

East Boston

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Wednesday, November 29, 2023

ANNUAL EAST BOSTON THANKSGIVING DINNER HOSTED BY STATE REP. ADRIAN MADARO



Volunteers Daniela Blinken, Elsa Flores, Erika Aguirre, and Marta Polanco during the annual East Boston Thanksgiving dinner at Salesian Boys and Girls Club. See more photos on Page 12.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu helps volunteer Asgie Burnett with the production line.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro (right) with his wife Ariel with former State Rep. Carlo Basile.

New Geneva Street Project proposed at GSCA meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

At its monthly meeting on Monday, the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) reviewed plans for a proposal that would bring multiple units to 12 Geneva Street.

The project, presented by Attorney Richard Lynds, proposes constructing a new four-story building comprised of four units intended for homeownership.

Regarding the makeup of the units, there would be one two-bedroom, which is an accessible unit, along with three three-bedroom units. Additionally, the square footage of these units ranges from a little over 1,050 square feet to 1,231 square feet.

In speaking about the bedrooms, Lynds said, "We're trying to gear those toward — as we do more regularly here in this community — the larger-sized bedroom counts so that we're not essential-

ly developing something that really caters to a more transient population."

"This is something that at least allows for a good-sized unit, could be used for starting families or larger households," he added.

In terms of the zoning relief sought in conjunction with this project, several variances are needed under current zoning. These variances relate to minimum lot width, the side and rear yard, floor area ratio, height, open space, and parking.

However, Lynds noted during the presentation that the neighborhood could get new zoning through the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) neighborhood planning initiative PLAN: East Boston.

This means that some of the aspects of the project that require a variance un-

See GSCA Page 4

Henry Santana is ready to get to work

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Henry Santana, Boston's newest City Councilor At-Large elect, looks forward to hitting the ground running in 2024 when he officially takes his place on the City Council.

Santana, a 28-year-old who immigrated to Boston as a child from the Dominican Republic and grew up at the Alice Taylor Boston Housing Authority (BHA) apartments in Mission Hill, had a stellar performance in the city's Municipal Election earlier this month to earn his at-large seat.

Out of the eight total candidates in the race, Santana finished within the top four, with 34,014 votes (15.53%), according to unofficial election results on the city's website,

and shared his thanks to supporters in an interview with the Gazette.

"I'm just thankful and honored that residents believed in me and trusted me to be in this position," said Santana.

He specifically pointed out the strong support he received from neighborhoods like Jamaica Plain and East Boston and particularly credited the result to campaign operations since April.

"We were just showing up in every neighborhood for months and months, and I think people were excited to see a young, black, Dominican immigrant who grew up in public housing, who's a product of the city, who's a product of Boston Public Schools," said Santana.

Along with his lived experience, Santana also

spoke about his professional experience, whether that be as a Field Director on the campaign to elect former City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Bok's Director of Operations and Mission Hill and Fenway Liaison, and Director of the city's Office of Civic Organizing.

"I had a very unique professional experience, combined with my lived experience, that I think resonated with so many people," said Santana.

Not only did he think his previous professional roles resonated with folks, but Santana is also of the mindset that it will now help him on the City Council.

In his previous work with Bok, Santana explained how he got to see firsthand how the council can work together to help



Boston City Councilor-at-Large Henry Santana.

residents. In his role in the Office of Civic Organizing, he built relationships with department heads and people on the ground.

"I know how to get things done. I've been doing it — I was doing it

See SANTANA Page 2

Boston officials announce choice of electricity rates

Special to the Times

The City of Boston announced new electricity rates through Boston's Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program, and encouraged all customers to choose BCCE as their electricity supplier. The new rates will be in effect beginning December 2023 until December 2025 using a new contracted supplier, Direct Energy. BCCE's default and Green100 rates offer more renewable energy and cost less than Eversource's Basic Service Rate. Eversource's winter rates will begin on January 1, 2024. For a period of at least seven months, all three BCCE rates will remain lower than the utility.

Since the beginning of

the program, the BCCE Standard rates have always been lower than Eversource Basic Rates. The average resident that uses 600 kilowatt hours of electricity a month on the BCCE Standard option is expected to save nearly \$15 per month compared to the Eversource Basic Service Residential rate (\$0.17251/kWh). In the first six months of 2023, Boston residents on BCCE saved nearly \$60 million, with an average household savings of \$340 compared to Eversource Basic Service. Since the program's inception in 2021, BCCE has helped Boston residents and business owners have access to affordable, clean energy while sup-

See ELECTRICITY Page 3

THIS WEEK *Buggiero Family Memorial Home + East Boston Chamber's*
Orient Heights Tree Lighting!
 Friday December 1 — 6pm-7pm

NEWS IN BRIEF

HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce invites all local businesses to participate in the annual holiday decorating contest by decorating their business' storefronts. All entries are due by Friday, December 8. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners. Winners will be announced at the Holiday Bazaar held on Saturday, December 9 at

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Watershed ICA on the East Boston waterfront on Marginal Street. Please call the Chamber's office at 617-569-5000 to ensure your business is entered.

MAYOR'S ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR SCHEDULE

Boston's Enchanted Trolley Tour continues the festive tradition of lighting holiday trees throughout Boston.

For the 27th year, the

Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will continue the festive tradition of lighting holiday trees while bringing holiday spirit to children across Boston. The event is sponsored by Bank of America, and includes visits with Santa, tree lightings, and more.

This year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will start on Saturday, December 2, and end on Sunday December 3, in neighborhoods throughout Boston.

- Day 1
11 a.m. - Hastings Lot, West Roxbury
2 p.m. - Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain
3 p.m. - J.P. Monument, Jamaica Plain
3:45 p.m. - Brigham Circle, Mission Hill
4:30 p.m. - Bolling Building, Roxbury
Day 2
4 p.m. - Paul Revere Mall, North End
5 p.m. - Winthrop Square (the Training Field), Charlestown
6:15 p.m. - Maverick Square, East Boston

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on December 4, 2023, at 6pm. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs. Since we are indoors, masks are optional for those in attendance.

La proxima reunion de Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en cuatro de diciembre 2023 a las 6pm. La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Pueda usar la entrada principal por la calle Byron o la entrada en calle de Wordsworth. La entrada de calle Wordsworth no tiene escaleras por personas con discapacidades. El cubre bocas sera opcional pues-to que estaremos adentro.

Agenda Welcome/Introduction (5min)

ONS Manuela (Mela) VillaGomez (5min) Neighborhood announcements.

Announcements (5min) Greenway Council, Tree Eastie, Sumner Tunnel open on weekends for the rest of the year beginning 12/9. 1st Priority 12/9 Morning with Santa 10-12. Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart Church on 12/9 at 7pm (free). 12/1 Holiday Tree Lighting sponsored by Ruggiero Family Memorial Home at 7pm. (If possible, bring a toy.) The Madaro Family Eastie Elves 12/15 at the Hyatt 6:30pm dinner, admission is one unwrapped toy. Virtual Abutters Meeting 11/30 at 6pm for 30 Moore Street. Virtual Abutters Meeting for 682 Saratoga Street 12/6 at 7pm.

Station 7 Police Report (15min) Captain Bickerton, Sgt. Cintolo, Officers Mosley, Alvarez and Figueroa.

McLean Playground(15min) Barbara Puopolo, Chair of the McLean Playground Subcommittee will introduce Nelle Ward, Project Manager, Boston Parks and Recreation Department who will update us on the progress of the project.

41 Wordsworth Street (15min) 2nd Presentation and VOTE by Attorney Jeff Drago for owner Sharon Menninger, Stage LLC. Proposal to amend plans to add roof deck to existing structure and add egress stairs. (amending ALT1277234).

531 Bennington Street (20min) 2nd Presentation and VOTE by Attorney Richard Lynds for owner Sokol Enterprises, LLC. The proposal is to raze the existing 3 decker and erect a 5-unit residential dwelling.

