized signs of boredom in dogs. Destructive chewing, licking, or scratching can indicate a bored dog. However, there may be other reasons for this behavior, like separation anxiety, allergies, or other medical issues that call for a visit to the veterinarian.

Barking out windows, at a television, or computer screen can be related to boredom. Since it is troublesome to you and your neighbors, you need to use training, alternative activities, or taking away

temptations to address the behavior.

When we leave Poppy alone, we confine her to a comfortable room with the window blinds down and music masking any sounds she might hear. When we are at home with her, we’ve tried another McConnell tip of addressing her in a calm, quiet voice and asking her to do something like, “Hush!” “Come to me!” or “Go to your quiet spot!” She receives random treats for quieting herself successfully. We’ve learned that yelling makes the barking worse.

Stealing things and escaping are two of the most dangerous things bored dogs can do. Grabbing your sock can be a way for the dog to engage you in a game of chase. However, playing with or chewing on the wrong object can lead to surgery if some of the item is destroyed and swallowed. There is no need to explain the dan-



You may not think of the Great Pyrenees as a sheepdog, but they have protected herds like this for centuries. (Photo by Federica Giusti)

gers of a dog that escapes your home or yard.

Ways to Avoid Boredom

McConnell suggests that you “Take Your Dog on a Sniff” instead of just a walk. “I’ve gone on record, as have many others, that a primary need of dogs is to use the sense of smell, often more than we let them.”

With a noise-averse dog, we always rejoice

when our Poppy pauses to sniff on a walk. It means that she is relaxed a bit and enjoying the outside world for a few moments. She will sniff more often when we walk in unfamiliar places like a beach or a quiet park.

Exercise, training, and mental stimulation are ways to burn off the excess canine energy that causes unwanted behavior. More walks, interac-

tive toys, and sometimes leaving a television on for the dog to watch can help.

It may take some work to keep your dog from being bored out of his mind, but the reward for you will be less destruction and unwanted behavior.

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