682 Saratoga Street (30min) 1st Presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds for owner Joseph Mario. Proposal is to raze the existing single-family home and build a five (5) unit residential dwelling with five (5) parking spaces.

206 Byron Street (30min) 1st Presentation by Attorney Marc LaCasse for owner Lien Vuong. Proposal is to change occupancy from 2F to 3F: retain and renovate existing building; extend living space for unit 1 to basement; construct dormers at attic level to create 3rd unit on top floor.

Holiday Party (5min) The HVNA annual Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 14, at 6pm at the East Boston Yacht Club. This promises to be a fun night with entertainment, food, beverages and raffles. Come get in the holiday spirit with your neighbors.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Happy Holidays to all.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on January 8, 2024. Please note this is the second Monday of the month due to the New Year Holiday. Visit us at http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborview-na or check our website at harborvieweastboston.com

Santana // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as a City Council Aid, I was doing it as part of the leadership team for Mayor Michelle Wu, and now, being in this position, I know where to go, who to go to in terms of how to get things done," said Santana.

Speaking about getting things done, as Santana prepares to officially take his position in the coming months, he talked about his goal to be a representative of the next generation that is coming and three distinct priorities he would like to focus on.

The first priority he discussed was housing affordability — a topic he indicated needed to be acted on with urgency.

"Housing is a human right, and I believe right now, week to week, month to month, year to year, we're losing young professionals, families, seniors because they cannot afford to stay here," he said.

spoke about working with public housing residents, fixing public housing infrastructure, creating more units across the city, and creating more homeownership opportunities for people from subsidized housing, low-income communities, and public housing.

Education is another top priority for Santana, and he spoke at length about the investments being made in schools. While he acknowledged investments are being made in the city's education system, he does not think they are being seen in the classroom by students, teachers, and families.

"When you're walking into these facilities, and you have broken ceilings, and you have broken bathrooms, and you have technology that's not working, textbooks that are decades old, what message are you sending to the kids," he said.

"We want to be able to

see the investments that we're making actually being seen in the classroom," he later added.

Finally, Santana prioritizes public safety and points to the loss of young kids due to gun violence and how it has been normalized.

"We're so quick to go to Twitter or to Facebook and send our condolences and prayers. That's thoughtful and nice, but what are we doing as the City of Boston to try to prevent some of these situations from happening? What are we doing to really try to protect our youth and our families here in the City of Boston," he said.

Santana pointed to his personal experience of having truly affordable after-school and summer programs as the best thing that ever happened to him from the standpoint of public safety.

"I want to make sure that these programs, the non-profit programs here

in the community, have the support of the city," said Santana.

While some might view these priorities as complex topics to tackle, Santana believes it is something that is achievable.

"These are very achievable things I'm speaking about. I'm not saying crazy promises that are not obtainable. I think the things that I campaigned on are very achievable are things that we can work with the City Council and the administration to make happen," he said.

As 2024 draws near, Santana shared his excitement and how he is ready to get to work for Boston residents.

"I'm very excited. I'm thankful for the trust that the residents of Boston have put in me, and I'm proud to say that there was a clear direction that the City of Boston took on November 7th in electing me, and I'm ready to get to work."

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to re-direct her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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EAST BOSTON COMMUNITY LEADERS ATTEND LA COLABORATIVA'S GALA EVENT



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

East Boston was well represented at La Colaborativa's gala celebrating the grand opening of its Chelsea Survival Center located at 63 Sixth St. in Chelsea. Pictured at the Nov. 17 event, from left, are Dr. Richard Wein of Tufts Medical Center, Laura Piscopo of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, public relations titan Pat Capogreco, and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center Director of Development Debra Farrar-Parkman.

Sen. Edwards to host In-District meeting on housing issues

Special to the Times

Senator Lydia Edwards is hosting an In-District Meeting (IDM) focusing on issues of housing justice, scheduled for Thursday, December 7th, from 6PM to 7PM at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. This meeting, organized in collaboration with Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) and its partners, will address topics related to public housing, affordable rental and homeownership opportunities, and

reentry support for those returning from incarceration.

The purpose of the IDM is to facilitate a discussion on these housing issues and gather public commitments from lawmakers for addressing these concerns. The meeting will include testimonies from community leaders and individuals with direct experience in these areas.

Senator Edwards will be present at the meeting to listen to constituent perspectives and discuss

potential policy solutions. This event is open to all constituents interested in housing justice matters within Senator Edwards' Senate district.

Those wishing to attend are advised to register in advance. Event details are as follows:

- Date: Thursday, December 7th
- Time: 6PM - 7PM
- Location: East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Community Room, 250 Sumner St, East Boston, MA 02128

Electricity // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

porting Boston's carbon neutrality goals.

"I'm excited to announce the new electricity rates through Boston's Community Choice Electricity program—allowing Boston residents to further reduce utility bills as they support clean energy options," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This program is an important part of the City's efforts to serve constituents through affordable, environmentally-friendly initiatives and also accelerate progress toward our carbon neutrality goals."

Mayor Wu is committed to Boston's Green New Deal, making Boston affordable, healthy, and sustainable for all residents and business owners. The City of Boston has elected to increase the renewable energy content in BCCE's Standard (default) product by an additional 15% beyond the State's required renewable portfolio standard, increasing the total renewable energy content in the default product to 39%. Boston Community Choice Electricity uses the City's collective buying power to provide more renewable electricity to Boston's residents and businesses at a competitive rate. BCCE is the largest municipal aggregation program in Massachusetts and includes three options for electricity supply: Op-

tional Basic, Standard (default), and Optional Green 100. These plans include between 24% and 100% local, renewable energy, and customers are able to choose which electricity rate and renewable energy portfolio is the best option for them. Eversource continues to serve as the utility delivering electricity to BCCE customers. Eversource also handles customer billing and service, grid maintenance, and power outages.

Recently, Eversource filed its proposed new Residential Basic Service rate (\$0.17251/kWh) and its Small Business rate (\$0.17.587/kWh) with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. These rates will be effective January 1, 2024 until July 31, 2024. As the City moves into the winter months, electricity usage is expected to rise. The City of Boston cannot guarantee that the BCCE rates will remain lower than Eversource's Basic Service rates after July 31, 2024, because the local utilities change their rates twice a year.

Some Boston residents and businesses are enrolled in contracts with third-party suppliers, whose rates can be significantly higher than BCCE. Competitive electric suppliers often mislead and take advantage of resi-

dents, particularly seniors, people of color, and residents who speak a language other than English, promising them unreliable savings. According to a report from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, third-party suppliers charged Massachusetts residents \$525 million more than the general utility would have between 2015 and 2021. The Attorney General's Office also reported that these suppliers continue to target low-income residents and communities of color, charging them higher rates for their electricity. The report found that residents in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, East Boston, Hyde Park, and Roslindale were heavily targeted, with more than 40% of low-income residents in these neighborhoods signing competitive electric supply contracts. In Roxbury, 57% of low-income residents are enrolled in third-party supply. As a part of Mayor Wu's 2023-2024 State legislative agenda, she supported proposals to ban residential predatory competitive electric supply companies

(bills H.3196 and S.2106). Boston residents and business owners can compare electricity rates here. Technical support is available from City of Boston experts by scheduling an appointment, emailing bcce@boston.gov, or calling 3-1-1.

"At a time when many Bostonians are making difficult choices about paying for food or fuel, utilities or rent, the City of Boston has a program to help residents reduce electricity costs while supporting the health of our planet," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environ-

ment, Energy and Open Space. "I am grateful to Mayor Wu for her commitment to supporting Boston residents and small businesses through this program and to our team in the Environment Department who have been steadfast in their efforts to ensure affordable energy prices, especially to those who are being targeted by predatory energy companies."

The Standard BCCE rate is the default option for Boston residents and business owners. Customers may choose to "opt up" to enroll in the Optional Green 100 rate, with 100% of electricity com-

ing from local, renewable energy sources, like solar or wind. By opting up, customers can support the City of Boston in reducing carbon emissions, improving local air quality, and taking climate action within our communities. Boston Community Choice Electricity's Optional Green 100 plan costs less than Eversource's basic residential rate while utilizing 100% renewable electricity compared to Eversource's 22%, the state requirement for renewable electricity. Residents and business owners can opt-up, down, or out of BCCE at any time with no penalties.

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RESCHEDULED Public Meeting

PLAN: East Boston Updates

THE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR 11/28 AND 11/30 ARE NOW RESCHEDULED TO THE NEW DATES BELOW:

DECEMBER	DECEMBER
6 Spanish 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	7 English 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location:
**Mario Umana Academy,
Auditorium 145
(312 Border St, Boston, MA 02128)**

Project Description:

Please join the BPDA for public meetings on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 (Spanish-Language) and Thursday, December 7, 2023, to discuss updates to the draft of PLAN: East Boston and amended zoning language for the neighborhood. These meetings will review revisions to the PLAN's key recommendations as well as proposed zoning for East Boston's Neighborhood Residential, Waterfront, and Mixed-Use areas.

These meetings will be held in-person at Mario Umana Academy (312 Border St, Boston, MA 02128 - Auditorium 146), from 6:00-8:00pm, on their respective dates. Simultaneous interpretation into English (12/06) and Spanish (12/07) will be provided. These are public meetings: all are welcome to join, comment, and discuss the proposed plan and zoning changes.

For more information about the PLAN and the draft zoning amendments, please visit the PLAN: East Boston webpage: bit.ly/plan-east-boston

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

In response to "Guest Op-Ed: Parks Over Pavement"

By Mariellen Dalton

In response to last week's opinion piece in the East Boston Times-Free Press, penned by Jamie McGonagill, espousing the dire consequences of the proposed Coughlin Bypass Extension, it is imperative to clarify the facts and dispel any misconceptions, misinformation or fear mongering from the Media and Press Relations Director of Extinction Rebellion, the radical climate activists responsible for "mooning" the Massachusetts Legislature in protest of fossil fuels.

The claims made by Ms. McGonagill, who is not a resident of East Boston, while passionate, lack a factual basis and understanding of the local context. As a lifelong resident of this community, I thought it essential to present an accurate depiction of the proposed haul road's impact and the mountain of support behind its construction!

Ms. McGonagill's tone would imply that the City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu, and her administration have sided with the handful of East Boston residents (and non-residents) who are pushing

the false narrative of a park along Chelsea Creek, inserting themselves into a decision regarding a stretch of state-owned land and a MassDOT process in which they have no say. This could be true, seeing as the alternative view for Chelsea Creek, backed by the Haul Road Committee and the 3,000 plus supporters has not received a real hearing amongst administration officials, while the same officials found time to meet with these other groups as early as last March. This is the same administration that suggested traffic and infrastructure improvements in PLAN:East Boston without even conducting a traffic study.

Logan Community Clean Air Coalition suggests that the Haul Road would burden low-income communities with negative environmental and health burdens. But what Ms. McGonagill, her coalition, AIR Inc. and its affiliates have failed to convey to their members and the community is that their solution - putting a park on this small section of Chelsea Creek that is 100 feet wide at its widest portion - would ultimately

make traffic worse, make streets even more unsafe and dump more emissions on local East Boston streets. Because without the Haul Road, trucks will continue to use our residential streets to access the airport and idle in Route 1A traffic, even more so now due to the growth in airport related services north of the city line. Further, any decision made for the abandoned railway parcels, will be subject to meticulous planning and rigorous assessment by local climate resiliency experts, whose mission is to make sure no one is adversely impacted by environmental or health burdens. The haul road would also include and increase access to the waterfront via walking and biking paths. Hardly a burden! This is only possible because the public Haul Road creates a commercial interest that will help fund public access to the waterfront with climate resiliency measures, while finding funds from the city or state to pay solely for a park on this stretch of land is just simply unrealistic.

Lastly, AIR Inc. continues to describe the haul road as "airport expan-

sion." A trigger phrase for some East Bostonians. However, this fear tactic is ineffective on us residents who live near the airport and must deal with truck traffic and disruptions daily. At the end of the day, MassPort is not relying on this small piece of land between Route 1A and Chelsea Creek. If they want to expand terminals or cargo or anything, they will do so just as they have in the past. Nearly every cargo company that once occupied buildings at Logan and was displaced by the commuter runway now resides in Chelsea or points north of the City - yet, the traffic from these businesses remains HERE in East Boston! Doesn't Eastie deserve these jobs and investment? An investment that can be harnessed to improve our waterfront and neighborhood streets at the same time.

That's a win for Eastie and all my neighbors! Don't be swayed by scare tactics; get the facts and support the Haul Road.

Mariellen Dalton resides in East Boston and is co-founder of the Committee in Support of the East Boston Haul Road

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."
-- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With Christmas fast approaching, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line -- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by the after-effects of record-high inflation, continues to afflict almost every American household, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to unemployment rates that are near historically record-lows.

However, the strong economy (from an employment standpoint) that is being enjoyed by the majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job. To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our recent history. One in eight households (12.8 percent) experience food insecurity, defined as the lack of access to an affordable, nutritious diet. An estimated 44.2 million Americans live in these households. A recent Feeding America survey found that 80% of network food banks reported either increased or steady demand for emergency food services, with almost 35% of responding food banks reporting an increase in the number of people they serve.

In addition, thanks to the lack of affordable new housing and sky-high rents, far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because our economy literally has left them out in the cold. Millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. This dichotomy is most evident and acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and right here in Boston (most notably at the infamous Mass. and Cass intersection in the South End). Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless Americans, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what exists in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunities in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even just dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas.

There simply is no excuse for those of us who are among the more fortunate for failing to make some effort over the next four weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

Public invited to USS Constitution's annual tree lighting ceremony

The public is invited to attend USS Constitution's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 8, beginning at 4 p.m. on the ship.

The free event will include a visit and photo opportunities with Santa Claus, free hot chocolate and cookies, holiday music, ship tours, and remarks from the ship's commanding officer.

Guests are invited to

view the ship's gun firing in observance of evening colors, a ceremony for lowering the American Flag on the ship at sunset, which will be at 4:13 p.m.

The tree lighting ceremony will begin at 4:30 p.m. and photos with Santa Claus will be available after the ceremony.

Entry to board USS Constitution will begin at 3:30 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. and guests will be

allowed to remain on the ship for free tours until 6 p.m.

USS Constitution is open to free public visitation Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The USS Constitution Museum is currently open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

USS Constitution is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, and played a crucial role in the

Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

The active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship's mission of promoting the Navy's history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence.

GSCA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

der current zoning could actually end up complying with the proposed zoning through PLAN: East Boston.

Other aspects of the project include the proposal containing zero parking spaces and plans for a roof deck exclusive to the fourth unit.

When a discussion about the proposal opened up, the first concern brought up by an attendee was the parking.

"There's proposed on this 11 bedrooms. Historically, what we've seen, there's about one car per bedroom for people who are buying at these price levels, and I don't necessarily think the neighborhood can really accommodate those 11 extra cars," said the attendee.

Lynds responded, explaining that parking options on the lower level were explored and, at best, two or three parking spaces

could be included.

"While I understand the comment about the parking, we do feel that we explored both options, and the use of the space for an accessible unit we feel makes a lot more sense overall and aligns pretty much where the city is going with new developments," said Lynds

"We're going to take a chance in asking for the relief for the parking on this one," he added.

Another attendee asked about the state of zoning. In part, Lynds described the state of zoning as being in limbo.

"The way it works right now is, I need to appeal the determination of inspection services based upon the current zoning because we filed for this permit before any zoning change is going to happen. However, it's important that we overlay where the zoning is going because

that is the guidance that the Boston Planning and Development Agency will give to the zoning board," he said.

"We technically still require relief, but it is consistent with or largely consistent with the direction for new zoning for the area."

As the discussion continued, an attendee complimented the proposal,

and there was a conversation about the rear setback as it relates to the neighborhood context.

Concerning the next steps, since this was the first presentation of the project to the GSCA, it would need to be presented again for a vote to be held. The GSCA is not scheduled to meet in December but will reconvene on January 22.

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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.

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HARBORING CREATIVITY: LAUNCHING EAST BOSTON ARTISTS AT THE ICA WATERSHED

Photos and Story
by Marianne Salza

community. Now you get a sense of who they are and what they do,” said Diane Monica, organizer. “The partnership that we have with the Institute of Contemporary Art has been incredible. They make sure the public has access to this waterfront.”

Guests explored the creations of innovative artists who upcycled waste products to create sculptures, and represented their ancestry and heritage through vibrant paintings. Artists shared their

inspirations and processes involved in developing abstract imagery, mixed

media compositions, and thought-provoking installations.

“The artists seem really happy,” commented June Krinsky-Rudder, orga-

nizer. “Everything looks wonderful. There is a variety of interesting works.”

East Boston Artists Group presented “Harboring Creativity: Launching East Boston Artists at the ICA Watershed” on November 18 and 19. The show featured over 40 local artists – some established and others exhibiting their work for the first time.

“This show has brought a lot of East Boston artists that were unknown to us together, and created a



Atlantic Works Gallery members Joan Ryan and Diane Teubner.



David Riley, acrylic painter.



Painter, muralist, and scenic artist, Matt Baynes, with his uncle, Christopher Jasper, and aunt, Nancy Jasper.



B. Amore explaining her artwork that comments on exploring memory.



Maryellen Cahill, with her mixed media/fiber art, and Leigh Hall, photographer, and acrylic painter.



Felipe Ortiz, muralist.



Nick DiStefano and Peter Anthony, displaying mixed media sculptures.



Jesus Morales, illustrator and pastel painter, and Brian Burke, abstract and experimental painter.



East Boston Artists Group presented Harboring Creativity: Launching East Boston Artists at the ICA Watershed, on November 18 and 19



Kristen Martin-Aarnio and Audrina Warren explaining their collaborative installation that comments on managing waste.



Javier Olivero, Bruno Benavides, photographer, Susan Fearnley, and John Greiner-Ferris, visual artist.

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SACRED HEART PARISH HOLDS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Photos by Marianne Salza

A pancake breakfast with Santa began the Sacred Heart Parish's Christmas Bazaar on November 18. The fair featured a variety of penny raffle baskets, a toy game, and

homemade baked goods. Artisans sold handcrafted rosary beads, soaps, and hair accessories. Crocheted infant clothing, Catholic children's books, and holiday wreaths were also on display.



Sisters Jackeline, 8, and Melanie, 6.



Chris and Maria Crawford.



Parishioners placing chances in raffle baskets.



Charlene Albanese, Noelle Rizzo, and Chris Crawford volunteering at the toy raffle table.



Adriana and Victoria Bittencourt, of Atelier Heavenly Mother, selling their handmade rosary beads.



Bazaars coordinators, Cindy Forina and Theresa Malonek.



Children's book author, Sister Marlyn Monge and Raine Satnos, novice, of the Daughters of Saint Paul.



Sharon Rozzi and Carol Baglio at the penny raffle table.

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Families enjoying the toy raffle table.



Anouska Joassaint and wife, Nakita Turner, of "Home Bella," with her brother, Dana Turner, and mother, Cheryl Turner.



Mia, Nick, Maria, Mason, and John Macaluso serving food.

EBNHC celebrates Thanksgiving with turkey give away

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts celebrated Thanksgiving by handing out 300 turkeys to community members ahead of the holiday weekend. Recognizing the crucial piece nutrition plays in patient health, EB-NHC has partnered with American Red Cross Food Pantry and Lovin' Spoonfuls to organize weekly food distributions from the center's Community Resource & Wellness Center at 282 Meridian Street in East Boston. Available by appointment, East Boston

neighbors come to the center every Thursday to get groceries, produce, meat and canned items. On Tuesday, ahead of Thanksgiving, EB-NHC's Community Resource & Wellness Center welcomed community members early to distribute Thanksgiving meal kits including turkeys, potatoes, produce and more to East Boston families. From 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., 300 turkeys were distributed to help families celebrate the season of giving and gratitude and encourage healthy eating as a crucial piece of achieving health equity.



Shown above, dozens of EBNHC staff, led by Care Navigator Supervisor, Catharine Hemp, and Care Navigator Coordinator, Margaret Keithline, helped to distribute more than 300 turkeys and pork loin, thanks to EBNHC's continued partnership with the American Red Cross Food Pantry so all can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal.



Shown to the left, from left to right: EBNHC CEO Greg Wilmot, EBNHC COO Ryan Boxill, Assistant Vice President of Quality Heidi Emerson, EBNHC Patient Maria Cordova, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jackie Fantes and Assistant Vice President of Strategy and Innovation, Hollis Graham, help hand out food to community members.

National Parks of Boston hosts Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in Charlestown Navy Yard on Dec. 7

Special to the Independent

The National Parks of Boston will host a gathering of remembrance at the USS Constitution Museum followed by a wreath-laying ceremony on the World War II-era destroyer USS Cassin Young to remember and honor those who perished in the December 7, 1941 attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. USS Cassin Young was named in honor of U.S. Naval Commander Cassin Young, who received honors for his actions during the Pearl Harbor attack.

December marks the 80th anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Cassin Young. On Thursday, December 7, this free three-part public program will be held in the Charlestown Navy Yard starting at 11:30 a.m. with lunch and a speaking program at the USS Constitution Museum, followed by an outdoor ceremony beside USS Cassin Young, and concluding with warm beverages at the Charlestown Navy Yard Visitor Center. Lunch is provided by the Mayor's Office for Veterans' Services and Boston Harbor Now is sponsoring the beverages. Ceremony speakers include National Parks of Boston Superintendent Michael Creasey, USS Constitution Commander Billie J. Farrell, USS Constitution Mu-

seum President & CEO Anne Grimes Rand, Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago, and Boston Commissioner of Veterans' Services Robert Santiago. State and city elected officials will be among the attendees, along with veterans and USS Cassin Young volunteers. The program will include the USS Constitution and Flying Leatherneck Honor Society Color Guards and rifle and cannon salutes from both USS Cassin Young and USS Constitution.

USS Cassin Young was named for U.S. Navy Commander Cassin Young, recipient of the Medal of Honor for his distinguished and heroic actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor, which initiated the United States' entry into World War II. As commanding officer of USS Vestal, which was moored to USS Arizona, Cmdr. Young took personal command of his ship's three-inch anti-aircraft gun at the beginning of the attack. When the forward magazine of Arizona was hit, Cmdr. Young was thrown overboard and incredibly swam back to his ship amidst burning oil on the water between the two ships. Despite the subsequent bombing of Vestal, Cmdr. Young moved his ship away from Arizona to save the ship and countless lives. USS Cassin Young has similarly served the

country with distinction. It was built in San Pedro, California, typical of the many Fletcher-class destroyers serviced in the Charlestown Navy Yard during World War II. The ship was commissioned at the end of 1943 and first saw action in the Pacific Theatre in 1944. It took part in the landings in the Philippines, rescued survivors from the stricken carrier USS Princeton, screened the American force that sank four Japanese carriers in the battle of Cape Engano, and survived two separate kamikaze hits, one of which killed 21 crew members. No stranger to Charlestown, the ship was re-

called to service in 1951 and underwent modernization at the shipyard on several occasions during

the next decade before finally hauling down its commissioning pennant in 1960.

"On this day of remembrance and reflection, the

See PEARL HARBOR Page 9



The USS Cassin Young in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

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CITY PAWS

Holiday Temptations

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The last thing you want included in the holiday season is an emergency veterinary visit. The weeks ahead are busy for everyone. Meanwhile, your animals face more temptations from visitors, decorations, celebratory food, holiday events, and less watchful guardians. Those with a new furry companion may not know that critters can decide to eat items we might not see as dangerous.

Shopping Notes

When you shop, take note of possible dangers for your cat or dog. Perhaps the rest of the year, you don't put a bowl of candy on an end table or hang cookies on a tree.

String and ribbon are a particular danger to cats. They could end up in surgery if they swallow it. Emergency veterinarians talk about the items they've removed from canine digestive systems.

Socks, pacifiers, and small toys are common problems.

Consider dangers from the toys you purchase for your pets and take a good look at anything someone gives them as a holiday gift. Some toys may be dangerous if left alone within the animal's reach.

Your cat may adore playing with a feather on a string toy. This toy can be safe when you actively supervise the play and examine the toy for any weak spots. Anything that can be pulled apart and swallowed might cause a blockage.

A dog's interaction with toys and the danger posed depends on the animal's size and the vitality of their chewing. Our Westie Poppy doesn't tear stuffed animals apart but is hard on chew toys. Our experience with small terriers is that they can destroy a regular Kong toy but not the Kong Extreme designed for the hardest chewers.

Visitors and Gatherings

The lack of group celebrations during the pandemic may have made us less aware of how visitors can add to the possibility of exposing our pets to items they've not seen, smelled, or been tempted with before.

A handbag or coat pocket left within reach could contain something as simple as sugarless gum, mints, or candy your dog might ingest. These products often contain xylitol. The FDA says that if your dog eats this artificial sweetener, "...the consequences could be deadly." They warn, "If you think your dog may have eaten a product containing xylitol, call your vet, emergency clinic, or animal poison control center right away."

Guests might slip your animal a tasty tidbit from their plate or bring a treat or toy that's not appropriate for your cat or dog. We don't give our dog wheat treats since those can cause skin problems

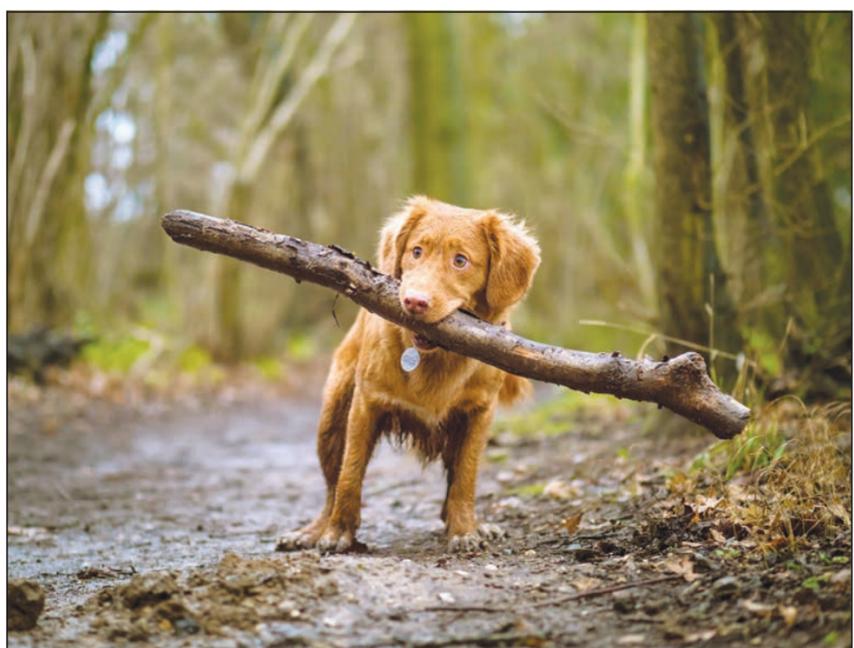


PHOTO BY JAMIE STREET

If a visitor walks your dog, remind them that a stick, even this large, can be dangerous if a piece is swallowed while chewing.

in Westies. If someone offers an unknown biscuit to Poppy, we give them one of our oatmeal treats instead.

Festive Settings

Holiday wreaths, trees, and plants can also interest dogs and cats. For the most part, plants that are labeled toxic are not necessarily deadly. For example, poinsettia is irritating,

can cause discomfort and vomiting, and should be out of reach of pets. On the other hand, a piece of a broken glass ornament could damage the mouth and GI system if ingested.

One of the best ways to protect your animals is to see your world from their point of view. Play a quiet game of follow and see where they go and what they can reach. Watch

what interests them. And, when you know you will be busy, consider asking someone else to supervise your animals during a gathering. You might even hire a young person who loves animals for this task.

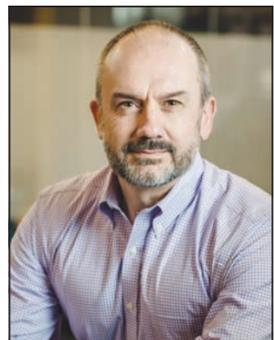
Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

Local Watershed Association adds four new experts to Board of Directors

Special to the Times

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is pleased to announce the addition of Ryan Dings, Monica Ghosh Driggers, Helen Quach, and Kelly Ryan to its Board of Directors on October 24, 2023, bringing expertise in climate technology, environmental law, public health, and finance.

Ryan Dings (he/him) serves as the founding chief executive officer of ClimateHaven, a community of climate technology companies and the passionate people that support them. Rooted in New Haven, CT, ClimateHaven provides incubation, targeted programming, and



Ryan Dings

valuable networks to climatetech entrepreneurs working to build and scale the technologies we need to decarbonize the planet. In addition to his role at ClimateHaven, Ryan is a venture partner for Connecticut Innovations' \$100M ClimateTech Fund, which is designed to invest capital and strate-

gic support in early-stage companies whose technologies will address the many challenges presented by climate change. Prior to these roles, Ryan served as the Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel of Greentown Labs, North America's largest climatetech incubator with locations in Somerville, MA and Houston, TX. Prior to joining Greentown Labs, Ryan served as the Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel of Sunwealth, where he helped launch the Solar Impact Fund, which invested in the development and long-term ownership of commercial solar projects throughout the United States. Ryan also served on the executive team of venture-backed prefab home builder Blu Homes and has advised numerous early-stage clean tech and building tech companies over the past 15 years. Before launching into clean technology, Ryan started his career practicing commercial real estate law in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ryan holds graduate degrees in law from Wake Forest University School of Law and in design from Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and a Bachelor of Arts from UNC-Chapel Hill. Ryan currently lives in the Greater Boston area with his wife, Kate Rigby, and their two daughters.

"The Mystic River is

such an incredible resource for our region and provides a vital connection to the natural world for so many communities. The benefits of a vibrant Mystic River cannot be understated, and the watershed's role will only grow in importance as we navigate the challenges presented by climate change. I'm honored and excited to join the MyRWA board and commit my time and energy to making the Mystic as healthy and accessible for our communities today and genera-



Monica Ghosh Driggers

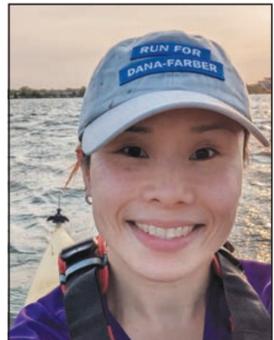
tions to come."

Monica Ghosh Driggers (she/her) is a resident of Winchester. She studied environmental law and began her career examining water rights and forestry issues in the Intermountain West. She went on to spend 30 years working closely with policy makers to change state and federal court processes, specializing in evaluating systems that work with margin-

alized communities. She has conducted long-term studies on topics ranging from domestic violence to parole to the rights of disabled persons. Having never lost her commitment to the environment, she volunteered for many years with MyRWA's Policy Committee. She is now a Senior Program Director at the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, helping that organization expand all of the work it does to protect rivers. In her free time Monica walks her dogs along local riverways and tries to become a better watercolor painter.

"Several years ago I moved to an area close to Upper Mystic Lake and noticed the Bald Eagles flying overhead. This beautiful welcome to my new neighborhood inspired me to learn more about the habitat of eagles and the other wonderful wildlife that we have here. That's when I discovered how much MyRWA does to protect the ecosystem supported by the Mystic River. I decided to do my part by joining the Policy Committee and MyRWA has been a great part of my life ever since. MyRWA gives me the opportunity to do something for my community while teaching me new things about the places and the people that surround me."

Helen Quach (she/her) was born and raised in Boston, and is now a



Helen Quach

resident of Wakefield. Her professional background is in the field of non-profit and public healthcare, and she is currently working as Executive Assistant to the Dean at the Office of Faculty Affairs at the Harvard School of Public Health. Helen has always been passionate about advocating and volunteering, and in the past has dedicated her time to the Department of Youth Services and Chinese Progressive Association. Now she spends most of her time helping with all things dragon boat related from the Boston Dragon Boat Festival to running her team, Living Root Dragon Boat, now based in the Rivergreen Park in Everett. Helen favorites include distance running, paddling, hiking, and walking miles upon miles with her senior beagle.

"I became involved with the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) a couple of years ago, after volunteering at the annual Mystic River Herring and Paddle, plus running and paddling the race almost every year since 2015. I felt inspired by all the hard work that the MyRWA does to keep our waterways clean and accessible to underrepresented communities, and learned about the programs that they provide to enrich the lives of the communities, educational programs for youth, and overall, fostering a healthy and vibrant environment for the watershed. Just from reading MyRWA's newsletter, you know MyRWA does a lot! As a board member, I hope I can contribute to spread awareness of MyRWA's mission, and represent the organization well in any capacity."

Advertisement for East Boston Times Holiday Blowout Sale. Features text: 'EAST BOSTON TIMES HOLIDAY BLOWOUT SALE', '5 WEEKS IN COLOR AT ONLY \$500', '2x5 AD ANYTIME NOV. 22 - DEC. 27 MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE'. Includes a calendar for November and December with dates circled, and contact information: 'CALL 781-485-0588 OR EMAIL CHARLESTOWNADS@HOTMAIL.COM MDIBELLA@WINTHROPTRANSCRIPT.COM DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM'.

Advertisement for East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. Features text: 'A stronger community starts with high-quality care.', 'EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER', 'www.ebnhc.org 617-569-5800'. Includes several HRSA National Quality Leader award logos for 2023.

Edwards named recipient of 2023 Winners Circle Award

Special to the Times

Senator Edwards is honored to announce her recognition as a recipient of the prestigious Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC) 2023 Winners Circle Award. This award celebrates distinguished business, community, and civil leaders who have made significant contributions to advancing policies and programs that empower women and communities.

Senator Edwards' commitment to fostering gender equality and empowering women in all spheres of life, including in the workplace, education, and politics, aligns with the MWPC's mission. Her advocacy for equal pay, comprehensive healthcare, and educational opportunities for women and girls has been a cornerstone of her legislative work.

The MWPC's Winners

Circle Award not only acknowledges achievements but also encourages continued leadership and advocacy in key areas affecting women, including economic independence, political participation, and access to healthcare.

Senator Edwards, considering this recognition, reaffirms her dedication to championing the rights and advancement of women in all sectors of society. She also congratulates her fellow honorees who have shown exceptional leadership and commitment to these crucial issues.

The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the number of women elected to public office and appointed to public policy positions. The MWPC offers programs that provide women with the tools and resources they need to become effective leaders.

Peal Harbor //

National Parks of Boston is proud to honor the service people of the United States Navy past and present, and share the history of USS Cassin Young with visitors from around the world," said National Parks of Boston Superintendent Michael Creasey.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day marks the beginning of a weekend of programs and events related to the U.S. Navy and Armed Forces. On December 8, Navy midshipmen and Army cadets compete in "Patriot Games" around the city, which includes a relay race from the Charlestown Navy Yard to Bunker Hill Monument and back. Later that evening, USS Constitution hosts its annual tree lighting ceremony. The 2023 Army-Navy Game takes place at Gillette Stadium on December 9.

The National Parks of Boston is a collection of three National Park Service sites - Boston National Historical Park, Boston African American National Historic Site, and Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park. Established by individual legislation and for designated purposes, the three units have come together

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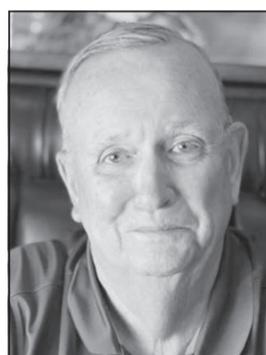
under a unified organizational umbrella to collaborate in ways that celebrate our cultural heritage, reconnect people to history and nature, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities on land and on the water. For more information, visit: www.nps.gov/bost, www.nps.gov/boaf, and www.bostonharborislands.org.

The USS Constitution, America's Ship of State, is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855. USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents. The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the War of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship's wooden hull. The active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship's mission of promoting the Navy's history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence. For information, visit www.navy.mil/uss-constitution/.

Donald H. Larsen, Sr. Of East Boston

Donald H. Larsen, Sr. of East Boston passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, November 26 on the day of "Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe", after a lengthy battle of Pleural Mesothelioma.

He was the devoted husband of Linda (Cogliani) Larsen of East Boston, the son of the late Herbert "Chocs" Larsen and Mary (Penny) Larsen. Mr. Larsen is survived by his three children: Lori (Larsen) Porazinski and her husband, Joseph Porazinski of Bradford, Donald H. Larsen, Jr. and his wife, Diane (Kokoszka) Larsen of Framingham and Reid Larsen and his wife Shannon (Wass) Larsen of Saugus. He was the "POPS" to nine wonderful grandchildren, Raymond Douglas and his wife, Gabriella, Joey Porazinski, Rebecca Garon and her husband, Shane, Nikolas Shionis, Georgie Shionis, Kyle Porazinski, Donnie "TLHP" Larsen, Olivia Larsen, Nelly Larsen and one great-grandchild, Maverick Garon as well as several nieces and nephews; two brothers: Billy Joy and his late wife, Terry and Bobby Larsen



and his late wife, Joanie. He was predeceased by his sister, Ann Reed and her late husband, Bill.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend visiting hours in the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St. [at Day Sq] East Boston, today, Wednesday, November 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. Funeral Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church, 133 Beach St., Revere, Thursday morning, November 30 at 10 a.m. Please go directly to the church. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Don's memory to The Granite VNA at graniteVNA.org would be appreciated. Please leave messages of condolence for Don's family on his Tribute Page at MagrathFuneralHome.com.

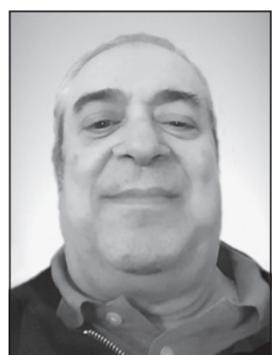
Luigi Capone

Of Amesbury, formerly of East Boston

Luigi Capone, 74, of Amesbury, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 20.

The devoted husband of 50 years to Emilia (Straccia) Capone, he was the loving son of the late Luigi and Maria (Melillo) Capone. Devoted father of Luigi Capone and his wife, Michelle of Beverly and Carmine Capone of Amesbury; dear brother of the late Michael Capone and his late wife, Nancy and brother in law of Maria and Salvatore Cuccinello; cherished grandfather of Marco Capone, Nicholas Capone, Emily Capone and Anthony Aguilar. He is also survived by his loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Luigi's life by gathering at Ruggiero Family Memorial Home ~ North Shore Chapel, 10 Chestnut Street, Peabody on Thursday, November 30th from



9 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to a Funeral Mass honoring his life at 11 a.m. at St. John's the Baptist Church, 17 Church Street, Peabody. Services will conclude with Luigi being laid to rest at Union Cemetery in Amesbury. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Luigi's name to the Kidney Foundation, Attn: Gift Processing at National Kidney, 30 East 33rd Street, New York NY 10016. To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Arturo Mele

Retired mason who loved gardening and old world traditions

Arturo Mele of East Boston, formerly of Avelino, Italy died on November 17, 2023.

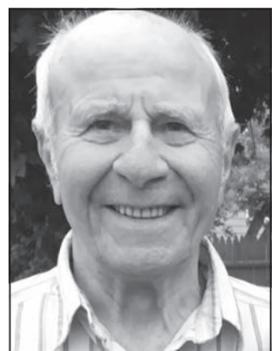
The beloved husband of Sessina (Penta) Mele, he was the loving father of Anthony, Dino, Pasquale "Pat" and the late John Mele; father-in-law of Christine, Vanessa and Julie; cherished Nonno of Tess, Robert, Gio, Anthony, Angelina, Gianna, Alexandra, Matthew, Sessina and Luca.

Arturo immigrated to East Boston from Avellino in 1963. He and his wife settled on Havre Street and have remained in the same house for 52 years.

He worked as a mason all over Massachusetts and loved gardening and his old world traditions. He enjoyed wine-making and making his tomato sauce from his own home-grown tomatoes and basil.

Arturo's Funeral services were held privately on Wednesday, November 22, concluding with Entombment in Woodlawn Versailles Mausoleum.

Donations in his memory to support end-of-life care can be made payable to Mass. General Hospital (Arturo Mele Tribute) would be greatly appreciated by his family and



mailed to: Mass General Hospital Development Office, 125 Nashua St., Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114.

Please leave messages of condolence for the family on Arturo's Tribute Page on MagrathFuneralHome.com.

ST. CLARE NOVENA

Ask for 3 favors, 1 business, 2 impossible, say 9 Hail Marys with a lighted candle for 9 days, publish on the 9th day, also say this prayer for 9 days. May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved today and every day throughout the world forever. Amen. JL

MyWRA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Kelly Ryan (she/her), CPA is a Vice President at JPMorgan. She has over 15 years working in various aspects of the fund services industry. She has recently received a Certificate in ESG Investing from the CFA Institute. Kelly holds a B.A. from College of the Holy Cross, where her deep commitment to serving others was ingrained. She is a resident of Boston and can often be found strolling around the Harbor.

"The Mystic River is part of my family history, and I am honored to be able to assist MyRWA in continuing its unbelievably powerful work for the watershed and all its residents as a board member."

At the Mystic River Watershed Association annual meeting, Charles

Holley, Maricia Manong, John Reinhardt, and Britney Satterlee were also re-elected to second-terms on the Board of Directors. The board, which is now 17 members strong, is charged with organizational oversight, leadership in strategic planning and connecting to the wider community. MyRWA is led by professional staff and also organizes thousands of volunteers working together on a project-by-project basis.

The Mystic River Watershed Association works to improve the lives of the more than 600,000 residents of Mystic River communities through its efforts to protect and restore water quality, natural habitat and open space throughout the 76 square mile watershed. The Mystic River watershed is comprised of 21 communities: Arlington, Belmont, Boston (Charlestown & East Boston), Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Watertown, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn. For more information see www.MysticRiver.org.



Kelly Ryan



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

PARK PROJECT APPROVED

CHELSEA - The City Council took care of business quickly last week, approving several financial matters that had previously come before the council and addressing some traffic issues in the city.

The council voted 8-0 to appropriate money for park projects at 212 Congress Ave. and 88 Clinton St. Councilors Judith Garcia, Tanairi Garcia, and Melinda Vega were absent from Monday night's meeting.

The proposed park at 212 Congress Ave. received a \$500,000 state PARC grant that is reimbursable, so City Manager Ned Keefe asked the council to appropriate \$850,000 for the project, of which the \$500,000 will be reimbursed. The council previously appropriated \$350,000 through the Capital Improvement Program for the project.

The council approved appropriating leftover funds from the Voke Park renovation project for use for the 88 Clinton St. project.

In other business, District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero filed a motion asking that the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board look into dedicating all affordable housing opportunities to Chelsea residents.

"We keep building affordable housing, but it's always (less and less) Chelsea people who live there," said Recupero. "If you build affordable housing, build it for people who are here."

Councilor-at-Large Brian Hatleberg said he also respects the idea of giving us much affordable housing as the city can to residents who already live in Chelsea, but he added that he is sensitive to federal fair housing laws that dictate how much affordable housing can be set aside for residents and non-residents of a community.

"I do not object (to the motion), but I also want to make it very clear that we do not violate fair housing law," said Hatleberg.

District 8 Councilor Calvin Brown also agreed that it was a sensitive issue, but added that he would like to see the city work on some sort of process where current Chelsea residents get the highest priority for affordable units.

"We build so much affordable housing, but we have to make sure our residents get their fair share," said Brown.

Recupero also introduced a motion asking that the public works commissioner remove a rubber mat obstructing the handicap ramp near the bus stop on Broadway at Everett Avenue. Councilors Enio Lopez and Todd Taylor both noted that there are handicap accessibility issues at that location as well as a number of others throughout the city that need to be addressed.

In another motion, Recupero asked that the public works department paint all the speed bumps in the city for greater visibility.

STADIUM PLANS IN EVERETT

EVERETT - Sen. Sal DiDomenico said a proposal for the building of a professional soccer stadium and waterfront park on a parcel of land across Route 99 from Encore Boston Harbor, is now in a Senate and House conference committee.

The Senate approved in its supplemental budget last week a measure that would remove the parcel of land from a Mystic River designated port area (DPA). The measure was not included in the House of Representatives' version of the bill.

"We're hopeful that we can resolve this in conference committee," said DiDomenico. "This is an important project for our community, turning a blighted industrial zone - (the former Constellation Energy power plant that is now owned by Wynn Resorts) into a new soccer stadium and open space, with jobs and amenities the community can enjoy."

The Kraft family, who own the New England Revolution soccer team in addition to the New England Patriots football team, would reportedly invest more than \$600 million into the Everett development that would include a 25,000-seat soccer stadium and a waterfront park.

Soccer fans in the area are understandably very excited about the possibility of a soccer-specific stadium being built in Everett. The Revolution currently play their MLS home games in Foxboro at Gillette Stadium, which has a seating capacity of approximately 66,000.

WINTHROP VIKINGS TAKE HOME THE TROPHY IN ANNUAL POWDERPUF GAME VS REVERE



The WHS Lady Vikings grabbing the Thanksgiving Trophy and raising high in the air in victory following their 22-0 defeat of the Revere Patriots during the annual Powderpuff game.

DiDomenico is being credited for bringing all the key parties together, especially environmental groups, ensuring that "they had a seat at the table and their voices were heard."

DiDomenico said Monday that he was optimistic that the House and Senate conference committee can resolve the differences between the two sides in the House and Senate bills. The conference committee, which was formed last Wednesday, consists of three members from each legislative branch - the Ways and Means Chairpersons (Sen. Mike Rodrigues and Rep. Aaron Michlewitz), the Ways and Means Vice Chairpersons (Sen. Cindy Friedman and Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante), and the ranking

Republicans (Sen. Patrick O'Connor and Rep. Todd Smola).

The thought of a Kraft-caliber professional soccer stadium and development and a world-class, five-star resort casino within walking distance of each other in Everett would not have been imaginable years ago.

But that day could be approaching, and Sen. DiDomenico is among the state leaders and sports fans closely watching the negotiations of the newly formed House and Senate conference committee.

"This legislative change [of the Designated Port Area] will allow the public process to move forward on a project that will be transformational and a huge environmental win for our community," said DiDomenico.

RIZZO SEEKS RECOUNT

REVERE - A recount of the city's Nov. 7 may-

oral election has been approved by the city's Board of Election Commissioners.

Councillor-at-Large Dan Rizzo successfully filed for the recount after losing the race to Acting Mayor Patrick Keefe by a little over 350 votes in the unofficial results. On Monday night, the Board of Election Commissioners approved moving ahead with the recount, which will be held in two segments on Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2, according to Election Commissioner Paul Fahey.

Rizzo, who was elected to a single term in office before losing two close contests to former Mayor Brian Arrigo, released a statement that said it was important for every vote to be counted.

"It is important to me and our committee that every single vote was counted and that the people who took the time to either early vote, mail in vote, or absentee vote are ensured that their vote was adequately represented in the final totals," Rizzo stated. "I had asked for a reconciliation of all the ballots, which was refused, so there was no other way to receive that information other than filing for a formal recount. This is part of the political process, and I look for-

ward to completing the recount in a timely manner."

Keefe, who took over as Acting Mayor early in the year when Arrigo left for the top job at the DCR, released his own statement in response to Rizzo's request for the recount.

"It is truly disheartening, that after having conceded, my opponent has made the decision to pursue an unnecessary and costly recount of an election he lost," stated Keefe.

Keefe went on to note that while the recount was disheartening, it was not surprising, given that Rizzo also requested a recount in one of his losses to Arrigo. However, Keefe noted that his margin of victory was widest of any Rizzo has requested a recount for.

Throughout the campaign, Keefe said there were no questions or concerns raised about the city's handling of early voting, and that both campaigns were present to monitor the process.

Fahey said that if there are any questions about the integrity of a vote or problems with voting or ballots, they should be directed to the election office.

In his statement, Keefe also claimed that supporters and observers from Rizzo's camp "found it necessary to throw racially charged accusations" at some voters, but found no reason to actually file a claim with the election officials present.

Keefe said he will not let the recount process slow down his administration.

"In the coming days, our administration will move forward with a transition team and inauguration plans," Keefe stated. "City Hall will continue to work on behalf of its residents. Brighter days are ahead for our city. May we all look forward to celebrating a bright holiday season together."

The first portion of the recount will take place on Friday, Dec. 1 beginning at 9 a.m., when the election department will sort the cast ballots into blocks of 50 for the hand count at City Hall in the council chambers. There will be 10 clerks blocking the ballots in preparation for the recount.

The recount itself will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Revere High School Gymnasium, fieldhouse entrance. There will be 24 tally clerks hand counting the ballots and recording the count results, according to Fahey.

The cost of the recount will be borne by the city.

See POLICE Page 11

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\$10k bail for Boston man charged with armed carjacking in East Boston

Special to the Times

A Boston man with two open larceny cases was arraigned last week in East Boston District Court for holding a gun against another man's back and driving off with his car last month, Suffolk District Attorney said.

Ricardo Encarnacion, 29, is charged with armed carjacking with a firearm. Judge Joseph Griffin ordered Encarnacion held on \$10,000 bail. Encarnacion is due back in court on December 12 for a pre-trial hearing.

At about 7:15 p.m. on October 22, Boston police responded to Saratoga Street in East Boston and spoke to the caller, who said he was just robbed at

gunpoint and his vehicle had been stolen. The victim told police he agreed to meet a man in the parking lot of 1150 Saratoga Street to sell him sneakers. When the victim arrived, an unidentified male wearing all black asked to see the sneakers. While the victim was opening his trunk, a white vehicle pulled up next to them and another unidentified male wearing a ski mask and vest approached the victim and pointed what the victim thought was a gun against the victim's back.

As the victim stepped away, he observed what appeared to be a black and silver firearm. The unidentified man with the firearm pulled the car

keys from the victim and jumped into the victim's vehicle and drove toward Orient Heights train station at a high rate of speed. The other individual took off in the white vehicle. The victim told police he recognized the voice and general appearance of the armed male as someone he only knew as "Lu" because he had sold him sneakers on several occasions.

Officers broadcasted the victim's license plate number and descriptions of the two men. Officers were able to locate the victim's vehicle parked across 49 Barnes Avenue, unoccupied.

The victim provided investigators with "Lu's"

phone number, which came back to a Ricardo Encarnacion, who had a GPS monitoring device for an unrelated pending case. GPS data showed Encarnacion in the parking lot area of 1150 Saratoga Street then on Barnes Avenue, where the vehicle was recovered.

Encarnacion has pending larceny cases out of Framingham and Waltham district courts.

"This individual deceived and targeted the victim based on previous interactions. Thankfully this incident did not result in any physical injuries and the individual was

quickly identified and apprehended. Committing another crime while wearing a GPS monitoring device is extremely brazen and warrants additional bail conditions," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in

nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

Region// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Fahey added. The final cost will depend on factors including the overtime and detail pay for police officers and maintenance workers at the high school and the pay for the clerks. Fahey estimated the final cost could be around \$20,000-\$25,000.

TENNIS COURTS TO BE DEDICATED TO DOMENICO

WINTHROP - The tennis courts at Ingleside Park will be dedicated and named after former Winthrop High School Principal and tennis coach John Domenico.

Last week, the Town Council unanimously approved the recommendation of the town's memorials committee to dedicate the courts in Domenico's honor.

"I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Domenico when I was playing high school tennis," said Pre-

cinct 6 Councilor Stephen Ruggiero. "I couldn't think of a better person to name this after."

A member of the Winthrop High School Class of 1945, Domenico was an athlete, coach, teacher and administrator at Winthrop High School. He was captain of his baseball team in 1945 and the winner of the Bentley Swift Award given at graduation to the boy who has done the most for athletics during his high school years.

Domenico played baseball at Northeastern University and tennis at the University of Maine from which he graduated. He became the WHS baseball coach in 1953 and served in that capacity until 1960. He was the principal of Winthrop High School from 1970 to 1986 and the WHS boys tennis coach for many years.

"I'm not from Winthrop, so I don't know the long history, but every

time his name comes up, he's so highly regarded both as a principal and as a tennis coach," said Precinct 2 Councilor John Munson.

In other business, the council approved the use of Election Voter Information Input Machines, or poll pads, in future elections.

The iPad-like devices are synced to the state computers to provide rapid voting information on the precincts for voters when they arrive at the polls. They are not used for voting itself.

Town Clerk Denise Quist said the town already has 8 poll pads, but needs to let the state know of any changes in election procedures so that they can be used inside polling locations.

Quist said the poll pads should help speed up the voting process during elections.

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ANNUAL EAST BOSTON THANKSGIVING DINNER HOSTED BY STATE REP. ADRIAN MADARO



Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro with Boston City Councilor Gabriela Gigi Coletta and Mayor Michelle Wu with volunteers Elaine Grato and Asgie Burnett.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

Continuing a tradition set by his predecessor Carlo Basile, Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro

and his family hosted a Thanksgiving meal open to all at the Salesian Boys And Girls Club in East Boston.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Gigi Coletta with partner Sebastian Zapata.



Staff member for Councilor Coletta Sebastian Parra and Adam Barriga prepare the bags of Thanksgiving dinners to be picked up or brought to those who can't make it in to the Salesian Boys And Girls Club.



Volunteers Tom Ruliera and Elaine Grato.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro speak with Dennis Giarla.



Erika and Antonio Sanchez.



Frانيا Santos with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.



Jalyse Urbaez (right) passes plates of food to Councilor Coletta's Chief Of Staff Ellie Sanchez to be brought to guests in the dining room.



Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro (2nd from left) with his mother Debra Cave, sons Matteo and Nico Madaro, wife Ariel Madaro, sister Lauren Owens, niece Maya Bond, and father Jacopo Madaro.



Marie Fevrier hugs Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro.



Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro with Boston School Commissioner for Region 1 Tommy Welch and Mayor Michelle Wu.



Ricardo and Rafa Patrón with Boston City Councilor Gabriela Gigi Coletta.



Rocio Cabarcas, Cristy Scott, and Josh Schmidt (Jefferies Point Neighborhood Association).



Volunteers Isaac Soldz with Brenda, Emi Welch, and Madeline Kim.



Councilor Coletta's Chief Of Staff Ellie Sanchez, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro with guests at the Thanksgiving meal.